

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

TO: Ways to Work, Inc.
11700 West Lake Park Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224-3099

DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER

(For violations of sections 22100 and 22155 of the California Financial Code)

The Commissioner of Business Oversight (“Commissioner”) finds that:

1. On June 29, 2009, Ways to Work, Inc. (“Ways to Work”) first became licensed pursuant to the California Finance Lenders Law (“CFLL”) (license number 603-G689) to engage in the business of a finance lender in this state from its main office located at 11700 West Lake Park Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53224-3099.

2. In its application for licensure, Ways to Work stated that it is a Delaware nonprofit corporation located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that makes small, low interest consumer loans through a network of nonprofit service organizations. Ways to Work stated in Exhibit L of its application: “Although Ways to Work makes its loans through a network of social service agencies all over the country, its “only office and only employees are located in Milwaukee.” The application further represented that employees of the local nonprofit service partners would “assist in distributing, accepting and reviewing loan applications, which are then submitted to Ways to Work offices in Milwaukee for further review and preparation of loan documents.”

3. On December 18, 2012, the Commissioner revoked the finance lender license of Ways to Work due to its failure to timely pay the annual assessment required by Financial Code section 22107.

4. On or about March 11, 2014, Ways to Work filed a Petition for Reinstatement of License (“Petition”) pursuant to Government Code section 11522.

1 5. Pursuant to an inquiry conducted in connection with the filing of the Petition, the
2 Commissioner determined that subsequent to the license revocation, Ways to Work continued to
3 originate 463 loans in this state in violation of Financial Code section 22100.

4 6. The Commissioner determined that the local nonprofit service partners: (1) hire or
5 designate employees for the Ways to Work loan program; (2) initially disburse loan proceeds prior to
6 being reimbursed by Ways to Work; (3) act as guarantors by agreeing to purchase the loans back
7 from Ways to Work in the event of default; and, (4) may initiate collection actions and repossess
8 vehicles for delinquent or defaulted loans.

9 7. The promissory notes and consumer security agreements identify the “Lender” as
10 “Ways to Work Inc. c/o [the local nonprofit service partner]” and list the California address of the
11 local nonprofit service partner. Additionally, the “Choice of Venue” provisions in the loan
12 documents specify that jurisdiction shall be in the county where the local nonprofit service partner is
13 located.

14 Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the opinion
15 that Ways to Work, Inc. has engaged in the business of a finance lender or broker in violation of
16 Financial Code section 22100. Further, the Commissioner of Business Oversight finds that Ways to
17 Work, Inc. has made consumer loans under a name or at a place of business other than that named in
18 the license in violation of Financial Code section 22155.

19 Pursuant to Financial Code section 22712, Ways to Work, Inc. is hereby ordered to desist and
20 refrain from engaging in the business of a finance lender or broker in the State of California without
21 first obtaining a license from the Commissioner, or otherwise being exempt. Further, Ways to Work,
22 Inc. is hereby ordered to desist and refrain from transacting the business of a finance lender or broker
23 in the State of California under a name or at a place of business other than that named in the license.

24 ///
25 ///
26 ///
27 ///

28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of consumers and is consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the California Finance Lenders Law.

Dated: December 19, 2014
Sacramento, California

JAN LYNN OWEN
Commissioner of Business Oversight

By: _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner