New Mobile App Puts the Power of a Branch in the Palm of Your Hand

HOPE members can benefit from the convenience of managing their finances with a few simple taps and swipes on a smartphone. The credit union has launched a new mobile banking app that offers significant enhancements and added features. Members with Android or Apple phones can check balances, review transaction histories, schedule immediate or future transfers, locate a branch, or contact HOPE via the encrypted service. The most popular feature is the ability to make deposits without ever coming to a branch. Members can snap a picture of a check and submit it to their account.

This new financial tool is a critical part of HOPE’s effort to significantly expand the number of people it serves in rural and underserved markets while combatting the spread of bank deserts. HOPE has several additional enhancements planned that include mobile bill payment and a personal financial management dashboard that will help members budget, spend, and save wisely.

New Report: Foundation Investments in HOPE Spur Job Creation, Millions in Economic Activity

The Philanthropic Collaborative has released a report showing that foundation investments in innovative organizations like HOPE have a deeper and farther-reaching economic impact in the region than previously understood. According to this first-of-its kind, independent analysis, foundation grantmaking in the U.S. supports millions of jobs, as well as billions of dollars in wages, GDP and tax revenues that extend for generations.

The study highlights a $250,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation in 2009 to support the credit union’s operations. When the short-term and long-term social and economic benefits and the multiplier effects of the grant are calculated, the report revealed the creation of nearly 30 jobs, more than $1.6 million in wages and benefits, $4 million in goods and services transactions, more than $2.3 million in additional GDP, and nearly $115,000 in tax revenue. The report also notes that HOPE’s $20 million operating budget in 2011 generates hundreds of millions of dollars for the region.
News In Brief

MEPC Addresses Economic Benefits of Medicaid Expansion with Lawmakers

In December, MEPC Director Ed Sivak was invited to testify before the Senate Insurance and Public Health and Welfare Committees in the Mississippi Legislature. Sivak briefed lawmakers on the economic opportunities accompanying Medicaid expansion. Interested individuals can view the presentation shared at the hearing at www.mepconline.org.

FFRI Funds the Return of the Circle Food Store to New Orleans

Circle Food Store, an iconic Crescent City landmark, has received funding from the New Orleans Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI) to begin an $8 million restoration more than seven years after Hurricane Katrina poured five feet of water into the store. The project will provide healthy, nutritious groceries and create an estimated 75 new jobs for residents of the Seventh Ward and the bordering Treme neighborhood.

Interior renovations will bring an open, modern feel to the building. The drop ceilings have been removed to reveal wooden trusses and to allow in natural light from skylights. The building’s exterior will also receive a facelift, but the store’s distinctive curved facade and white and green color scheme will remain.

HOPE manages the FFRI program, which is providing a $1 million loan, with a forgivable amount of $500,000. Visit HOPE’s websites and search “Circle Food Store” to see images and media coverage of the recent groundbreaking event.

Visit us online at www.hope-ec.org or www.hopecu.org for more information.
Call us at 601-944-1100 to be removed from our mailing list.

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