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**Ascendus**<sup>®</sup>  
THIS WAY UP

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## Supporting the Financial Journey



The financial journey for each client is unique. Some dream of expansion; others hope to keep their lights on and doors open. At Ascendus, we believe their journey begins with access to capital but ultimately ends when clients become financially healthy. Being healthy occurs when you can ensure both resiliency and the ability to access opportunities over time. By this definition, less than one-third of Americans are financially healthy today. To reverse this trend in 2023, Ascendus expanded the start of the journey—accessing capital—by lending \$49.5 million through October, a 43% increase over 2022. We launched innovative credit-building solutions through special-purpose credit programs, such as our new “Get Ready” Line of Credit program, focused on helping Black and African American small business owners qualify, rebuild, and ultimately grow their credit. To provide value-added support throughout our lending relationship, we certified our front-end staff in credit training. This month, we began measuring the financial health of each new client. We will track their progress over time, often up to five years, and identify future interventions to accelerate achieving financial health. Beyond health, small businesses also provide a positive community impact. In recognition, please watch the six featured clients in this year’s Stories of Ascension video series, who exemplify the uplifting of their neighborhoods. If you love what we do and want to support us more, please make a [recurring or one-time gift today](#) and begin your journey with Ascendus and the many others who believe in creating a world of financial ascension for all.

Yours in supporting our clients’ financial journey,

*Paul Hunter*

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Our *Stories of Ascension: Lifting UP Community* series has wrapped for this year, but you can still see all the inspirational stories of our clients through our website. Hear from CEO Paul Quintero, our partners, and six small business owners across New York, Boston, and Miami. Hear how an Ascendus loan helped them have an impact in their communities and supported them on their financial journeys.

[View Lifting UP Community](#)

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## [Black Entrepreneurs Unlock \\$100K in Flexible Credit Through the Ascendus Get Ready Program](#)



Since the launch of the inaugural Get Ready Line of Credit program one year ago, Ascendus has helped 56 Black and African American entrepreneurs across the country bridge the capital access gap through providing access to credit, tailored credit coaching, and credit building opportunities. The program has deployed over \$100,000 in credit – just \$500 per loan – enabling these entrepreneurs to support their small businesses, create meaningful job opportunities, and build their financial health and sustainability.

[Read Makeiba's Story](#)

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## [Ascendus is Hiring for Two New Remote Positions](#)



The Ascendus team is expanding! We are actively and eagerly hiring a Senior Development Officer to support the organization's transformational fundraising growth in the coming year and a Controller to support the equally critical role of financial accounting for Ascendus. These new Ascenders will play an important part in our ability to serve small business owners across the country. Our small, close-knit team makes big things happen quickly by working together. Team members enjoy the benefits of a fully remote role, free, Ascendus-paid insurance, \$1,500 in annual health spending, 401K retirement savings, and a generous PTO policy, all while making a positive difference in the lives of thousands of small business owners.

[Apply or Spread the Word](#)

## [Celebrate Small Business Saturday with the Ascendus Marketplace](#)



Small Business Saturday (11/25) supports small businesses and all they do for their communities. The Ascendus marketplace is the perfect place to celebrate and get a start on your holiday shopping list. Shop women-owned, Black-owned, and Hispanic-owned small businesses nationwide with a vast selection of products ranging from apparel, food and beverages, novelty gifts, and more. **This Small Business Saturday, shop small and support a local community through the Ascendus marketplace.**

[Shop Small This Small Business Saturday](#)

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