



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 6, 2022**

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### **LiftFund receives grant from Kirkland & Ellis to support small business recovery**

**HOUSTON, TX -- (April 6, 2022)** -- LiftFund is pleased to announce they are the recipient of a grant from Kirkland & Ellis, an international law firm with offices in Houston. The gift will further LiftFund's Texas COVID-19 business support services and initiatives that contribute to stronger Houston small business community and advance racial and social justice.

"LiftFund is an organization that promotes racial and social justice by providing underserved women and people of color with access to capital and financial literacy, which embodies the core values of the Kirkland & Ellis Pledge," said Enoch Varner, a Houston-based corporate partner with Kirkland & Ellis. "We're honored to help LiftFund deepen its commitment and dedication to close the inequities in our economy and society through its work to lift small business communities throughout Texas and beyond."

LiftFund supports thousands of small businesses and entrepreneurs that are traditionally unable to access funding from traditional sources. The organization provides access to capital, financial literacy, business education and mentorship, and other business tools and resources to help business owners launch and grow their businesses.

Funding from Kirkland & Ellis will be used to support LiftFund's Texas COVID-19 business education services to help small business owners access training opportunities, one-on-one business advising, and an online platform for workshops and webinars.

LiftFund provides free online courses designed to guide and help small business owners build the skills they need to grow and maintain their businesses. Everything from financial to marketing support and disaster recovery is provided through online learning.

CEO and President Janie Barrera said the grant will further the organization's efforts to champion small businesses to recovery.

"We are so grateful to receive this generous gift," Barrera said. "We know minority-owned businesses were some of the hardest hit by the restrictions put in place to try and minimize

the effects of COVID-19. With these funds we can support even more small businesses, help them to reinforce their foundations and set them up to flourish in the future.”

In 2020, Kirkland & Ellis vowed to invest \$5 million over the next five years into a wide range of philanthropic efforts, partnerships and pro bono work that reinforces their commitment to promoting tolerance, ending racism, fighting bigotry and stopping injustice.

To learn more about LiftFund’s services and funding options check out their website at: [www.LiftFund.com](http://www.LiftFund.com).

**About Kirkland & Ellis:**

Kirkland & Ellis is an international law firm with more than 3,000 attorneys representing clients in private equity, M&A and other complex corporate transactions, litigation and dispute resolution/arbitration, restructuring, and intellectual property matters. Operating from offices in 18 cities across the United States, Europe and Asia, Kirkland is committed to improving communities and the legal profession. In 2021, the Firm made \$28 million worth of donations and commitments to nonprofits and charitable organizations and devoted more than 122,000 hours of free legal service to pro bono clients. Learn more at [www.kirkland.com](http://www.kirkland.com).

**About LiftFund:**

LiftFund is a nonprofit small business lender that transforms lives by opening doors and leveling the financial playing field in entrepreneurship. Established in 1994, in San Antonio, Texas, LiftFund provides responsible capital and business education to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Since 1998, LiftFund has supported over 4,000 Houston small business owners with over \$69.7 million in small business loans. Since its inception, LiftFund has made over 24,800 loans totaling more than \$415 million across its 15 state footprint, which includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, New York and Texas.