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BUSINESS COURIER



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First Financial named a top SBA lender

First Financial Bancorp has been named the 2010 Small 7(a) Lender of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Business Courier reported.

SBA 7(a) loans are aimed at startups and small businesses and can be used for a range of general business purposes.

First Financial made 22 7(a) loans worth \$4.95 million in the southern half of Ohio during the first six months of fiscal 2010, through March, according to the SBA. It made 56 such loans worth \$10.3 million in the same region in all of fiscal 2009.

The bank will receive its award during National Small Business Week, May 23-25 in Washington, D.C., according to the report.

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