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Advantage Capital News

Advantage Capital Partners raises \$55 million to invest in low-income communities in Illinois

Advantage Capital Partners recently announced that it has closed its first fund dedicated to investing in Illinois, initially raising a total of \$55 million for new investments which will be made in connection with the Illinois New Markets Development program. The fundraising efforts were conducted in partnership with First Bank, Southwest Bank (an M&I Bank subsidiary) and U.S. Bancorp's Community Development Corporation. To continue reading go [here](#).

In late 2008, the state of Illinois passed a \$125 million New Markets Development program, making it one of five state programs (Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri) modeled after the successful federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, which attracts investment in low-income communities.

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Advantage Capital provides \$3.15 million Texas CAPCO funding to Current Solutions, LLC; funding enables acquisition of electrotherapy device provider and relocation to Austin

Advantage Capital has provided \$3.15 million in financing to Current Solutions, LLC, a wholesale distributor of electrotherapy devices and accessories to medical supply organizations throughout the United States and Canada. The funding, made in connection with the Texas Certified Capital Company (CAPCO) program, enabled Current Solutions to acquire [Koalaty Products, Inc.](#) and will support the company's move from Tampa, Fla. to Austin, Texas. To continue reading, go [here](#).

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Washington, D.C. based SmartSubs receives financing for expansion; Advantage Capital Partners invests in emerging ecommerce firm

Advantage Capital has announced its recent equity financing investment in ContentNow, a D.C.-based online retailer, doing business as [SmartSubs](#). The management team of ContentNow has developed a unique business model providing deeply discounted merchandise bundled with a trial subscription appropriate to the merchandise purchased.

Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than **14,168 jobs nationwide** and our investments have resulted in more than **\$6 billion in follow-on capital**.

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Portfolio Company News

Lawmakers, economic development officials tour Louisiana rubber recycling plant

Earlier this month, representatives of Advantage Capital Partners and two dozen business leaders, elected officials and local economic development officials were led on a guided tour of Louisiana Elastomer for a firsthand look at the company's environmentally friendly rubber recycling technology. U.S. Congressman Rodney Alexander, along with District 21 Rep. Andy Anders and District 32 Sen. Neil Riser were shown the special process used at Louisiana Elastomer that turns old tires into new material. Company representatives demonstrated a process that is not only "green," but results in a product that is superior to traditional rubber products. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital and its small business lending arm [BizCapital](#) provided a \$6.5 million construction loan for the new facility. The financing was made in connection with the Louisiana New Markets Development program.

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Advantage Capital portfolio company Hawaii Biotech receives Tick-Borne Encephalitis vaccine grant

[Hawaii Biotech, Inc.](#) was awarded a three-year \$2.9 million SBIR phase II grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to continue development of a vaccine to protect healthy individuals from Tick-Borne Encephalitis. This brings Hawaii Biotech's current product array to three, including vaccine candidates for Dengue virus, West Nile virus and Tick-Borne Encephalitis. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital first invested in Hawaii Biotech in 2003 with funds raised in connection with Hawaii's High Technology Business Investment Tax Credit program, designed to encourage investment in Hawaii's high-tech companies.

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St. Louis-based Voxitas and Lawrence Group ranked among fastest-growing private companies in the nation by *INC.* magazine

Advantage Capital portfolio companies [Voxitas](#) and the [Lawrence Group](#) were recently ranked among the fastest-growing private companies in the nation by *Inc.* magazine. Earlier this month, *Inc.* announced its third annual *Inc.* 5000, an exclusive ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies. To view the full list, go [here](#).

Voxitas is a Quality of Service (QoS) Business-Class Internet Telephony Service Provider. The company offers feature-rich, next generation VoIP telephony services, utilizing SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) trunks. In addition, Voxitas provides long distance, Internet, toll-free and emergency 911 services to single and multi-site IPBX systems, in-bound and out-bound call centers, small to medium-sized enterprises, and wholesale carriers. Advantage Capital first invested in Voxitas, formerly known as Netlogic, in 2007 in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program.

The Lawrence Group is one of the largest building design, planning and project delivery firms in St. Louis. The company offers architecture, interior design, a retail furniture showroom, graphic design, town planning, construction management, and real estate development services to health care, commercial and housing clients. Advantage Capital's 2008 investment in the Lawrence Group was made in connection with the Missouri New

Markets Development program.

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GridPoint unveils first smart grid enabled smart charging stations for electric vehicles

[GridPoint Inc.](#), an established leader in smart grid software, and [Coulomb Technologies](#) recently unveiled the first ever smart grid enabled smart charging stations for electric vehicles. The integrated solution using Coulomb's ChargePoint™ Networked Charging Stations for plug-in electric vehicles and GridPoint's smart charging software application extends the ability for municipalities and utilities to manage vehicle-charging load. To continue reading go [here](#).

Since the company's inception in November 2003, GridPoint has raised more than \$200 million in equity capital. Advantage Capital was an early investor in GridPoint, having invested in the company in 2005.

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Advantage People



Tony Toups serves as guest speaker at Annual Convention of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama

Tony Toups, senior vice president at Advantage Capital Partners, recently participated as a guest speaker at the Annual Convention of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama (CCAA). The convention, held on August 13 at The Beach Club in Gulf Shores, Alabama was well-attended with approximately 50 participating local chambers from across the state. Toups spoke as an expert on various economic development programs including the Alabama Certified Capital Company Program and the federal and state New Markets Tax Credit programs.

CCAA is a professional development and governmental relations organization representing over 120 Chambers of Commerce statewide and their nearly 60,000 business members. To learn more about CCAA, go [here](#).

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About Us

About Advantage Capital Partners

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a venture capital and small business finance firm focused on investing in promising companies located in areas underserved by traditional venture capital. With offices and partners in New Orleans, St. Louis, Austin, Washington, D.C., and other U.S. cities, Advantage Capital has raised more than \$1 billion in institutional venture capital since 1992.

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About the federal New Markets Tax Credit program

The [New Markets Tax Credit program](#), administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, encourages private-sector investment in economically distressed communities through tax incentives. In a highly competitive allocation procedure, the Treasury Department awards the tax credits based on applications submitted for each tax year. Advantage has participated in the New Markets program since 2003, raising private capital

for investment in low-income communities. These investments have spurred economic growth through innovative business ventures and job creation throughout the United States.

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About the state New Markets Development programs

In addition to the federal New Markets Tax Credit program, Advantage Capital also participates in a number of state-level New Markets programs, which attract investment in low-income communities through a state tax credit modeled after the federal program. The tax credits are only available to highly qualified investors who have been accredited under the federal program. The goal of these initiatives is to attract large, long-term investors to a state's low-income communities, promoting new expansion, creating new job opportunities and building on existing growth in the state. To date, the following states have passed a state-level New Markets Development program: Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois and Florida.

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About the Certified Capital Company program

Advantage Capital Partners is a leading participant in the [Certified Capital Company \(CAPCO\) program](#), a state economic development tool designed to strengthen state economies by stimulating the flow of investment capital to local small businesses, creating high-paying jobs and increasing state tax revenues. Under a CAPCO program, insurance companies are encouraged to invest in certified capital companies; the state allows the insurance companies to claim tax credits for qualified investments in CAPCO funds. Taken over time, the tax credits generate large pools of private venture capital to be invested in the state. CAPCOs leverage the funds received from insurance companies to invest in qualified small businesses.

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