A lot using data on startup loan applicants from a U.S. subprime business lender that employed an automated algorithm in its application review, we implement a regression discontinuity design assessing the causal impact of receiving a loan on entrepreneurial success. Obtaining a relatively small loan has a strong effect on the long-term financial position of startups. Startups receiving funding are dramatically more likely to survive, enjoy higher revenues and create more jobs. Loans are more consequential for survival among subprime entrepreneurs with more education and less managerial experience.