Avenues to Independence, located in Park Ridge, IL, serves the developmentally disabled in the communities of Park Ridge, Niles, and Des Plaines, IL. Avenues to Independence is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Its programs support 175 adults and 21 seniors, all of whom are disabled and low-income. Avenues employs 88 full-time and six part-time employees.

With reductions and delays in state funding, Avenues and other providers of social services have faced major financial challenges. In 2011, PCG helped refinance the headquarters of Avenues to Independence which houses Avenues’ administrative and maintenance staff, case management personnel, and job placement programs. Avenues also provides job placement, case management, referrals, and direct employment through its Work Center. Its residential and supportive housing programs support 75 individuals.

“I have fun working; I have learned to be on time, and I like working with the other people,” says Nora who gained employment at a store close to home. A member of Avenues’ residential program, she likes to sing and dance and enjoys painting in Avenues’ art classes.

PCG Loan Amount: $488,312
Partner: IFF
Total Loan Amount: $976,625
PCG’s mission is to promote economic justice and social change. PCG envisions a world where low income people have the means to support themselves and their families in dignity. We accomplish our mission by providing access to capital and by building sustainable, healthy non-profit and double bottom line organizations that advance economic opportunities for low income individuals.

PCG delivers its loan products nationwide through a network of local CDFI lending partners interested in expanding their service to non-profits and double bottom line businesses. PCG also lends to international microfinance organizations serving the developing world.