

HOPE for Policy Change

HOPE joins Amicus Brief in U.S. Supreme Court disparate impact case

HOPE, the National Fair Housing Alliance and the Center for Community Self-Help recently joined in an Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the “disparate impact” doctrine within the application of the Fair Housing Act. The standard exists to limit the harmful effects of seemingly neutral policies on protected classes of people, which includes characteristics such as race, gender, age and disability. A ruling against the standard would weaken Fair Housing Act protections that have been in place for decades. The case before the Court is The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs vs. The Inclusive Communities Project. [Read more here.](#)



Lincoln Gardens Apartments
Jackson, Mississippi

 **Creating opportunity where it is needed most.**

HOPE shapes state tax policy debate

With tax cuts high on the agenda of the state's leadership during the 2015 Mississippi legislative session, HOPE played a key role in analyzing proposals that would further threaten Mississippi's ability to invest in public schools, health care, public safety and infrastructure. Throughout the session, HOPE informed lawmakers, advocates and the public about the ramifications of the proposed tax cuts. In the end, no detrimental tax cuts were enacted. To view HOPE's analysis on the various tax policy proposals or to see a list of media citations visit www.mepconline.org.



Mississippi State Capitol
Jackson, Mississippi

HOPE CEO Bill Bynum urges federal banking regulators to focus on financial inclusion

HOPE CEO, Bill Bynum, testified before the leadership of the Federal Reserve Board and FDIC and OCC officials on the effect of federal banking regulations on low-income consumers. In his testimony, Bill underscored the consequences of persistent poverty and the importance of having a depository in low-income, minority and rural communities. When people in distressed communities have an account with a depository, they are more likely to own assets – such as a vehicle, a home, or savings. Bynum offered recommendations regarding strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act and incentivizing bank investment in rural communities. Read the [full testimony](#).

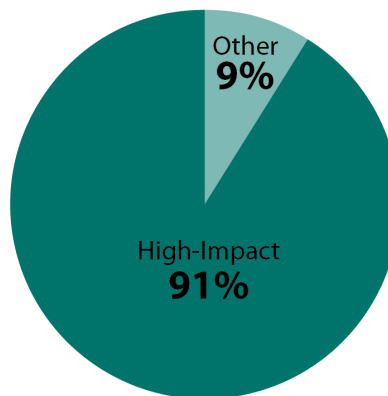


HOPE for Families

HOPE Consumer Lending Strengthening Economically Distressed Communities

In the first quarter of 2015, HOPE financed more than 350 consumer loans that helped members improve their credit rating, purchase an automobile, or escape predatory financing. During the period, 91% of the consumer loans were high-impact loans, including credit builder loans, loans to low-income individuals, and financing for individuals who live in economically distressed communities.

High-Impact Consumer Loans | First Quarter 2015



HOPE in times of immediate need Biloxi, Mississippi



Willie Lett
Hope Credit Union | Biloxi, Mississippi

When Willie Lett's niece needed to pay for car repairs, she didn't have the cash and neither did he. The car was their only transportation, and its absence created a huge hardship. That's when he turned to HOPE for help. When Melanie Boutwell of HOPE's Biloxi branch understood his need, she proposed a Borrow and Save loan. Mr. Lett would get the cash needed to fix the car, and, when the loan was repaid, an amount equal to half the loan amount would remain in a savings account to build on for future needs. Mr. Lett was thrilled. His niece's car now works fine, and Mr. Lett is saving to purchase a car of his own.



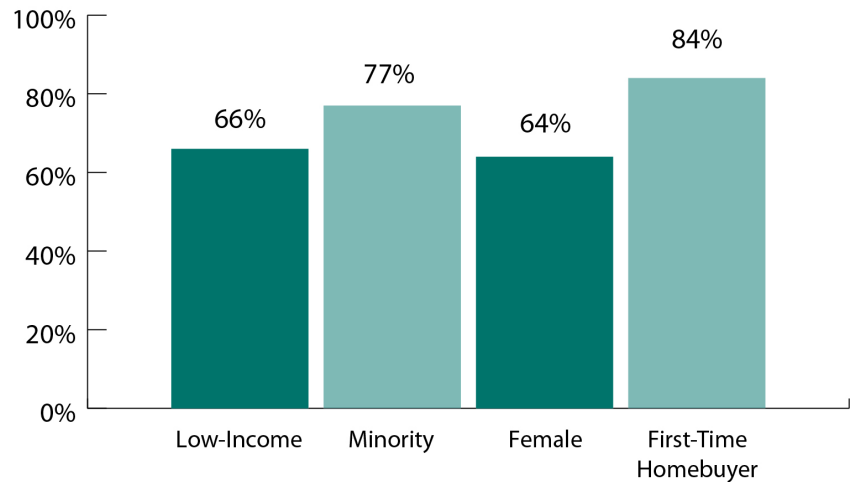
**Creating opportunity where it is
needed most.**

HOPE for Homeowners

HOPE Mortgage Lending Improves Lives throughout the Mid South

In the first quarter of 2015, 91% of HOPE's new mortgage loans were high-impact loans. These are loans to minority, female or low-income home buyers. Eighty-four percent of homebuyers that received a HOPE mortgage in the first quarter were first-time homebuyers, 64% were women, and 66% were low-income.

Mortgage Loans | First Quarter 2015
Homeownership Demographics



HOPE through life's ups and downs West Memphis, Arkansas



Barbara Hinton
West Memphis, Arkansas

Barbara Hinton lost her home after going through a divorce. She had been a HOPE member for several years but thought owning her own home was now beyond reach because of damage to her credit. However, HOPE's West Memphis team helped Barbara develop a plan to repair her credit. With guidance along the way from HOPE's mortgage team, she made significant improvements to her credit. Barbara's hard work enabled her to secure a HOPE mortgage, and today she is a proud homeowner.



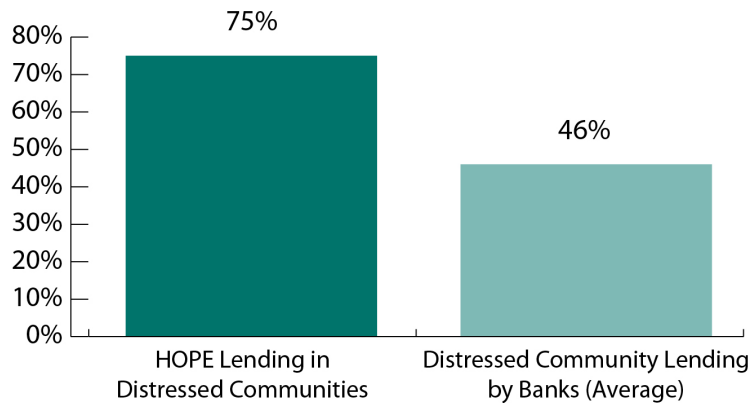
Creating opportunity where it is needed most.

HOPE for Businesses

HOPE Commercial Lending Creates Opportunity for Underserved Populations

In the first quarter of 2015, three out of four commercial loans closed were made to businesses in economically distressed communities, those with poverty rates in excess of 20%. Half of HOPE's commercial loans were made to minority- and women-owned businesses.

**Commercial Loans in Economically Distressed Communities
First Quarter 2015**



HOPE for launching a business Memphis, Tennessee



Lisa and Luis Toro both had successful careers at international companies, but owning their own retail store and coffee shop was their dream. When the couple decided that it was time for Lisa to leave her job as the head of digital and social media for Hilton Worldwide to open a retail store, their first stop was HOPE. HOPE provided the Toros with the resources and financing they needed to open City & State, a clothing and accessories store and coffee shop. Today, the business is thriving.



**Creating opportunity where it is
needed most.**

News Briefs

Affordable housing for a Jackson, MS community

The historic Fondren community in Jackson, MS will soon have 163 high-quality, affordable apartment units. The \$18.5 million project will receive 85 percent of its financing through the use of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. HOPE will provide the permanent financing for the development. The project is located near several hospitals and aims to serve low-income families, medical students, hospital employees and veterans. It will also have units set aside to serve people with disabilities.



Taylor Court, Oxford Court and Downing Court
Fondren | Jackson, Mississippi

HOPE partnership provides accounts for youth in foster care

Shyresha Jenkins became the first participant in the [Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative](#) (JCYOI), to save \$3,000 toward her goal of purchasing her first car. JCYOI is a program that works with youth transitioning from the foster care system to achieve positive outcomes in education, employment, housing, health, and financial capability. HOPE is partnering with the Public Policy Center of Mississippi to help youth participants in JCYOI to build savings and strong financial management skills. The Public Policy Center of Mississippi matches their savings up to \$3,000, and HOPE provides the accounts and financial counseling. Ms. Jenkins is now receiving financial counseling from HOPE and is excited about purchasing her car. Watch her story [here](#).



Warren Yoder, Public Policy Center of Mississippi
and Shyresha Jenkins | Jackson, Mississippi



**Creating opportunity where it is
needed most.**

