

Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEACO HELPS SMALL BUSINESS INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY

MENTOR, OH - Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation (MEACO) approved Professional Answering Service Inc. of Mentor's application for a \$25,000 loan to acquire state-of-the-art computer and telephone technology that will improve their business services. This loan was the first one funded through the City of Mentor's new Small Business Loan Fund.

Mary Hurley of Professional Answering Service Inc. says, *"We handle more than 100,000 calls per month for a diverse client base and the new technology will allow us to upgrade the level of service to our customers."* she adds, *"With assistance from MEACO, we were able to invest in the latest technology to accommodate the growing volume and will allow us to create more jobs."*

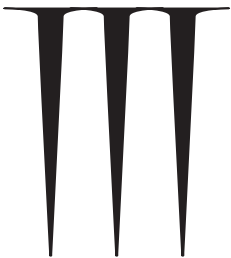
MEACO provides economic development financing programs, such as the Mentor Small Business Loan Fund and the SBA 504 Loan Program to stimulate and encourage business growth. By working with banks, businesses, and the City of Mentor, MEACO helps small businesses, like Professional Answering Service Inc., get loans for machinery and equipment, building improvements, office equipment, and fixtures.

"MEACO's purpose is to support small to medium-sized business ventures in Mentor and encourage expansion and growth," Says MEACO Executive Director Martin Gareau. "This enables small companies to grow and create new jobs in the community."

For more than 20 years, MEACO has helped new and existing local businesses obtain long-term, low-interest loans for building construction, expansion or new equipment purchases. Working directly with small businesses and their banks to get prompt financing, MEACO also provides valuable assistance to applicants throughout the paperwork process. MEACO has helped finance projects for small and medium-sized businesses throughout Mentor, and has resulted in the creation or retention of over 1,300 jobs within the city. Visit the MEACO web site at www.meacoweb.com or contact Martin Gareau at 440-974-5739 for more information.

For more information or to schedule an interview with Martin Gareau, contact Patricia Daly, Marshfield Group's Vice President of Marketing and Design Communication, at 440-974-8448.

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