



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **Branches Partners with Amerant to Launch the Bank's Micro-Grant Pilot Program for Small Businesses**

*Amerant Micro-Grant Program looks to help most vulnerable 'mom and pop' shops and sole proprietors who have no access to PPP or other type of loan assistance*

September 18, 2020 - Miami, FL – In response to the economic crisis that has resulted from the coronavirus pandemic, Amerant has awarded Branches a grant in support of its Micro-Business program. Branches is a local nonprofit organization serving Miami-Dade County and provides life-changing opportunities to help working families and their children break the cycle of generational poverty.

Branches seeks to increase opportunities for economic mobility and wealth creation for the families served, and small business development is an important way to create wealth and financial sustainability. Branches' Micro-Business program helps increase those opportunities, supporting participants to become economically self-sufficient through entrepreneurial services. The Branches Micro-Business program provides business assessment and entrepreneurial readiness workshops, comprehensive business management training, personal one-on-one financial coaching, one-on-one business technical assistance and coaching, peer support networking groups, and ongoing business mentoring services.

Thanks to Amerant, Branches will be able to not only continue serving its many Micro-Businesses by providing one-on-one Technical Assistance and specialized training, but Branches will also be able to provide COVID-19 pandemic recovery grants for several small businesses in need of financial assistance.

"Small businesses in Miami provide 53% of jobs in this community, and now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, too many of these businesses are struggling to retain employees and keep their doors open." says Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of Branches. "Branches serves to create opportunities for these businesses by providing technical assistance and critical micro grants. Combined, these resources enable small businesses to become more financially stable and endure through these tough times. With the generous support from Amerant, together we are making a positive impact for hundreds of micro businesses."

Amerant Bank's Vice-Chairman and CEO, Millar Wilson said, "The survival of these small businesses is vital to our community, and we recognize that even the smallest financial barrier can be overwhelming. By working with Branches, we will be able to bring these important resources to organizations who may have no other recourse."

For more information on Branches, please visit [www.branchesfl.org](http://www.branchesfl.org) and follow us on all social media [@branchesfl](https://www.instagram.com/branchesfl)

For additional information about Amerant, please visit [www.amerantbank.com](http://www.amerantbank.com) and follow the Company on Instagram at [@AmerantBank](https://www.instagram.com/AmerantBank), and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AmerantBank/>.

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#### **About Branches**

For over 45 years, Branches has made a positive impact in the community by delivering on its mission to serve, educate and inspire people through student, family and financial stability services. Branches provides long-term, holistic services for motivated individuals and families. We help people grow deeper and climb higher in life by building a foundation

through education so they can achieve their goals and fulfill their potential. For more information about Branches, please contact Isabelle Pike at 305-442-8306 x1002 or [ipike@branchesfl.org](mailto:ipike@branchesfl.org) or visit Branches at [www.branchesfl.org](http://www.branchesfl.org)

### **About Amerant**

Amerant Bancorp Inc. is a bank holding company headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida. The Company operates through its subsidiaries, Amerant Bank, N.A. (the “Bank”), Amerant Investments, Inc., Amerant Trust, N.A, and Elant Bank and Trust Ltd. The Company provides individuals and businesses in the U.S., as well as select international clients, with deposit, credit and wealth management services. The Bank, which has operated for over 40 years, is one of the largest community banks headquartered in Florida. The Bank operates 27 banking centers – 19 in South Florida, 8 in the Houston, Texas area, and loan production offices in Dallas, Texas and New York, New York. For more information, please visit [www.amerantbank.com](http://www.amerantbank.com) or <https://investor.amerantbank.com>.

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