



**For Immediate Release**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Small Business Administration district office has announced that Community Ventures Corporation has received Kentucky's 2009 SBA Lender of the Year award. 'This is the ninth time in eleven years we've been able to recognize this fine organization with this award,' proclaimed Steven Ayers, Kentucky's SBA District Manager. 'Such consistency in providing valuable resources to Kentucky's small businesses is something we need to celebrate and encourage'.

'These are troubled times for business', commented Kevin R. Smith, President and CEO of Community Ventures Corporation. 'A chain reaction of adverse events this past year in the financial markets has put the squeeze on lenders and made it harder for businesses and consumers to get loans. Banks have tightened credit so much that many entrepreneurs are finding it difficult to capitalize on their ideas. Small business loans through CVC are being used in every sector of our economy crafting new ideas into solid business models.'

Community Ventures Corporation provides access to SBA loans of up to \$35,000 to Kentucky small businesses. Nationally in 2009, over 12% of this loan category was originated by Community Ventures Corporation. 'This is unheard of in most states where one agency dominates the landscape like CVC has done', stated Phillip Danhauer, Kentucky's SBA Chief Financial Officer. 'It just shows how if you get the word out that there is capital to help you get started in business, you can make a significant economic difference in your community'.

'We started our company almost thirty years ago with microloans in the forefront', continued Mr. Smith. 'We know that small businesses drive our economic success in every city and town in the Commonwealth. We are proud to be part of that success'.

In addition to providing over 12% of the nation's microloans in 2009, CVC's Emmanuel Smith, Director of Business Development - Lexington was recognized as Kentucky's All Star Lender for 2009.

Community Ventures Corporation is headquartered in Lexington with regional offices in Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Frankfort, Henderson, Louisville and Paris. Interested parties may contact any of the offices or call 1-800-299-0267 for immediate connection to their local office. Additional information may be found at [www.CommunityVenturesCorporation.org](http://www.CommunityVenturesCorporation.org).

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Founded in 1982, Community Ventures Corporation (CVC) is a community-based, non-profit organization that exists to improve the quality of life for urban and rural residents throughout Kentucky.

CVC's central mission is to provide individuals and families with the skills, income, and assets they need to achieve financial independence.

CVC helps people increase income and build assets with three main strategies –

- o Small Business Ownership
- o Home Ownership
- o Job Creation Through Business Expansion

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