

CLIMB Fund

Charleston, SC



OVERVIEW

CLIMB Fund makes an impact in communities across South Carolina by providing access to capital for small businesses. We exclusively lend to small business owners and entrepreneurs who have struggled to access traditional sources of capital. Despite that, CLIMB Fund has a higher successful repayment rate than most commercial banks, with many clients paying off early and/or refinancing with a traditional lender. That client success is the heart of fulfilling the CLIMB Fund's mission.

CLIMB Fund empowers our borrowers' passion and dreams. We seek opportunities to provide outstanding customer service and create long-term partnerships. We bring respect and compassion to our interactions.

We bring a growth mindset, flexing to new opportunities to serve our customers better. We actively seek to understand evolving environmental factors to better inform our approach, and we are mindful of the diverse communities we serve and inclusive in our engagement.

We are fiscally responsible, thoughtful in our decision making and excellent in our execution.

INTERSTATE 95 COFFEE

At CLIMB Fund, we take immense pride in the incredible success stories of the small businesses we support. Out of all the inspiring client success stories over the past year, one has truly captured our admiration: Mbarek Kabba and his coffee shop, Interstate 95 Coffee.

Mbarek was born and raised in Kenitra, Morocco, a beach town in Northwest Africa. To further his education, Mbarek moved to the United States when he was 20 years old. Charleston has been his home for the past seven years; this is where he began his entrepreneurial pursuit of the American Dream. Through incredible hard work, resilience, and dedication, Mbarek turned his business idea, Interstate 95 Coffee, into an immensely successful business. As an immigrant turned small business owner, Mbarek embodies the very essence of what the American Dream is all about.

The CLIMB Fund met Mbarek in May 2022 when he introduced us to his company, Interstate 95 Coffee, and presented us with his plan to open its first brick-and-mortar coffee shop. Equipped with delicious coffee, the support of his community, and a business plan, Mbarek came to the CLIMB Fund to secure the last thing he needed to catapult his entrepreneurial dreams: funding. Mbarek's status as an immigrant and minority in the Charleston community puts him among the target demographics of small business owners small business owner that the CLIMB Fund seeks to support.

A few months later, CLIMB Fund approved funding for \$50,000 for Mbarek's project. Mbarek impressed our staff as the embodiment of what it means to be a true entrepreneur. His persistence, resilience, and CLIMB Fund's support allowed him to grow his cold brew business into a thriving manufacturing company and brick-and-mortar storefront.

THREE-YEAR IMPACT

- ▶ \$15.2 million in loans
- ▶ 112 total businesses financed (50 minority-owned, 37 women-owned)
- ▶ 454 job created at businesses via financing

Housing Financing:

- ▶ 400 rental units (all affordable)
- ▶ 400 for-sale units (all affordable)

Green Financing Examples:

- ▶ Financing for a recycling company, waste management company, sustainable oyster farm, and a farm to table sustainable seafood restaurant.