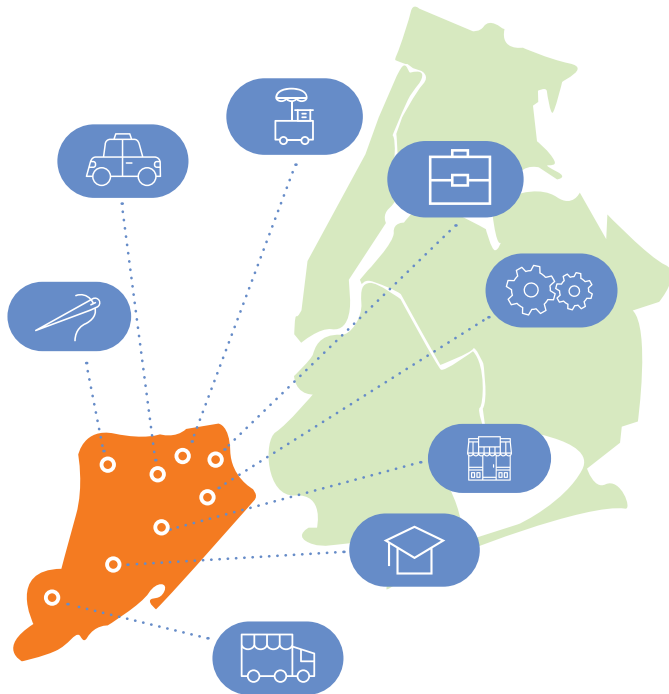


In fiscal year 2022, Accompany Capital provided **\$227,000** in loans to 7 small businesses in Staten Island



#### About Staten Island

Staten Island has a population of under 500,000, making it the least populous borough. While not as diverse as the other boroughs and largely residential, it has a growing number of Asian-owned businesses and communities of Liberian, Mexican, and Sri Lankan immigrants.

#### Total Borough Statistics

for 491 small businesses since 1997

**\$2.7 Million in Loans**

**100% of Loans to Refugees & Immigrants**

332 immigrants and 159 refugees

**73.1% of Loans to Women Owned Businesses**

359 businesses received \$1.8 million in loans

**161 Jobs Supported**

42 jobs created, 119 jobs retained since FY18

#### Impact

In fiscal year 2022, Accompany Capital served 15 operating businesses

**1**

Businesses started

**2**

Businesses expanded

**12**

Businesses strengthened

**5**

Full time jobs created

**2**

Part time job created

**23**

Jobs retained

## Xochitl Ortiz and Hector Valencia

### Frutas y Abarrotes



Frutas Y Abarrotes is a popular fresh produce and grocery store specializing in imported Mexican brands and specialties on Victory Blvd, a busy street in the St. George neighborhood on Staten Island.

Co-owners Hector Valencia and Xochitl Ortiz, who came to the United States by crossing the border thirty years ago, got their start by working as street vendors. By 2007, however, they had saved enough of their own money to open their business.

Frutas Y Abarrotes is a family affair: they have four children, ranging from 12 to 23 years old, several of whom help out with the store and deliveries. Their colorful and pristine store is very popular with other families in the community, many of whom stop by with their children after school to shop and chat.

A \$10,000 loan from Accompany Capital has allowed them to purchase two new freezers and to replace their outdoor signage to attract even more customers to their already thriving business.



## Yelena Gordiyevskaya Smiles R Us



Yelena Gordiyevskaya is the co-founder of Smiles Around Us Academy, a group of three private schools in Staten Island. After coming to the US as a refugee from the Former Soviet Union, she opened her first daycare in Brooklyn. Then, in 1998, she moved to Staten Island and, with business partner Svetlana Kazakevich, opened Smiles Around Us in South Beach, a diverse neighborhood that includes immigrants from around the world.

With the help of small business loans from Accompany Capital, her daycare and pre-K programs were so successful that she added an elementary school in 2005. Further financing in 2013 allowed her to open

a middle school, Southfield Institute, in 2013 to continue to serve her thriving students with a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

In addition to small business loans for expansion and new equipment, Accompany Capital provided emergency support during the pandemic, enabling her three schools to switch seamlessly to Zoom classes and maintain almost full enrollment.

In 2022 she purchased the school's building, expanded to a 2nd location, and now has 35 staff members. Future plans include adding a 3rd building to meet growing demand from her happy community.