

*Topic: Creating Sustainable CDFI's and Credit Unions*

*Janie Barrera, President & CEO, Accion Texas*

Ms. Barrera is Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of ACCION Texas. ACCION Texas began in 1994 and is now the largest nonprofit micro-lending organization in Texas. ACCION Texas provides small loans and management training to micro-enterprises throughout Texas. As President and CEO, Ms. Barrera is responsible for the organization's financial management, oversight of its annual budget and the development of methodology and loan delivery procedures. Ms. Barrera has received recognition for her accomplishments including the Small Business Administration Financial Services Advocate of the Year, and the Minority Enterprise Development Consortium's Corporate Advocate of the Year. She also has served on many National, State and local boards including the Federal Reserve Board, National Consumer Advisory Council.

Ms. Barrera began her career as Director of Telecommunications for the Diocese of Corpus Christi in 1977. There, she helped form the area's first nonprofit radio stations, KLUX and KHOY, as well as two television production studios. After completion of her MBA from Incarnate Word College, the Corpus Christi native remained in San Antonio. In 1989, Ms. Barrera was hired as the Marketing Director for the U.S. Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division headquartered in San Antonio.

**ACCION Texas History, Mission, and Accomplishments**

Launched in San Antonio in 1994, ACCION Texas is a 501(c) 3 non-profit loan fund whose mission is to provide loans to small business owners lacking access to commercial credit. ACCION Texas makes business loans from \$500 to \$50,000 that help micro entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses, stabilize their incomes, create additional employment, and contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities. ACCION Texas has successfully fulfilled its mission, providing more than \$70 million in over 9,000 loans to almost 6,000 clients in San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Brownsville, Mc Allen, El Paso, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Corpus Christi, Laredo, Arlington and 80 largely rural counties in Texas. To date, the outstanding portfolio is almost \$18 million. Over 80% of borrowers are Hispanic or African-American, over half are women, and more than 70% have low to moderate income levels.