



# *News Release*

**Maine District Office**

---

**Release Date:** April 4, 2013

**Release Number:** 12-08D

**Contact:** William Card (207) 622-8555

**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/news>

**Follow us on** [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

## **SBA Announces Annual Award Winners**

### **Dennis Lajoie Receives Financial Services Champion of the Year Award**

Augusta, Maine – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the winner of its annual Financial Services Champion of the Year Award for 2013. Dennis Lajoie of Community Concepts Finance Corporation has been selected to receive this prestigious award for the State of Maine.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and recognizing those who work directly with our entrepreneurs to help them succeed is truly an honor,” said Marilyn Geroux, SBA District Director for Maine. “It is a particular privilege to present this award to Dennis Lajoie because of his well-known, ongoing and longstanding commitment to providing economic opportunity for others,” added Geroux.

As CEO of Community Concepts Finance Corporation, Mr. Lajoie has ensured that small businesses in Western Maine have access to the capital they need to grow. Using a number of different programs, as well as partnering with the Small Business Development Centers and SCORE chapters, Community Concepts is highly regarded as a partner in building small businesses in Maine. Community Concepts has also benefitted from SBA loan programs, and is an SBA Microlender.

Mr. Lajoie and Community Concepts Finance Corporation will be honored at an SBA celebration luncheon on June 4, 2013 at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and assists our nation’s small businesses in creating jobs, preserving free competitive enterprise, and strengthening the overall economy of our nation.

###