

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**CANI's Center for Community and Economic Development  
Becomes SBA Microlender**

(FORT WAYNE, Ind.)- CANI's Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) is now a Small Business Administration (SBA) Intermediary Microlender, allowing for more flexibility in lending and a larger economic impact to several counties in Northeast Indiana.

The full scale of this new lending program will be discussed at a **press conference being held today at 1 p.m. at CANI's office: 227 E. Washington Blvd. in Fort Wayne, Ind.**

Speakers on hand for Tuesday's press conference include:

- Steve Hoffman, President/CEO of CANI
- Greg Leatherman, Director of Community Development for the City of Fort Wayne
- Gail Gesell, Indiana District Director for the U. S. Small Business Administration
- Scenario Adebessin, Senior Vice President of Community and Economic Development for Fifth Third Bank's Central Region

Being an SBA Intermediary Microlender will give CANI's Center for Community and Economic Development greater capital to lend as well as the ability to make larger loans to support small businesses across the region. Microloans fill the gap left by traditional business financing and allow entrepreneurs to borrow less than what is commonly available and at a better interest rate.

Through the SBA Microloans and other resources, CANI's Center for Community and Economic Development helps people create and grow their businesses, which also enhances the community and creates jobs.

Fifth Third Bank provided \$20,000 for loan loss reserves for the SBA microloans to maintain CCED's loan pool in case of loss. The creation of this loan loss reserve pool was critical to becoming an SBA-qualified microlender.

*CANI's Center for Community and Economic Development's mission is to create economic opportunities for communities, families, and individuals who lack access to affordable capital and financial services.*

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**COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM**

HEAD START · EARLY HEAD START · CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE  
YOUTH · FAMILY DEVELOPMENT · HOUSING TRANSITIONS  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE · WEATHERIZATION  
UTILITY ASSISTANCE · COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES

