



August 4, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growth Partners Arizona Announces Leadership Transition

PHOENIX, Arizona — Growth Partners Arizona today announced that Executive Director Andre Whittington will conclude his tenure on November 20, 2026, after leading the organization since 2022. He will continue serving through that date to support a seamless transition of leadership.

"Under Whittington's leadership, the organization strengthened its financial foundation, expanded its statewide reach, invested in its people, deepened strategic partnerships, and significantly increased its capacity to serve entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations," said Judie Scalise, Chair of the Board of Directors. "We're committed to a thoughtful transition that builds on his leadership and sets up our next chapter for success. Growth Partners Arizona has never been stronger, and we're excited about what's ahead."

"It has been the privilege of my career to help build Growth Partners Arizona alongside an extraordinary team, dedicated Board members, committed partners, and the entrepreneurs we serve," said Andre Whittington. "Together, we've strengthened the organization and built a foundation for the future. I believe the greatest responsibility of leadership is to leave an organization stronger than you found it. Today, Growth Partners Arizona is ready for its next Executive Director, someone who can build on that foundation and lead the organization into its next chapter. I couldn't be more excited for what lies ahead."

During the transition period, Andre will continue to lead the organization's programs and operations. The Board will conduct a search for Growth Partners Arizona's next Executive Director and expects to share more details about that process in the coming weeks.

Growth Partners Arizona remains fully committed to its mission of providing accessible, fair, and responsible loans and support to Arizona nonprofits and small businesses that fall outside the economic mainstream. The organization does not anticipate any disruption to programs or services during this transition, and its Board and staff are focused on building on this momentum in the years ahead.

For questions, please contact Board Chair Judie Scalise at jascalise@esicorp.net.

About Growth Partners Arizona

Growth Partners Arizona (GPAZ) is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) dedicated to providing accessible, fair, and responsible loans and support to Arizona nonprofits and small businesses that fall outside the economic mainstream. Through its lending, technical assistance, and strategic partnerships, Growth Partners Arizona helps entrepreneurs and community organizations build sustainable, thriving futures across the state. To date, Growth Partners Arizona has facilitated over \$10 Million in loans, supporting 179 small businesses and 50 nonprofit organizations throughout the state.