

# Georgia Financial Services Champion

Melinda Coker, Senior Vice President  
Small Business Access Partners

Melinda Coker is Senior Vice President of Small Business Access Partners (SBAP), a non-profit Certified Development Company (CDC) authorized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to lend capital to small businesses. In her capacity, Coker focuses on marketing the SBA 504 loan program to potential borrowers, lenders, and other referral sources. She has demonstrated success in analyzing proposed projects and providing a financing structure that is acceptable to both the participating lender and the borrower. She has used her skills in analyzing financial statements and cash flow projections and her mastery of the loan closing process to assist hundreds of entrepreneurs successfully navigate the commercial lending process.



Coker began her career in SBA lending when she joined the CDC as a lender in 1998. Her vast experience and expertise has enabled her to take on a leadership role within the CDC. As Senior Vice President, she helps influence current and long-range objectives, provides underwriting and closing oversight, and represents the company with its lenders, borrowers, and the public.

Through her efforts and those of the entire SBAP team, over 500 entrepreneurs have been helped with starting and growing their companies, creating jobs and making a positive impact on their surrounding communities. SBAP has closed and funded over \$225 million in SBA 504 loan proceeds and have helped their client small businesses create over 6,600 jobs.

Coker has served on the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle (GLQC) Board of Directors and held the position of Secretary for two years.