



Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southern University Baton Rouge

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**Serving Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee,
West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana**

Cooper Catering & Café, LLC

10443 Joor Rd., Central, LA 70818



Debbie Cooper, owner,
Cooper Catering & Cafe, LLC

Economic Impact

- received a Seedco Financial loan
- received a Community Express loan
- purchased a catering truck
- added two part-time jobs for a total of 5 full-time and 5 part-time jobs

Food and hospitality are a way of life for Debbie Cooper. She has spent more than 30 years cooking and serving food at restaurants and with catering companies. After years of working for others, Debbie decided to open her own business called “Cooper Catering and Cafe, LLC,” located at 10443 Joor Rd., in Central, LA.

Cooper who is very active in her community is well known for her good food and good works. So it’s not surprising that within just two years, Debbie was looking to expand, and she turned to the **Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at Southern University** in Baton Rouge.

“When I asked a couple of State Representatives and Senators their advice on what to do to find the financing to expand, they all told me to go to the Louisiana Small Business Development Center. My LSBDC Consultant, Leighton Bryant went over all the different loan programs with me and helped me apply for a Seedco Financial loan and a SBA Community Express loan. Leighton was so helpful and answered all my questions,” praised Cooper.

The Community Express loan funded through Superior Financial Group gave Debbie more working capital. The Seedco Financial loan allowed Debbie to purchase a catering truck, which gave her the capacity to accept larger catering jobs. Cooper was able to hire an additional two part-time workers. Her business created **five full-time jobs and five part-time jobs**. Consultant Leighton Bryant also advised Debbie to get a longer lease and provided marketing assistance.

LSBDC at SUBR Services Given to Client

- advised on financial options
- assisted with applying for a \$7,500 Community Express loan for working capital
- assisted with applying for a \$56,215 Seedco Financial loan
- marketing assistance



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, and participating universities



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