Access Accelerator

Small Business Development Centre

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

It is a privilege to reaffirm the Ministry's full support of the Access Accelerator, Small Business Development Centre, and to recognize its remarkable contributions during the 2022–2023 fiscal year. This period was marked by continued recovery from the pandemic and the challenges of global inflation. Throughout, the Access Accelerator has proven itself an indispensable vehicle for advancing economic diversification and resilience through its work with micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Our government remains deeply committed to a vision of Bahamian prosperity rooted in entrepreneurship. The Access Accelerator plays a critical role in this vision. Through its innovative programming, key local industries—such as agriculture, fisheries, and creative enterprises—have been strengthened, access to capital has been expanded, and countless tangible business opportunities have been created for Bahamian entrepreneurs.

"Our government remains deeply committed to a vision of Bahamian prosperity rooted in entrepreneurship."

Our investment in the Access Accelerator is both strategic and forward-looking. Flagship initiatives such as the Guaranteed Loan Programme address one of the most persistent challenges faced by small businesses: access to financing. Far too often, promising entrepreneurs are not constrained by a lack of vision, but by the gap between their readiness and the stringent requirements of traditional financial institutions. The Centre bridges this divide, equipping entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools, and confidence needed to develop strong business plans, prepare critical documentation, and present their ideas effectively.

This year also marked significant progress on the broader economic agenda, including the modernization of public services, digital transformation, and the stabilization of public finances. The Access Accelerator's alignment with these national priorities underscores its importance not only as a business support institution, but also as a vital engine of sustainable economic growth.

As Minister of Economic Affairs, I extend my deepest appreciation to the leadership, staff, and partners of Access Accelerator, and most importantly, to the entrepreneurs who remain at the heart of this work. Together, our efforts are laying the foundation for a more dynamic, resilient, and diversified Bahamian economy—one where opportunity is within reach for all.

The Hon. Michael Halkitis
Minister of Economic Affairs

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors during this pivotal stage in the Access Accelerator's journey. This year, our strong and diverse Board has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing policies and programmes that directly empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ensuring that the Centre continues to meet the evolving needs of entrepreneurs navigating both pandemic recovery and new growth opportunities.

The 2022–2023 fiscal year was one of renewal and resilience. With the restructuring of the Board and the strengthening of the executive leadership team, we sharpened our governance practices, deepened our strategic oversight, and reinforced the foundation upon which the Centre's mission—to empower entrepreneurs and drive sustainable national impact—firmly rests.

Throughout the year, the Board provided strategic direction that enabled the organization to respond effectively to both national development priorities and global imperatives. Our governance framework ensured that programmatic initiatives remained aligned with critical issues affecting our entrepreneurial ecosystem including climate resilience, food security, and economic inclusivity. We were pleased to support the executive team as they advanced targeted interventions supporting local producers, expanding opportunities for underrepresented entrepreneurs, and reinforcing our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Looking forward, our long-term vision remains resolute: to build a resilient institution that not only supports but amplifies the resilience of the businesses we serve. The Board is firm in its support of Access Accelerator as it embarks on the next phase of growth and impact.

These engagements provided our leadership team with valuable insights into best practices, global innovations, and opportunities for deeper regional collaboration.

Looking forward, our long-term vision remains resolute: to build a resilient institution that not only supports but amplifies the resilience of the businesses we serve. The Board is firm in its support of Access Accelerator as it embarks on the next phase of growth, scale, and impact.

"Looking forward, our long-term vision remains resolute: to build a resilient institution that not only supports but amplifies the resilience of the businesses we serve. "

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated team of professionals who continue to make this work possible. With confidence in our collective efforts, I am certain that the future of Bahamian entrepreneurship is bright.

With gratitude and optimism,

Lorne Basden
Chairman of the Board

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I assumed the role of Acting Executive Director at the start of this fiscal year, I recognized that we were entering a new era for the Access Accelerator. An era that demands greater focus, stronger connections, and smarter execution. While the path ahead presented challenges, it also revealed immense potential – a chance to build on a strong foundation and drive deeper, more meaningful impact across The Bahamas.

From the outset, we embraced a "people first" approach – ensuring that everything we did was grounded in the needs of our entrepreneurs. This year marked the formation of a new executive leadership team and continued work under a restructured Board of Directors. Together, we charted a clearer course and launched initiatives designed to close critical gaps and unleash the full potential of Bahamian entrepreneurs — many of whom are pushing forward despite challenges faced over the last few years.

Our focus on "products that deliver" translated into high impact programmes that created tangible, measurable opportunities. The Sustainable Food Growth Grant channeled capital directly to Bahamian farmers and fishers, strengthening food security. The Energy Efficiency Star Awards supported MSMEs in transitioning to cost-effective and environmentally sustainable operations. Through our pitch competitions, we bridged the gap between vision and execution, connecting entrepreneurs to both funding and mentorship.

We deepened our partnerships to power initiatives like the Authentically Bahamian Grant Programme, in collaboration with Nassau Cruise Port, helping vendors excel in the tourism sector. The Royal Caribbean Kickstarter Programme guided aspiring entrepreneurs from idea to launch. Additionally, we introduced two milestone initiatives: the Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative and the Women Entrepreneurs Initiative — expanding access and equity for traditionally underserved communities.

These outcomes were made possible by investing in what we call "processes that work". Over the past year, we critically reviewed and improved our internal systems – from streamlining application processes to refining how we monitor and measure client success. Strategic visits to the Jamaica Business Development Corporation and key agencies in Washington, D.C., offered invaluable regional and global insights, which we are already embedding into our operations to serve our clients more effectively.

> "Over the past year, we critically reviewed and improved out internal systems – from streamlining application processes to refining how we monitor and measure client success."

None of this progress would have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners - across government, the private sector, and international organizations. Your collaboration and commitment amplified our collective impact.

Fiscal Year 2022–2023 laid a strong foundation for the future. We are preparing to launch the Young Entrepreneurs Initiative and expand our Guaranteed Loan Programme, paving the way for broader support and even greater outcomes in the years to come.

To our team, our partners, and above all, our entrepreneurs - thank you. Your belief in your business fuels our belief in your success. Because of you, change is no longer a promise – it's progress in motion. Together, we're building a future where every entrepreneur has a real shot at success, no matter where they start.

This era shines bright — and we're just getting started.

Samantha L. Rolle
Executive Director

MISSION AND VISION

Mission

We will support the evolution of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ("MSMEs") in The Bahamas, maximise the creation of economic impact through strategic partnership, and-by equipping and empowering MSMEs - increase the ability of our sector to provide employment, create wealth and drive development of robust and resilient economy.

Vision

The Small Business Development Centre (Access Accelerator) envisions a Bahamas where Bahamians can get into business and succeed.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE: PROGRESS FOR OUR PEOPLE

Every programme launched in 2022–2023 was built around one central principle: putting people first. Whether through agriculture, tourism, or the creative economy, the Access Accelerator's focus was on equipping Bahamians with the resources and opportunities to thrive. With the support of both public and private sector partners, these programmes provided access to capital, training, mentorship, and new markets, which laid the foundation for locally-driven growth across The Bahamas.

In 2023 alone, Access Accelerator mobilized $2.17 million in donor and grant funding. Programme activities were strategically structured around thematic funding areas such as E-Mobility, Renewable Energy, Women, Creative, Fitness & Wellness, and the anticipated launch of initiatives focused on food security and youth entrepreneurs. With people as the driving force and partnerships fueling opportunity, 2022–2023 marked a year of progress that set the stage for a new era of impact.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE: PROGRESS FOR OUR PEOPLE

September 2022

4 Years of the Access Accelerator

Digi Innovative Grant Programme Launch

This programme emphasized tech-forward solutions for the public sector. A total of $223,031.85 in grant funding was awarded to eight technology companies.

October 2022

Bridge Programme Launch

Hybrid funding model split evenly between grants and loans, allowed ten recipients to receive a combined $92,571 in capital support.

November 2022

MSME Month Campaign

This was the first nationwide celebration and awareness campaign highlighting the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises to the Bahamian economy.

February 2023

Launch of E-Mobility Grant

Focused on advancing clean transportation solutions and sustainable business practices.

March 2023

Renewable Energy Initiative Launch

Promoted the adoption of green energy solutions among Bahamian businesses.

Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative

Encouraged the development of uniquely Bahamian products and services using local materials, with a focus on tourism and export potential.

April 2023

Women Entrepreneurs Initiative

Targeted support for Bahamian women in business through funding, training, and mentorship.

June 2023

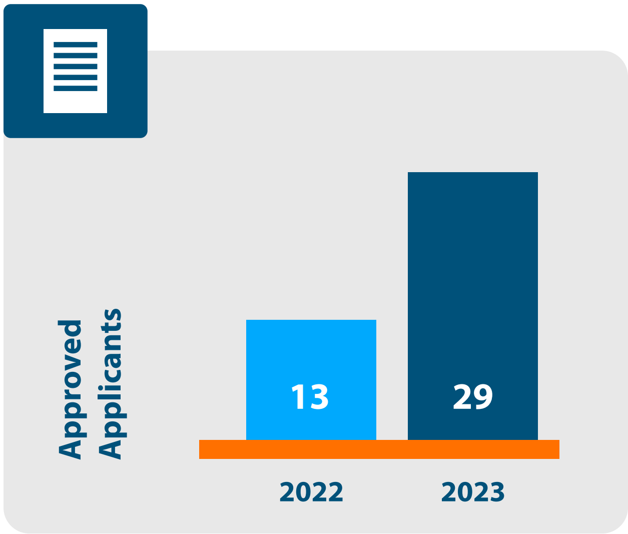
Fitness & Wellness Grant Launch

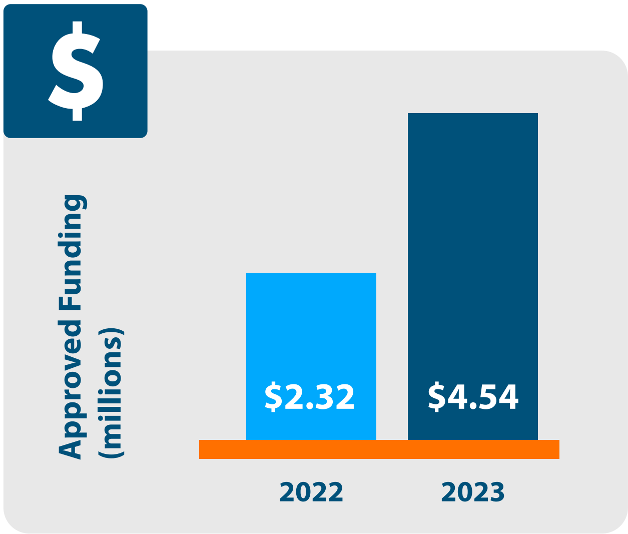
Promoted holistic health and wellness entrepreneurship in The Bahamas.

A PRODUCT THAT DELIVERS:
THE GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMME

The Guaranteed Loan Programme continues to be a cornerstone of the Access Accelerator's efforts to support Bahamian entrepreneurs in accessing critical funding for growth.

In 2022, the Access Accelerator approved $2,322,135 in funding for 13 applicants. The following year, the programme set a new record, approving $4,540,839.98 for 29 applicants, nearly doubling both the total funding and the number of entrepreneurs supported. This record-breaking performance reflects the programme's commitment to developing products that deliver tangible support that results in growth for Bahamian MSMEs.





	2020	2021	2022	2023
Approved Applicants	10	13	13	29
Approved Funding	$2,095,899.52	$2,239,534.37	$2,322,135.00	$4,540,839.98

PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEAR

Level Up

The Access Accelerator officially launched Level Up, a capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs. This strategic partnership with Cable Bahamas Business Solutions unites under a shared goal: to equip entrepreneurs with the tools, training, and technological foundation needed to modernize their operations and compete in the digital economy. By bringing programming directly into constituencies across The Bahamas, Level Up ensures that entrepreneurial support is accessible within communities where business owners live and operate.

The inaugural workshop, which was hosted in Golden Gates with support from the Hon. Pia Glover-Rolle, MP for Golden Gates, was the first in a planned series that will reach entrepreneurs throughout the nation. The session provided free, expert-led training for small business owners, focusing on business process optimization, technology adoption, and financial management. With the involvement of key institutions, including the Central Bank of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, Level Up serves as a vital conduit for business formalization, financial inclusion, and digital literacy.

2022 Bridge Programme

Launched in October 2022, the Bridge Programme supported entrepreneurs who had already made significant investments in their businesses but needed 'bridge' funding to close the gap and complete their launch or expansion. The hybrid funding structure combined 50% grant and 50% loan support, with up to $25,000 available per business. A total of $92,571 in funding was provided to 10 recipients.

2022 Royal Caribbean Kickstarter Programme (Cohort 2)

In partnership with Royal Caribbean Group, this eight-week intensive training and funding initiative targeted tourism-related startups in New Providence, Grand Bahama, and the Berry Islands. Participants received business training, mentorship, and the opportunity to pitch for pre-seed funding. Five entrepreneurs were awarded funding, including One Big Nut — who received the top prize— Baha Moments, and Lignum Vitae.

2022 Authentically Bahamian Grant Programme

In collaboration with Nassau Cruise Port, this programme provided up to $20,000 in grant funding to former Festival Place vendors to help secure tenancy in the new Nassau Cruise Port marketplace. This long-term goal of this programme is to preserve cultural authenticity while supporting sustainable small business growth in the tourism sector.

2022 Digi Innovative Grant Programme

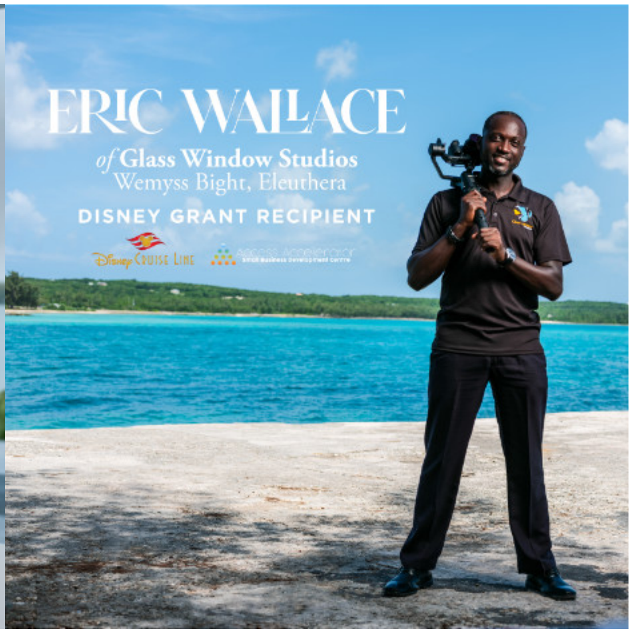
In partnership with the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Digital Transformation Unit, this initiative supported entrepreneurs developing ICT-based solutions to modernize public services. Eight businesses were awarded grants of up to $90,000 based on their solutions. The overall winner, Michael Flowers Jr. of Bahamas Agricultural Solutions, was recognized for his digital agri-data management platform. A total of 50 individuals benefited from the broader training and grant components, with $223,031.85 in grant funding disbursed.

2022 Sustainable Food Growth Grant Programme

Designed to reduce food insecurity and promote innovative agriculture and fisheries solutions, this programme offered grants up to $50,000 through our partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. Of 240 applicants, 43 businesses were funded — 19 from the Family Islands and 24 from New Providence and Grand Bahama — reflecting broad geographic impact. This programme also encouraged the participation of underrepresented groups including women and youth to get involved in this industry.

Summer Entrepreneurship Training (S.E.T.) Series

Over 15 weeks, the S.E.T. Series equipped entrepreneurs with foundational business knowledge through interactive training workshop and mentorship. These training workshops were an opportunity for existing business owners to learn practical lessons on building a brand, telling their business story, building a plan and developing a community. Participants competed in pitch events for funding, with six entrepreneurs receiving a total of $42,500 in grant funding. Jenson Rolle of Stay Chill 242 was the top prize winner.



Eleuthera Grant Programme

In partnership with Disney Cruise Line, this programme provided $150,000 in grant funding for 30 small business owners in Central and South Eleuthera. The initiative paired funding with intensive training across 15+ business topics. It forms part of a larger commitment from Disney to invest over $1 million into the Eleuthera Business Hub in partnership with SBDC and the Eleuthera Chamber of Commerce.

2023 Royal Caribbean Kickstarter Programme (Cohort 3)

The third cohort of the Kickstarter Programme maintained its focus on innovative tourism-based startups through training and funding opportunities. Specifically for entrepreneurs in New Providence, the Berry Islands and Grand Bahama, this 8-week intensive training programme provided advisory support, mentorship and entrepreneurial resources. Katherine Coakley, owner of Bahama Foodie, emerged as the winner, earning funding to expand her vegan and healthy cuisine brand.

2023 Fitness & Wellness Initiative

Responding to The Bahamas' national health crisis, this initiative —launched with the Ministry of Health and Wellness— empowered wellness entrepreneurs with training, exposure, and access to funding. It included a national blood drive, free public fitness sessions, and a $10,000 grant competition for trainers, culminating in a public exposition and obstacle course challenge.

2023 Women Entrepreneurs Initiative

Launched in collaboration with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and the Bahamas Development Bank, this initiative aimed to support women-owned businesses with up to $10,000 in grant funding, mentorship, and visibility. A total of 87 women received grant funding totaling $760,638.92 in grant support across New Providence and the Family Islands. Events included a nationwide tea party series, pitch competitions, and a press conference in Grand Bahama.

2023 Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative

To support the Orange Economy, this initiative focused on intellectual property protection, product development, and export readiness. In partnership with the Bahamas Trade Commission and Royal Caribbean Group, 51 MSMEs received $234,601.92 in total funding. Entrepreneurs participated in workshops, pitch meetings, and brand development training to prepare for local and international markets.

2023 Renewable Energy Initiative

This forward-thinking programme promoted energy efficiency among MSMEs through training, funding, and recognition. Five MSMEs received over $1 million in loan funding, while ten businesses were honored during the inaugural Energy Efficiency Star Awards. The initiative was supported by BPL, Grand Bahama Power Company, and Certified Energy Auditors, and reinforced the Access Accelerator's commitment to climate resilience.

PRODUCTS THAT DELIVER IMPACT: A SNAPSHOT

Since its inception in 2018, the Access Accelerator has disbursed over $73.6 million in grants, loans, and equity to 1,937 MSMEs across 16 islands. Every dollar disbursed, every advisory session, and every mentorship opportunity represents a product designed to deliver measurable results for Bahamian entrepreneurs. These businesses are nearly evenly split by gender ownership and span the Commonwealth. This reach highlights the organization's commitment to equity across gender and throughout the islands.

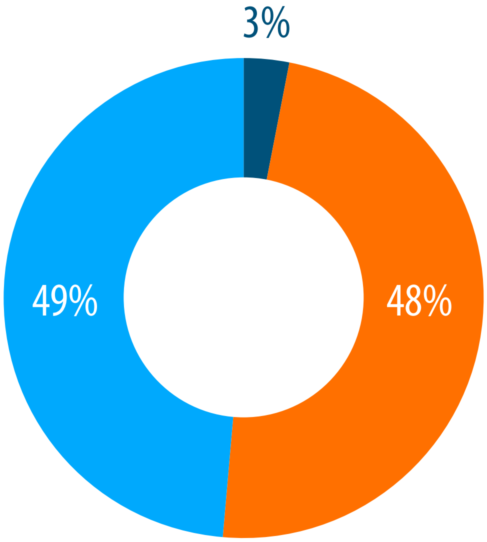
Year to date, Access Accelerator has received more than 600 requests for funding, advisory, and mentorship services across seven islands, underscoring its role as the national vehicle for MSME advancement. By aligning programmes with key development goals and fostering strategic partnerships, the Access Accelerator continues to launch businesses and create jobs.

Impact since 2018

Metric	2018 - 2020
Total Funds Disbursed (USD)	$73.6 million
MSMEs Supported (count)	1,937

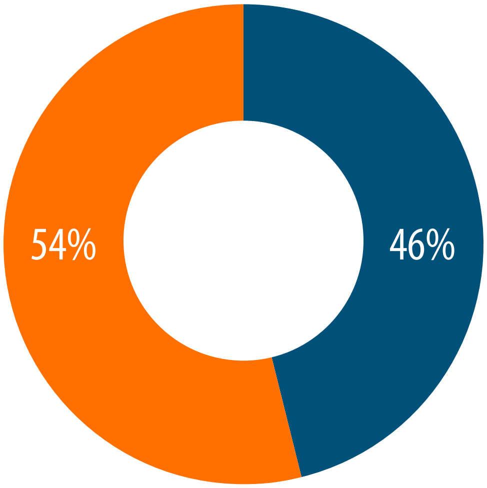
Client Ownership Distribution by Gender

Ownership	Percent	Approx. Count
Male-owned	49%	949
Female-owned	48%	930
Co-owned	3%	58



New Providence and Family Island Client Distribution

Location	Percent	Approx. Count
New Providence	54%	1046
Family Islands	46%	891



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP LISTING

Government Partners

- Ministry of Economic Affairs – Collaborated on the Digi Innovative Grant Programme and national MSME policies.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs – Partnered on the Sustainable Food Growth Grant Programme).
- Ministry of Health & Wellness – Collaborated on the Fitness & Wellness Initiative.
- Bahamas Venture Fund– Financial partner in the Guaranteed Loan Programme.
- Digital Transformation Unit (DTU) – Partnered on ICT innovation and grant programmes.
- Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) – Joint administration of the Digi Innovative Grant Programme, the Women Entrepreneurs Initiative and the Guaranteed Loan Programme.
- Bahamas Power & Light (BPL) & Grand Bahama Power Company (GBPC) – Partners in the Renewable Energy Initiative and Energy Efficiency Star Awards.

- Central Bank of The Bahamas – Partner for financial education at Level Up Workshops.
- Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) – Training and advisory support for the Eleuthera Grant Programme.

Private Sector Partners

- Royal Caribbean Group – Key partner in the Royal Caribbean Kickstarter Programme.
- Disney Cruise Line (DCL) – Multi-year commitment to the Eleuthera Business Hub and Eleuthera Grant Programme.
- Nassau Cruise Port (NCP) – Partnered on the Authentically Bahamian Grant Programme, integrating MSMEs into the Cruise Port marketplace.
- Cable Bahamas Business Solutions – Sponsored Level Up training workshops and the Fox Hill Festival business component.
- Doctors Hospital, MacFit360, Chickcharney Chirren, and The Medical Pavilion – Partners in the Fitness & Wellness Initiative.
- Simplified Lending – Supported S.E.T. pitch competitions with prize funding.
- Fidelity Bank – Financial partner in the Guaranteed Loan Programme.
- Royal Bank of Canada– Financial partner in the Guaranteed Loan Programme.
- JS Johnson Insurance Agents & Brokers (JSJ) – Donated prize packages for S.E.T. pitch competitions.
- Fountain Bay Resort – Supported S.E.T. pitch competition prizes.
- Teachers & Salaried Workers Credit Union - Financial partner in the Guaranteed Loan Programme.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) & Chambers

- Bahamas Chamber of Commerce & Employers' Confederation (BCCEC) – Founding partner; partnered on the Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, Renewable Energy Initiative, and Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative.
- Eleuthera Chamber of Commerce – Eleuthera Grant Programme and Eleuthera Business Hub.
- Zonta Club of New Providence – Collaborated on women-focused training and funding initiatives.

- JA Bahamas Alumni Association – Co-hosted Business Innovation Panel for young entrepreneurs.
- Kiwanis Club – Supported the Eleuthera Grant Programme adjudication and training.

International & Regional Partners

- United States Embassy, Nassau – Supported the Women Entrepreneurs Initiative and Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE).
- Organization of American States (OAS) – Engagement through the 2023 Washington D.C. delegation.
- DC Chamber of Commerce & Howard University SBDC – Partnerships for cross-border MSME support and knowledge exchange.
- Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) & Jamaica Manufacturing & Exporters Association (JMEA) – Regional benchmarking and trade collaboration.
- CARIFORUM – Partner in the Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative.
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) – Provided $475,000 in funding for green energy adoption initiatives and served as a key partner for the Guaranteed Loan Programme.

Community Partners

- Fox Hill Festival Committee – Co-hosted entrepreneurship component of the festival with CBBS and SBDC.
- Golden Gates Community Groups & MP Pia Glover-Rolle – Partnered for Level Up workshops and training outreach.

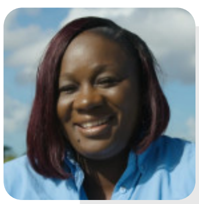
CLIENT HIGHLIGHTS

The grant from Access Accelerator propelled me into who I am today. It definitely jumpstarted my business and gave me the boost I needed and I am very grateful.

Mudda Freeze x Bakehouse: Owners Ivana Moncur, Founder of Bakehouse & Wayne Moncur, Founder of Mudda Freeze

Access Accelerator has helped us to afford four boats. Access provided us with the funding that we needed, but it was more than that — Access allowed us to understand how the whole process works to starting up a business.

Long Island Boat Rental: Zoe & Rodger Cartwright, Founders of Long Island Boat Rentals



Access Accelerator assisted us in funding our strawberry project in Andros. With us having access to the Fishing and Farmers grant, it actually gave us the capital that we needed to start this farming season for our strawberry crops. People eating organic food is very important, and we want to offer safe food and organic food.

Chicccharney Farms: Chavara Roker-Eneas, Co-Founder of Chiccharney Farms

Access Accelerator put a lot of things in reach for Genesis to get that injection of help when we really needed it to remain financially viable and to give us that step up that we can continue growing and expanding our business.

Genesis Academy: Melody Hanna, Founder of Genesis Academy

Since I've joined the SBDC, my journey have been filled with many success stories. Access to capital enabled me to travel the world in search of becoming a certified shoe maker. From the windy cities of Chicago to the bustling streets of London, to the fashion capital of the world, Italy. I was in search of the best and brightest in the footwear manufacturing industry. Today, with the assistance of SBDC, I now am a certified shoe maker, specializing in the production of luxury footwear.

Island Soles: Rotalya Williams, Founder of Island Soles Bahamas

PROCESSES THAT WORK: A PATH TO THE FUTURE

As the Access Accelerator moves into the 2023–2024 fiscal year, we are poised to enter a new chapter of innovation and economic transformation. Built on processes that work, the SBDC is well-positioned to deliver tailored support that meets the evolving needs of Bahamian entrepreneurs—no matter where they are or what stage they're in—setting the foundation for the guiding theme of this upcoming year, "Empowering Dreams, Fueling Growth."

We're looking forward to introducing new digital solutions that will further benefit our clients in a few different ways. We are exploring a digital platform that will simplify the loan application process and another that will expand opportunities for our clients both locally and internationally.

While we are developing new platforms, we're deepening the impact of our programming. We are strengthening our Guaranteed Loan Programme with a suite of monthly initiatives that prioritize traditionally underserved Family Island communities. Signature initiatives such as the Creative Entrepreneurs Initiative and Women Entrepreneurs Initiative will be further strengthened.

These programmes are possible, mainly because of the collaborative efforts with our partners. Strategic partnerships with local agencies and global entities will allow the SBDC to scale its reach, offer more comprehensive services, and attract a broader investor network. Through these innovations and partnerships, the SBDC will continue to serve as the home of resources for MSMEs in The Bahamas and advance a new era of growth.

SBDC BAHAMAS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended June 30, 2023

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ECOVIS® BAHAMAS

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SBDC Bahamas Financial Statements 2023

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of

SBDC Bahamas

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SBDC Bahamas (the "Company"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2023, and the statement of operations, statement of net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at June 30, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Audition ("ISA"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in The Bahamas, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS for SMEs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and asses the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or errors, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting an, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertaintly exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertaintly exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Accountants
Nassau, The Bahamas

July 2, 2025

SBDC Bahamas

Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2023
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Notes	2023	2022
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash - restricted	4	$ 4,324,284	$ 4,135,271
Cash - unrestricted	5	6,433,785	1,872,017
Accounts receivable	6	688,958	1,577,437
Prepaid asset		22,007	47,366
Other assets	7	67,268	67,043
Total current assets		11,536,302	7,699,134
Non-current assets			
Long-term notes receivable	9	12,633,979	17,562,426
Property and equipment	8	107,034	112,522
Total non-current assets		12,741,013	17,674,948
Total Assets		$ 24,277,315	$ 25,374,082
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		$ 144,298	$ 108,098
Other current liabilities		25,692	24,568
Total current liabilities		169,990	132,666
Non-current liabilities			
Loan guarantee fund	10	1,871,950	1,794,500
Total non-current liabilities		1,871,950	1,794,500
Total liabilities		2,041,940	1,927,166
Net assets	12		
Retained funds - restricted		44,351,738	45,528,897
Accumulated deficit - unrestricted		(22,116,363)	(22,081,981)
Total net assets		22,235,375	23,446,916
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		$ 24,277,315	$ 25,374,082

See notes to the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved and authorized by the Board for issue on July 2, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

Executive Director

SBDC Bahamas

Statement of Operations

For the year ended June 30, 2023
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Notes	2023	2022
Unrestricted:			
Grants, donations and contributions	13	$ 1,484,612	$ 1,267,721
Government contributions	14	4,750,000	698,449
Programme expenses	15	(482,754)	(431,579)
Excess Of Revenues Over Programme Expenses		5,751,858	1,534,591
General And Administrative Expenses			
Operating expenses	15	2,650,525	2,848,049
Social purpose activities	15	413,748	-
Administrative expenses	15	375,247	474,884
Director's fees	12	108,777	21,375
Increase in provision for credit losses - long-term notes receivable	9	2,311,653	18,627,797
(Decrease)/increase in provision for credit losses - accounts receivable	6	(73,710)	217,853
Total general and administrative expenses		5,786,240	22,189,958
Unrestricted: Excess Of Expenses Over Revenues		(34,382)	(20,655,367)
Restricted:			
Programme income	17	1,616,896	6,241,280
Programme expenses	17	(2,794,055)	(8,076,279)
Restricted: Excess Of Expenses Over Programme Revenues		(1,177,159)	(1,834,999)
Total Excess Of Expenses Over Revenues		$ (1,211,541)	$ (22,490,366)

See notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Net Assets

For the year ended June 30, 2023
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Balance as at June 30, 2021	**$ 47,363,896**	**$ (1,426,614)**	**$ 45,937,282**
Excess of expenses over revenues	(1,834,999)	(20,655,367)	(22,490,366)
Balance as at June 30, 2022	**45,528,897**	**(22,081,981)**	**23,446,916**
Excess of expenses over revenues	(1,177,159)	(34,382)	(1,211,541)
Balance as at June 30, 2023	**$ 44,351,738**	**$ (22,116,363)**	**$ 22,235,375**

See notes to the financial statements.

SBDC Bahamas

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended June 30, 2023
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Notes	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Excess of expenses over revenues		$ (1,211,541)	$ (22,490,366)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	8	37,135	43,743
Increase in provision for credit losses - long-term notes receivable	9	2,311,653	18,627,797
(Decrease)/increase in provision for credit losses - accounts receivable	6	(73,710)	217,853
		1,063,537	(3,600,973)
Changes in non-cash working capital items:			
Decrease/(increase) in accounts receivable		962,189	(1,688,844)
Decrease in prepaid asset		25,359	26,043
(Increase)/decrease in other assets		(225)	1,154
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable		36,200	(250,690)
Increase in other current liabilities		1,124	8,409
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		2,088,184	(5,504,901)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property and equipment	8	(31,647)	(76,886)
Decrease in long-term notes receivable	9	2,616,794	7,200,231
Net cash provided by investing activities		2,585,147	7,123,345
Cash flows from financing activity:			
Increase in loan guarantees	10	77,450	106,500
Net cash provided by financing activity		77,450	106,500
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		4,750,781	1,724,944
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		6,007,288	4,282,344
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year		$ 10,758,069	$ 6,007,288

See notes to the financial statements.

1. General

SBDC Bahamas (the "Company") was established on May 24, 2018, in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas as a company limited by guarantee and a Non-Profit Organization. The founding members of the Company are the University of The Bahamas, The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employer's Confederation and the Ministry of Finance of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The Company's registered address is at the University of The Bahamas, Bahamas Tourism Training Centre, Ground Floor, West Wing, University Drive, P. O. Box N-4912, Nassau, The Bahamas and the principal office is situated at Gladstone Freight Terminal, Nassau, The Bahamas.

The objects for which the Company is established are:

a. To support the development of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ("MSMEs") in The Bahamas and maximize the creation of economic impact;

b. To educate MSMEs by providing information that would sustain their growth and development;

c. To offer training programmes to MSMEs on how to start, manage, expand their businesses, and engage in international trade;

d. To foster collaboration among students, the faculty of the University of The Bahamas, the government, the private sector and the public at large to encourage the growth of MSMEs;

e. To conduct research that would facilitate and support MSMEs;

f. To advocate for the growth and development of MSMEs including advocating for improving the ease of doing business;

g. To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real and personal estate which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any of the objects of the Company; and

h. To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the objectives of the Company.

The Company aims to increase the ability of this sector to provide employment, diversity, wealth and drive the development of a robust economy.

The Company partners with the following institutions:

- The Government of The Bahamas (GoTB)
- Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC)
- University of The Bahamas (UB)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

a. ***Statement of compliance*** – The financial statements of the Company are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB")

b. ***Basis of preparation*** – These financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

c. ***Changes in accounting policies and disclosures*** – Certain new standards and amendments to existing standards, as set out below, have been adopted by the Company, with others not yet adopted.

i. *Adoption of amended standards effective July 1, 2022*
The SBDC adopted the following new and amended standards during the year:

- IAS 1, 'Presentation of Financial Statements and IFRS Practice Statements 2 Making Materiality Judgements – Disclosure of Accounting Policies - The IASB amended IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements to require entities to disclose their material rather than their significant accounting policies. The amendments define what is 'material accounting policy information' (being information that, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general-purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements) and explain how to identify when accounting policy information is material. They further clarify that immaterial accounting policy information does not need to be disclosed. If it is disclosed, it should not obscure material accounting information. There was no material impact to the SBDC on adoption of this amendment and Practice Statement.

- Definition of Accounting Estimates – Amendments to IAS 8. The amendment to IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors clarifies how companies should distinguish changes in accounting policies from changes in accounting estimates. The distinction is important, because changes in accounting estimates are applied prospectively to future transactions and other future events, whereas changes in accounting policies are generally applied retrospectively to past transactions and other past events as well as the current period. There was no impact to the Company on adoption of this amendment.

ii. *Amended standard published but not yet effective and not yet adopted*
The following amended standard has been issued but is not yet effective. The SBDC intends to adopt this standard when it becomes effective:

- IAS 1, 'Presentation of Financial Statements – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Noncurrent' (Amendment) (Effective January 1, 2024) – The amendments to IAS 1 published in January 2020 affect only the presentation of liabilities as current or non-current in the statement of financial position and not the amount or timing of recognition of any asset, liability, income or expenses, or the information disclosed about those items. The amendments clarify that the classification of liabilities as current or non-current is based on rights that are in existence at the end of the reporting period, specify that classification is unaffected by expectations about whether an entity will exercise its rights to defer settlement of a liability, explain that rights are in existence if covenants are compiled with at the end of the reporting period, and introduce a definition of settlement to make clear that settlement refers to the transfer to the counterparty of cash, equity instruments, other assets or services.

The amendments are to be applied retrospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, with early application permitted. The IASB has aligned the effective date with the 2022 amendments to IAS 1. If an entity applies the 2020 amendments for an earlier period, it is also required to apply the 2022 amendments early.

Management anticipates that the application of these amendments may not have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements in future periods.

d. ***Foreign currency translation*** – The financial statements are presented in Bahamian Dollars, which is the Company's functional and presentation currency. Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from settlement of such transactions and from translation of monetary assets and liabilities at year-end exchange rates are recognized in the statement of operations.

e. ***Cash and cash equivalents*** – Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and other assets that are readily convertible into cash.

f. ***Accounts receivable*** – Accounts receivable are incurred during the normal course of business and are amounts due to the Company as at the date of the statement of financial position.

g. ***Prepaid assets*** – Prepaid assets are expenses paid in advance.

h. ***Property and equipment*** – Property and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Costs include expenditures that are directly related to the acquisition of the asset. The cost of self-constructed assets includes the cost of material and direct labour, and any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use.

Subsequent costs of replacing part of an item of property and equipment are recognized in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part flow to the Company, and its cost can be measured reliably. The costs of day-to-day servicing of property and equipment are recognized in the statement of operations in the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is recognized in the statement of operations on the straight-line basis at rates estimated to write-off the relevant assets over their expected useful lives. The rates used are as follows:

Computer and devices	3 years
Furniture and equipment	5 years
Leasehold improvements	3 years
Fintech platform development	3 years
Branding and signage	5 years
Vehicles	5 years

Property and equipment are reviewed periodically for impairment. Where the carrying amount of an asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount.

i. ***Accounts payable*** – Accounts payable are incurred in the normal course of business and are amounts that the Company owes to other institutions or individuals as at the date of the statement of financial position.

j. ***Financial instruments*** – A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset in one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument in another entity.

Classification

Financial assets in the statement of financial position consist of cash - restricted, cash - unrestricted, and financial investment except for financial investment, which is measured at fair value, all other financial assets are classified as subsequently measured at amortized cost. Financial liabilities are classified as subsequently measured at amortized cost and include trade and other payables, and borrowings.

Recognition and derecognition

The Company recognizes a financial asset or financial liability in its financial statements, as applicable, when it becomes a party to the contractual clauses of the financial instrument.

A financial asset is derecognized when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expires or it transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control or substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired.

Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of financial assets and financial liabilities are added to or deducted from the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities, as appropriate, on initial recognition. Immediately after recognition, a credit loss allowance (ECL) is recognized for financial assets measured at amortized cost, which results in an accounting loss being recognized in profit or loss when an asset is newly originated.

The amortized cost of a financial asset is equal to its acquisition cost less accumulated amortization plus accrued interest (calculated according to the effective interest rate method), net of any impairment loss.

All financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

k. ***Grants, donations and contributions*** – The Company obtains its funding from external grants, donations and contributions. Grants, donations and contributions are recorded as income at the time of receipt in accordance with IAS 20.

l. ***Expenses*** – Expenses are recorded on the accrual basis.

m. ***Taxation*** – Under existing legislation of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, there is no income, capital gains, corporate taxes payable by the Company. Taxes recorded in the Company's statement of operations and retained funds represent value added taxes paid out to vendors during the normal course of business.

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

3. Critical Accounting Judgments and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertanty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

i. *Estimation of useful lives of property and equipment* – Estimates of the useful lives and the residual values of property and equipment are required to apply an adequate rate of transferring the economic benefits embodied in these assets in the relevant periods. The Company applies a variety of methods in an effort to arrive at these estimates from which actual results could vary. Actual variations in estimated useful lives and residual values are reflected in the statement of comprehensive income through impairment of adjusted depreciation provisions.

4. Cash - Restricted

Restricted cash is comprised of the following:

		2023		2022
Cash at banks				
Bank of The Bahamas Limited	$	2,455,174	$	2,407,102
RBC Royal Bank Bahamas Limited		1,868,960		1,728,019
CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank Limited		150		150
	$	4,324,284	$	4,135,271

Funds in restricted accounts are allocated for client disbursements under specific programmes and special projects only.

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

5. Cash - Unrestricted

Unrestricted cash is comprised of the following:

		2023		2022
Cash at banks				
Bank of The Bahamas Limited	$	4,339,536	$	1,251,169
RBC Royal Bank Bahamas Limited		2,093,054		620,215
		6,432,590		1,871,384
Cash on hand		1,195		633
	$	6,433,785	$	1,872,017

Funds in unrestricted accounts are used for the day-to-day operations of the Company and its programmes.

6. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of the following:

		2023		2022
Accounts receivable (other)	$	299,364	$	-
Due from third parties		292,558		274,878
Receivable from clients		191,237		1,545,974
Due from IDB		12,000		-
Due from employees		361		4,057
		795,520		1,824,909
Less: provision for credit losses		(106,562)		(247,472)
	$	688,958	$	1,577,437

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

The movements in allowance for credit losses are as follows:

		2023		2022
Balance, beginning of year	$	247,472	$	29,619
(Decrease)/increase in allowance for credit losses		(140,910)		217,853
Balance, end of year	$	106,562	$	247,472

Allowance for credit losses are calculated as follows:

		2023				2022			
	Expected Credit Loss Rate		Carrying Amounts		Allowance for Credit Losses		Carrying Amounts		Allowance for Credit Losses
Current	2%	$	96,376	$	1,928	$	202,036	$	4,041
1 to 30 days	2%		1,824		36		-		-
31 to 60 days	5%		-		-		-		-
61 to 90 days	10%		-		-		-		-
91 days and over	15%		697,320		104,598		1,622,873		243,431
		$	795,520	$	106,562	$	1,824,909	$	247,472

Allowance for credit losses carried in profit or loss is as follows:

		2023		2022
(Decrease)/increase in allowance for credit losses	$	(140,910)	$	217,853
Bad debts written off		67,200		-
	$	(73,710)	$	217,853

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

7. Other Assets

Other assets consist of the following:

		2023		2022
Social media development	$	22,000	$	22,000
Database development		18,572		18,572
Security deposits		12,165		11,940
Website development		9,725		9,725
SBDC Guarantee		4,806		4,806
	$	67,268	$	67,043

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

8. Property and Equipment

	Vehicles	Branding and Signage	Fintech Platform Development	Furniture and Equipment	Computers and Devices	Total
Cost						
Balance as at June 30, 2021	$ 83,824	$ 5,884	$ 9,500	$ 38,998	$ 54,759	$ 192,965
Additions	-	2,818	-	65,074	8,994	76,886
Disposals	(36,993)	-	-	-	-	(36,993)
Balance as at June 30, 2022	46,831	8,702	9,500	104,072	63,753	232,858
Additions	-	-	-	19,760	17,341	37,101
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(7,273)	(7,273)
Adjustment	-	-	-	(7,623)	2,169	(5,454)
Balance as at June 30, 2023	46,831	8,702	9,500	116,209	75,990	257,232
Accumulated depreciation						
Balance as at June 30, 2021	40,897	2,160	8,028	3,439	22,069	76,593
Charge for the year	5,934	1,412	1,056	16,612	18,729	43,743
Balance as at June 30, 2022	46,831	3,572	9,084	20,051	40,798	120,336
Charge for the year	11,009	2,210	416	21,114	16,795	51,544
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(7,273)	(7,273)
Adjustment	(14,409)	-	-	-	-	(14,409)
Balance as at June 30, 2023	43,431	5,782	9,500	41,165	50,320	150,198
Carrying value						
As at June 30, 2023	**$ 3,400**	**$ 2,920**	**$ -**	**$ 75,044**	**$ 25,670**	**$ 107,034**
As at June 30, 2022	**$ -**	**$ 5,130**	**$ 416**	**$ 84,021**	**$ 22,955**	**$ 112,522**

9. Long-Term Notes Receivable

Amounts listed under notes receivable represent total micro loan disbursements made on behalf of approved business continuity, the Company and disaster relief clients. Clients approved under the Company and the Disaster Relief Micro Loan Funding Programmes were awarded low interest micro loans up to $50,000 with a payback period of seven years maximum rate at 5% interest per annum. Clients approved under the Business Continuity Loan Programmes were awarded low interest loans up to $300,000 with a payback period of seven years and interest of 5%.

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

Loans issued under the Company and the Disaster Relief Micro Loan Programmes are administered and managed by The Bahamas Development Bank. Loans issued under the Business Continuity Loan Programmes are administered and managed by a group of financial institutions partners.

	2023	2022
Disaster Relief Micro Loan Programme		
Omni Financial	$ 3,292,217	$ 3,749,147
Bahamas Development Bank	17,574	17,587
	3,309,791	3,766,734
SBDC Micro Loan Programme		
Omni Financial	1,900,594	1,618,332
Bahamas Development Bank	130,193	316,559
	2,030,787	1,934,891
Business Continuity Loan Programme		
Omni Financial	9,378,132	9,665,729
Simplified Lending	9,322,295	10,749,646
Cash N Go Ltd.	3,612,313	4,314,823
Bahamas Development Bank	3,011,235	3,246,125
Leno Corporate Services	1,706,979	1,690,469
Bahamas Entreprenuerial Venture Fund	1,221,464	790,615
Sunshine Finance Limited	892,364	956,196
Fidelity Bank	97,701	124,647
	29,242,483	31,538,250
Bridge Programme	65,170	100,000
Royal Caribbean Micro Loan	44,280	33,180
Royal Caribbean Kick Starter		
Money Max	63,750	-
Total notes receivable	34,756,261	37,373,055
Less: provision for credit losses	(22,122,282)	(19,810,629)
	$ 12,633,979	$ 17,562,426

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

The Company has continued the disbursement of funding under its existing programmes. The Company is closely monitoring its operations, liquidity and capital resources and actively works to minimize the current and future impact of those unprecedented events.

With respect to the collection and recovery of the Company's clients, management continues to closely monitor the performance of the Company's loan portfolios and delinquency rate, and where it is deemed necessary, book provisions against delinquent accounts.

As at June 30, 2023, the Company had approved 977 (2022: 869) loans with a value of $34,756,261 (2022: $37,373,055).

As at June 30, 2023, an allowance for doubtful accounts for the loan portfolio was provided for in the amount $22,122,282 (2022: $19,810,629). During the year, there was a direct write off of $Nil (2022: $32,301).

The movements in allowance for credit losses are as follows:

		2023		2022
Balance, beginning of year	$	19,810,629	$	1,215,133
Increase in allowance for credit losses		2,311,653		18,595,496
Balance, end of year	$	22,122,282	$	19,810,629

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

The provision is calculated as follows:

As at June 30, 2023	Expected Credit Loss Rate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Allowance for Credit Losses
1 to 30 days	10%	$ 2,150,367	$ -	$ -	$ 2,150,367	$ 215,037
31 to 60 days	25%	12,542,564	-	-	12,542,564	3,135,641
61 to 90 days	38%	-	1,744,014	-	1,744,014	662,725
91 to 120 days	50%	-	420,874	-	420,874	210,437
More than 120 days	100%	-	-	17,898,442	17,898,442	17,898,442
		$14,692,931	$ 2,164,888	$17,898,442	$34,756,261	$22,122,282

As at June 30, 2022	Expected Credit Loss Rate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Allowance for Credit Losses
1 to 30 days	10%	$ 3,718,606	$ -	$ -	$ 3,718,606	$ 371,861
31 to 60 days	25%	15,020,840	-	-	15,020,840	3,755,210
61 to 90 days	38%	-	2,783,030	-	2,783,030	1,057,551
91 to 120 days	50%	-	2,449,145	-	2,449,145	1,224,573
More than 120 days	100%	-	-	13,401,434	13,401,434	13,401,434
		$18,739,446	$ 5,232,175	$13,401,434	$37,373,055	$19,810,629

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

The following is a summary of loans:

As at June 30, 2023	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Loan Loss Provision
Disaster Micro Loan	$ 118,011	$ 88,668	$ 3,085,538	$ 3,292,217	95%
Regular Micro Loan	196,620	110,473	1,741,268	2,048,361	89%
Business Continuity Loan	14,358,300	1,920,217	13,029,136	29,307,653	58%
Royal Caribbean Micro Loan	-	23,030	21,250	44,280	71%
Royal Caribbean Kick Starter	20,000	22,500	21,250	63,750	54%
	$ 14,692,931	$ 2,164,888	$ 17,898,442	$ 34,756,261	

As at June 30, 2022	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Loan Loss Provision
Regular Micro Loan	$ 821,455	$ 456,235	$ 938,043	$ 2,215,733	53%
Disaster Micro Loan	1,090,844	369,945	2,192,870	3,653,659	66%
Business Continuity Loan	16,793,967	4,405,995	10,270,521	31,470,483	57%
Royal Caribbean Loan	33,180	-	-	33,180	2%
	$ 18,739,446	$ 5,232,175	$ 13,401,434	$ 37,373,055	

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

10. Loan Guarantee Fund

The Company serves as guarantor for its clients who receive loans from local banks and other financial institutions in excess of the Company's Micro Loan and the Disaster Relief's Micro Loan Programmes maximum allowed loan amount of $50,000.

Under the Loan Guarantee Programmes, for most sectors, clients are eligible to obtain loans up to $500,000 and the Company guarantees up to 75% of the loan principal. Additionally, the guarantee may extend up to 90% of the loan principal for clients operating in the following sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Fishing
- Agriculture
- Clean energy
- Technology

The loan guarantee amounts recorded are the amounts placed with various banks to collateralize guarantees pledged under the programme. The funds enable the Company to immediately fund any guarantees called.

Facility One

Guarantees provided under the Company's Micro Loan and Disaster Relief's Micro Loan Guarantee Programmes are recorded on Company's books as a contingent liability in accordance with IAS 37. Total reserve established for the guarantee programmes initially stood at $2,000,000 ($1,000,000 each). The movement on the facility is as follows:

		2023		2022
Balance, beginning of year	$	1,794,500	$	1,688,000
Addition		77,450		106,500
Balance, end of year	$	1,871,950	$	1,794,500

Facility Two

To expand the loan guarantee programme, on 5 August 2020, the Inter-American Bank (IDB) and the Government of The Bahamas (the Government) signed an additional facility up to US$25 million primarily to assist Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) obtaining credit facilities from financial institutions. The Government appointed the Company as the Executing Agency for the Programme and the Company assigned management control of the Programme to its Programme Executing Unit (PEU).

The disbursement period is 5 years, and the loan is repayable in semi-annual, consecutive, and equal instalments commencing 66 months from the loan contract date (5 February 2026).

As at the balance sheet date, $5,405,101 (2022: $2,406,421) is held by the PEU in escrow in support of loans guaranteed under the programme. Warranties totaling $3,425,300 (2022: $1,438,729) have been issued under the programme.

11. Net Assets

The Company has no authorized share capital but is limited by guarantee. Each Member has agreed that in the event of the Company's winding up and its liabilities exceed its assets, to contribute up to one dollar (B$1.00) each. As at June 30, 2023, the Company had three (3) (2022: three (3)) Members:

- The Government of The Bahamas (GoTB)
- Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC)
- University of The Bahamas (UB)

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

12. Related Parties

Parties are related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions.

Related parties include directors and senior management level employees as they could affect the financial or operating policies of the Company through the presence of control or significant influence.

		2023		2022
Directors' fees	$	108,777	$	21,375
Key management personnel	$	400,000	$	513,800

13. Grants, Donations and Contributions

Grants, donations and contributions are comprised of the following:

		2023		2022
Interest income	$	1,203,128	$	1,003,351
Grants, donations and contributions		275,680		250,000
Other miscellaneous income		4,429		4,370
In-kind donations		1,375		10,000
	$	1,484,612	$	1,267,721

14. Government Contributions

The Company receives subvention from the Government to support the Company's grant initiatives and operational cost. The Company's grant initiatives are supported by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Company's operations are supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).

As at June 30, 2022, the Company was allocated through the approved government budget $4,000,000 for grant initiative support and received $4,000,000 as at June 30, 2023.

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

As at June 30, 2022, the Company was allocated through the approved governments budget $2,000,000 for operations support and received $750,000 as at June 30, 2023, with a $1,250,000 shortfall.

15. Programme Expenses

Programme expenses are as follows:

		2023		2022
Client advisory and training services	$	313,910	$	301,048
Travel expenses		99,751		73,700
Advertising and promotion		69,093		56,831
	$	482,754	$	431,579

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

16. General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses are as follows:

	2023	2022
Social Purpose Activities		
Programmes	$ 265,358	$ -
Guaranteed Loan Programme Initiative	146,190	-
Entrepreneur Bootcamp	2,200	-
	413,748	-
Operating expenses		
Salaries and wages	1,668,462	1,783,214
Employee benefits	245,094	388,514
Utilities expenses	60,194	59,333
Taxes paid	51,726	44,010
Other expense	12,564	10,834
Rent	11,141	13,010
Employee rewards	1,675	- 0
External Consulting services	599,669	549,134
	2,650,525	2,848,049
Administrative expenses		
Meals and catering	104,274	49,819
Dues and subscriptions	89,582	59,502
Depreciation (Note 6)	37,135	43,743
Repairs and maintenance	47,706	173,018
Office supplies	44,374	24,316
Donations and sponsorships	23,772	72,017
Bank service charges	17,791	20,074
Licenses and permits	7,259	11,526
Other expenses	3,354	20,869
	375,247	474,884
	$ 3,439,520	$ 3,322,933

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

17. Restricted Programme Movement

Funds were received from The Government of The Bahamas, The IDB and from private donations to fund the following programmes:

		2023		2022
Donations/grants				
Climate Smart and Innovation Grant	$	500,000	$	-
Sustainable Food Growth Grant		500,000		-
IDB Credit Enhancement Project		325,511		-
Disney Programme		208,668		182,048
AWE Programme		57,717		9,160
RBC Programme		22,000		-
Readiness Training Project		3,000		-
Grant Fund		-		1,528,779
Economic Recovery Funding Programme		-		2,836,856
IDB reimbursements		-		662,196
SBDC/BDB Micro Loan Fund		-		359,000
Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief Programme		-		250,000
IDB Lab - Accelerate Bahamas		-		163,241
Royal Caribbean Programme		-		250,000
Total donations/grants		1,616,896		6,241,280
Funds disbursed				
Sustainable Food Growth Grant		1,085,689		-
Programme administrative fees		823,110		776,527
Climate Smart and Innovation Grant		358,651		-
SBDC Matching Grant		109,727		265,113
IDB Lab Disbursements		103,837		5,002
Royal Caribbean Programme		103,794		-
Bridge Programme		52,731		-
Distressed Grant Programme		48,357		-
AWE Programme		39,320		69,036
Eleuthera Entrepreneurial Training Program		35,297		-
Royal Caribbean Programme		18,391		-
Disaster Relief Loan and Grant Programmes		13,191		658,875
Readiness Training Projects		1,960		-
Dubai 2020		-		15,292
JA Bahamas Pitch Competition		-		6,945
Economic Recovery Grant Programme		-		6,204,372
Preschool Grant Programme		-		72,688
SBR Grant Programmes		-		3,000
Over the Hill Programme		-		(571)
Total funds disbursed		2,794,055		8,076,279
	$	(1,177,159)	$	(1,834,999)

a. Climate Smart and Innovation Grant

As part of the Sustainable Food Growth Grant, a separate track was created for entrepreneurs who demonstrated that their business aids in combatting climate change and/or using innovative techniques within the sustainable food space. Funding received was used to facilitate grants to 11 entrepreneurs in this sub-sector.

b. Sustainable Food Growth Grant

In partnership with The Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs, the SBDC offered startup and existing businesses in the farming and fishing industries (including Agribusinesses) access to grant funding up to $50,000. The Sustainable Food Growth Grant sought to empower entrepreneurs to positively impact and mitigate the issues of food scarcity, food imports, supply chain disruptions, rising food costs for Bahamians and to encourage the participation of youth and women and the integration of technology. Funding received was used to facilitate grants to 35 entrepreneurs in this industry.

c. IDB Credit Enhancement Project

On August 5, 2020, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of The Bahamas (GoBH) signed Loan Contract No. 4846/OC BH for the creation of a Credit Enhancement Facility (CEF or the Program) to primarily assist Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) with obtaining credit facilities from financial institutions. The GoBH appointed SBDC Bahamas as the Exchange Agency for the CEF and the SBDC Bahamas assigned management control of the Program to its Program Executing Unit (PEU).

d. Disney Programme

The Company executed several cohorts of the Eleuthera Entrepreneurial Training Programme, designed to upskill entrepreneurs in the island of Eleuthera on key topics, while also fostering the creation of an ecosystem of entrepreneurs who are poised to support Disney's operations on the island of Eleuthera. Funding received was used to facilitate grant funding and cover operational costs associated with Year 3 of the programme (e.g. marketing, facilitators, etc.).

e. Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Programme

The AWE (Academy for Women Entrepreneurs) programme was a partnership between the Company Bahamas and the US Embassy. The focus of this programme was to provide its participants with educational, mentorship and networking opportunities through weekly online sessions, facilitated by Company staff and female clients. Sessions were held in both Nassau and Freeport over a period of eighteen weeks and allowed participants the ability to learn ways to develop and promote their businesses internationally. Funding received for this programme was used to pay facilitators and for rental of session spaces.

f. RBC Programme

RBC Pitch Night programme provided entrepreneurs within the Access Accelerator community an opportunity to share their business idea, plans for scaling up and to pitch at investors for funding to take their projects to the next level. The first Pitch Night was held on December 8th, 2018. RBC Pitch Nights were held at Venture Coworking and were moderated by Shift the Culture, a local organization that has a longstanding history of contributing to Start-Ups. The RBC business bankers were in the audience and helped with providing valuable insights for businesses to grow.

g. Readiness Training Project

The Readiness Project was a six-week, hybrid training programme for start-ups and existing business owners located in Long Island, Crooked Island, Acklins and Rum Cay. Throughout the six weeks, participants were exposed to a myriad of critical concepts to inspire and facilitate both creative and analytical thinking. Funding received was used to cover operational costs such as facilitator fees.

h. Grant Fund

The grant fund relates to the Company's Micro Loan Programme. Under this programme, all approved clients can be awarded up to a maximum of $20,000 in grant funding which must be matched with debt or equity investment from other sources.

i. Economic Recovery Grant Programme

The Economic Recovery Programme was developed to stimulate various industries in our economy and includes several programmes developed by the Company and is funded by The Government of The Bahamas.

Under the Economic Recovery umbrella, the following programmes were launched during the 2021 fiscal year:

- **Fishing and Farming:** In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine resources, the Company launched the Fishing and Farming Grant Programme in April 2021. Funding for this programme were disbursed to registered MSMEs throughout The Bahamas that operate within the agriculture and fisheries industries for the purchase of equipment and supplies needed for operations. 213 approved MSMEs were awarded grants up to $50,000 to be used for equipment, supplies and other business-related expenses.

- **Standalone Grants:** The aim of the Standalone Grant programme was to assist in the development of the small business community within The Bahamas through mentorship, training, and access to funding. Under this programme, there were three cohorts launched in December 2020, January 2021 and April 2021 where 547 existing and start-up MSMEs were awarded grants up to $5,000 to be used for the purchase of supplies, business start-up, and other business-related expenses.

j. SBDC/BDB Micro Loan Fund

The SBDC/BDB Micro Loan Programme is a partnership with the Bahamas Development Bank. Under this programme, approved clients are eligible for low interest loans with the Bahamas Development Bank (BDB). These loans are approved in-house through the Company and are booked/ administered by BDB on the Company's behalf. Initially, the maximum loan amount allowed under this programme was $15,000. In October 2019, this amount increased to $50,000 in response to the number of small loans being requested by clients.

k. Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief Programme

The Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief Loan Programme was developed and launched in September 2019 with the goal of assisting existing MSMEs in Freeport and Abaco obtain access to funding to re-establish their businesses. Under this programme, MSME's were eligible for four funding streams:

- Stand-alone grants up to $5,000
- Farming and fishing grants up to $50,000 (these grants were available only to
- MSMEs that operated within the agriculture and fisheries industries)
- Micro loans up to $50,000 (low interest working capital loans)
- Matching grants up to $20,000 (tied to micro loans only)

l. IDB LAB – Accelerate Bahamas

The Inter-American Development Bank, as administrator of the Multilateral Investment Fund ("IDB-LAB") made a $600,000 grant available to the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Bahamas ("Executing Agency") to finance a portion of the Accelerate Bahamas! ("Project"). The Executing Agency is required to provide $710,000 in counterpart contribution to the Project. The Executing Agency is a non-profit company wholly owned by the Government of the Bahamas ("GoBH"), organized and existing under the laws of The Bahamas.

m. Royal Caribbean Programme

The RCCL Existing Business Programme was designed to support small Bahamian businesses in the tourism sector, fostering economic recovery, business sustainability, and professional development. Launched in 2021 with a focus on New Providence, Grand Bahama, and the Berry Islands, the programme provided financial assistance through a combination of grants and loans to eligible businesses offering products and services to domestic and international tourists. A total of 32 businesses were awarded through this programme.

n. Programme Administrative Fees

The operational and administrative costs of the Company are financed through a dual mechanism: direct government subventions (as part of an annual $50 million commitment to small business development) and targeted external funding via institutions like the IDB and World Bank. The IDB's Credit Enhancement Facility not only provides partial loan guarantees to reduce lending risk for MSMEs but also dedicates $3 million to enhance the Company's internal capacity and expand its client advisory services. Similarly, the World Bank's MIGA-backed loan allocates $750,000 in operational funding, including $250,000 to fully cover the administrative and programme costs of the Youth Development Programme and $500,000 to cover administrative costs for the Economic Recovery Programme. These combined funding streams ensure the sustainability of the Centre's entrepreneurial training, mentorship programmes, policy advocacy, and loan facilitation activities across The Bahamas.

o. SBDC Matching Grants

As part of the Government of The Bahamas' commitment to supporting entrepreneurship, $25 million was allocated over a five-year period ($5 million annually) to the Guaranteed Loan Programme. Through this initiative, qualified entrepreneurs may access guaranteed loans, equity investments and up to $20,000 in matching grant support. These matching grants are intended to ease the debt burden on entrepreneurs by supporting investment in critical business areas and eligible soft costs, including incorporation fees, insurance coverage, accounting software, employee training, and marketing campaigns. It is important to note that approval of matching grant applications is not automatic or guaranteed; it is contingent upon the financial circumstances of the applicant and the availability of grant funds at the time of application.

p. Bridge Programme

The Bridge Programme was designed to support Bahamian entrepreneurs who have already made significant investments toward their startup or expansion costs and need bridge funding to complete their launch or expansion phase. This programme offered a combined 50% grant and 50% loan between $5,000 and $25,000.

q. Distress Grant Programme

This programme was launched to provide emergency funding to meet critical payables. This initiative aims to promote recovery efforts to small businesses to help continue operations. The maximum grant amount was $25,000. Through this programme, 33 entrepreneurs were approved for $548,118.66 in grant funding.

r. Disaster Relief Programme

In response to Hurricane Dorian, the Disaster Recovery Relief Programme was launched in October 2019 to help existing businesses in Grand Bahama and Abaco recover from storm-related damage. The initiative provided guaranteed loans, micro loans and matching grant support to restore operations, retain jobs, and revive access to essential goods and services. By focusing on the hardest-hit communities, the programme played a key role in jumpstarting local economic recovery and strengthening resilience in the wake of disaster.

s. Preschool Grant Programme

The Preschool Grant Programme was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and launched by the Company, with the goal of assisting registered preschools obtain grant funding to assist with upgrading their premises, purchasing books and other supplies, etc. Under this programme, 49 eligible preschools were awarded up to $20,000 in grant funding.

t. SBR Grant Programme

The SBR Grant Programme was developed through partnership with The Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA). The GBPA pledged and disbursed $100,000 to this programme and the Company matched this pledge. The purpose of this programme was to assist small businesses on the island purchase supplies and with other related business costs. In total, 20 MSMEs located in Grand Bahama were approved and received grants up to $5,000 from the Company beginning October 2020.

u. Over the Hill Programme

This grant programme was offered to entrepreneurs located 'over-the-hill', providing assistance with business plan development and funding.

18. Reclassification

Certain prior year balances have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

19. Capital Management

The Company's objectives when managing capital, which is a broader concept than the "equity" on the face of the statement of financial position, are:

- To ensure that capital is adequate to maintain confidence in the safety and stability of the organization;
- To ensure that the return on capital is sufficient to meet the expectations of the stakeholders;
- To safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern so that it can continue to provide returns and benefits for other stakeholders; and
- To maintain a strong capital base to support the development of its business.
- The Company is not subject to any external capital requirements.

20. Subsequent Events

On July 24, 2024, the Company initiated legal proceedings against one of its financial institutional partners for breach of contract. The breach pertains to the institution's failure to fulfill critical contractual obligations, specifically the submission of accurate loan portfolio reports and the remittance of payments due to the Company.

In response to this breach, the Company terminated its relationship with the institution and engaged a new financial institutional partner. This new partner assumed responsibility for managing the affected loan portfolio and overseeing the recovery of outstanding loan balances. At the time of transition, the value of the transferred loan portfolio was estimated at $14,645,027, comprising 412 active loan accounts as detailed below:

Loan Portfolio	Loans Transferred		Loan Amount
Business Continuity	177	$	9,663,034
Disaster Recovery	135		2,982,795
Royal Caribbean	30		127,003
SBDC Regular	70		1,872,195
	412	$	14,645,027

As of June 30, 2024, the new financial institution had formally processed ("booked") 9 accounts totaling $495,900, broken down as follows:

Loan Portfolio	Loans Booked		Loan Amount
Business Continuity	5	$	400,900
Disaster Recovery	1		50,000
Royal Caribbean	2		5,000
SBDC Regular	1		40,000
	9	$	495,900

The remaining 403 accounts, with a combined value of $14,176,763, remain "un-booked" by the new financial institution as of June 30, 2024. However, through the efforts of the new partner, the Company successfully recovered $1,032,248 as of the same reporting date.

The litigation is ongoing and is being closely monitored by the Company and its legal counsel. The financial implications of this legal action will continue to be assessed in accordance with accounting standards and disclosed as necessary in future financial periods. No adjustment in connection with this matter was made to the financial statements as of June 30, 2024.

Other than the matter described above, no material events have occurred between June 30, 2023 and July 2, 2025 that would require adjustment to or disclosure in these financial statements.

Access
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