**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Business Startup
- Owner Investment

Alejandro Esquivel grew up in Mexico, and after completing his education ran his own dental practice for five years in Piedras Negras, Coahuila. In 2008, Esquivel was accepted into a residency program at the University of Puerto Rico. Following his residency, he began working for a dental clinic in Texas.

In 2012, Esquivel moved to Eagle Pass, TX and approached the Rio Grande College SBDC for assistance in opening a new business. Soon after, Smile Factory Pediatric Dentistry was born. Business Advisor Cynthia Gomez, was able to help Esquivel create a business plan, and develop and package a loan presentation. She also provided technical support for issues associated with the employment lifecycle, Quickbooks, and with licensing and permit information. With the support of the SBDC, Esquivel was able to obtain a loan to start his practice and hire three additional employees.

Smile Factory is currently the only pediatric dentist in the Eagle Pass area, and Esquivel looks to keep that strong presence in the community by continuing to learn and improve business practices by attending training provided by the SBDC. The company is experiencing great success, and Esquivel looks forward to continued growth, and the possibility of expanding his business.

I am very thankful for the assistance provided by the SBDC. Their guidance led me in the right direction, and helped me start my business.

- Alejandro Esquivel