

Chris Clay is the Director of Lending for ACE | Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs – the largest exclusively small business focused CDFI in the state of Georgia, providing capital, coaching, and connections to underserved entrepreneurs.



Chris Clay

Director of Lending

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Chris Clay is an esteemed professional with over thirteen years in community banking, focusing on growth and stability within communities. He believes in finance's power to create equitable opportunities and advocates for inclusive financial ecosystems. Clay accumulated over a decade of professional banking experience including three years as a Senior Commercial Lender with ACE, and then Interim Director of Lending. His focus has primarily been on community banking, small business development, and non-profit business support, demonstrating proficiency in complex lending mechanisms such as the New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) program.

Clay champions small business financial growth, proactively identifying and seizing valuable opportunities to advocate for the development of inclusive and supportive financial ecosystems. Outside of his role with ACE, he has contributed to the metro Atlanta area by having served on advisory boards for a multistate Community Development Financial Institution and affordable housing agencies.

He has also demonstrated a commitment to community service through his previous involvement with the United Way Allocation Committee and Habitat for Humanity Family Selection Committee where he has been instrumental in guiding policies and initiatives that aim to reduce barriers to financial accessibility and promote sustainable community development.

Clay holds an MBA from Georgia College & State University. His academic background blends historical insights with modern financial practices, driving positive community impact. Additionally, he is proudly affiliated with the Mu Psi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and Coach for the Archer Athletic Association.

As the Director of Lending for ACE, Chris' leadership fosters partnerships and strategies to ensure resource accessibility. Chris's career and volunteer work are driven by a vision of economic opportunities for all, reflecting his commitment to bridging gaps in financial literacy and advocating for equitable community development.

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