



# SMALL BUSINESS BORROWERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

The Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights identifies **six fundamental rights** that all small business owners seeking financing deserve along with the specific practices that lenders and brokers must abide by to uphold and protect these rights.

The Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights is a product of the Responsible Business Lending Coalition (RBLC), a network of for-profit and non-profit lenders, brokers and small business advocates that includes Accion, Aspen Institute, Community Investment Management, Fundera, Funding Circle, Lending Club, MultiFunding, Opportunity Fund, and Small Business Majority. Coalition members share both a commitment to innovation in small business lending aimed at making credit more accessible, and serious concerns with the rise of predatory and irresponsible lending practices in the small business lending market. To promote responsible practices and combat abusive practices in small business lending, the coalition created the Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights, a cross-sector consensus on the rights that small business owners deserve and what lenders and brokers can do to uphold those rights. The following is a condensed version of the Rights.

## The Small Business Borrower's Bill of Rights

- 1. The Right to Transparent Pricing and Terms:** A borrower has the right to have the cost and terms of any financing being offered presented to them in writing and in a form that is clear, complete, and easy to compare with other financing options, so they can make the best decision for their business.
- 2. The Right to Non-Abusive Products:** A borrower has the right to expect that the financing products offered by a lender will not trap his/her business in an expensive cycle of re-borrowing.
- 3. The Right to Responsible Underwriting:** A borrower has the right to expect a lender is offering financing based on underwriting practices that assess the ability of the borrower's business to succeed and repay.
- 4. The Right to Fair Treatment from Brokers:** A borrower has the right to honest, transparent, and impartial communications with a broker regarding loan options, conflicts of interest, fees, and the financing options available.
- 5. The Right to Inclusive Credit Access:** A borrower has the right to fair and equal treatment when seeking a loan including protections guaranteed under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.
- 6. The Right to Fair Collections Practices:** A borrower has the right to be treated fairly and respectfully throughout a collections process and the right to protections like those guaranteed under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

## Signatories and Endorsers of the Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights

More than eighty organizations signed on to the original Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights as either signatories or endorsers. The RBLC released a revised and strengthened version of the bill of rights in early 2017. Both new and existing signatories and endorsers are encouraged to affirm or reaffirm their commitment to protecting the rights of small business owners and promoting the responsible business lending practices identified in the [Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights](#). To be a signatory, an organization must be a lender, credit marketplace or a broker, and the Chief Executive of the organization must sign a form attesting that they comply with all requirements of the Rights. Any organization that is not involved in financing small businesses but supports the Rights, can sign on as an endorser.

Information on the Rights and how to become a signatory or endorser can be found on the RBLC website [www.responsiblebusinesslending.org](http://www.responsiblebusinesslending.org) or you can contact us directly at [info@responsiblebusinesslending.org](mailto:info@responsiblebusinesslending.org).