Through her peer group, Marlene shares her experiences, learning from and supporting her fellow Grameen America borrowers as they grow their businesses.

INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

In partnership with the California Community Foundation, Grameen America plans to open 13 branches in Los Angeles County to create opportunity and empower a new generation of women business-owners. This expansion will build capacity to invest $650 million in more than 90,000 women-owned businesses.

Our vision for the future is a Los Angeles where great ideas become great businesses. Where entrepreneurs like Bertha, Adelina and Marlene transform their lives and their communities. Where hard work, innovation and determination allow women to raise their families out of poverty and make their own American dream come true.

But to make this vision a reality, we need partners who believe in entrepreneurship, who understand that supporting L.A. businesses grows the economy for everyone. By investing in Grameen America’s Los Angeles program, our partners become venture capitalists, gaining equity in the economic future of L.A. County.

To find out more about Grameen America and how you can invest in Los Angeles entrepreneurs, visit calfund.org/Grameen or call 213-413-4130.
All over the world, Los Angeles is a starting point on the path to making dreams come true. Each of its 300,000 women-owned businesses is the product of a hard-working entrepreneur, driven by innovative ideas, dedication and the desire to take control of her own destiny. These women’s talent and tenacity have helped make L.A. one of the most entrepreneurial cities in the country, with a gross domestic product larger than that of 47 U.S. states.

But while there is great opportunity, there is also great need. Los Angeles is one of the world’s largest economies, yet 40% of female-headed households are living in poverty. While L.A. immigrants are twice as likely to be entrepreneurs, they have little access to credit and financial education.

That’s where Grameen America comes in: by providing low-income women with loan capital, training and support, Grameen America has helped thousands of Angelenos build businesses, create jobs and lift their families out of poverty. Today, investors across Los Angeles and beyond are joining forces with Grameen America to transform the economic future of our communities.

MICROLOANS, BIG IMPACT

Grameen America understands that success can often rest on a small amount of capital. With initial loans of up to $1,500, borrowers are able to invest in their businesses, build savings and receive financial education and peer support. As they repay, they build credit history and become eligible for larger loans. Grameen America’s Los Angeles program, launched in partnership with the California Community Foundation, has invested more than $4 million in over 2,000 women-owned businesses. The program is helping these entrepreneurs advance on the road to financial independence, with an astounding repayment rate of 99 percent.

In 2006, Grameen America Founder and Chair Professor Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for starting the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Today, it has helped more than 8 million low-income women build businesses. Grameen America has proven that this group-lending model has an important role to play in alleviating poverty in the U.S.

HOW IT WORKS:

Affordable Loans
Grameen provides low-cost loans starting at $1,500 to support income-generating activities.

Savings Accounts
Members open free savings accounts with a local bank and make weekly deposits.

Credit Establishment
Grameen America reports each repayment to a credit agency to help our members build their credit scores.

Financial Literacy
We provide hands-on financial literacy training to all members before they receive a loan.

Peer Network
The group lending model, which includes weekly meetings with staff, fosters peer support and learning.

Sustainability
The unique business model allows branches to become self-sustaining community institutions within five years of launch.

Adelina started a part-time business preparing raw nopal cactus leaves and selling them to neighbors and local restaurants. With a $1,500 loan from Grameen America, she took her business full-time, increasing her income while being able to spend more time with her son.

The handmade pan dulce from Bertha’s bakery was a hit with her Boyle Heights neighbors. With a loan of $1,500 from Grameen America, Bertha increased production and now sells her sweet creations to customers throughout California.