

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**SBA Partners Receives Certified Development Company of the Year Award**



Lorra Lee - SBA Partners, Ashley Bell – US SBA Region IV Director, Melinda Coker - SBA Partners

At the recent 2018 Southeastern Small Business Leaders Conference that was held in Asheville, North Carolina, Small Business Access Partners (SBA Partners) was presented with the ‘Certified Development Company of the Year’ Award. The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Georgia Office recognized SBA Partners for its approval of \$37.6 million in SBA 504 loans throughout the State of Georgia. Melinda Coker, SBA Partners’ Senior Vice President, stated, “Being an advocate for small businesses is challenging yet very rewarding. When small businesses thrive and create jobs, it is a win for the business and the community collectively. SBA 504 is an exceptional financing tool as it allows small businesses to obtain low-down payment loans that have fixed rate terms for 20 or 25 years. This award would not have been possible without the continued support from our lending partners.”

SBA Partners is a nonprofit SBA-certified development company that has been assisting Georgia small businesses since 1983. With programs from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SBA Partners offers advantageous financing options to small businesses throughout the State of Georgia. By utilizing these loan programs, small businesses are able to obtain long-term, fixed rate financing for land, buildings, equipment, debt refinancing and other business needs. SBA Partner’s mission is to help promote economic development and job creation by making capital more readily available to small businesses that are trying to grow and expand. This mission also includes a focus on promoting economic development in rural or underserved communities. As of September 30, 2017, SBA Partners has funded more than \$307 million in SBA loans which resulted in the creation/retention of more than 7,800 jobs. If you are interested in learning more about SBA Partners and qualifications for the loan programs, please call (770) 536-7839.