

## **CDFIS: INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

**Community Development Financial Institutions**, or CDFIs, are mission-driven financial institutions that deliver affordable credit, development services, capital, and financial services to residents and businesses in minority and economically distressed communities.

CDFIs emerged to provide financial services in urban neighborhoods and rural areas underserved by traditional financial institutions, particularly those with high rates of poverty and unemployment. By leveraging over \$12 in private capital to every \$1 in federal support, CDFIs are filling the yawning credit gap encountered in many communities, creating jobs improving housing and community facilities and creating economic opportunity.

CDFIs understand and can respond effectively to the needs of their target markets, providing the flexible, market-driven products and services that consumers and small business owners need to grow and thrive. CDFIs fill a vital niche in the nation's financial services delivery system by serving communities and market sectors that conventional lenders cannot - with the ultimate goal of bringing CDFI customers into the mainstream economy as bank customers, home owners and/or entrepreneurs.

**The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund)** was established within the U.S. Department of Treasury in 1994<sup>1</sup> to promote community development in economically distressed urban and rural communities by investing in and growing CDFIs across the country. There are 1066 Treasury certified CDFIs.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to overseeing CDFI certification, the CDFI Fund administers a range of innovative programs designed to strengthen the ability of CDFIs to provide financial products and services in underserved communities. The CDFI Fund administers the following core programs and each program awards funds annually through an independent and competitive application process:

→ **Financial Assistance (FA)** – The CDFI Fund makes FA awards to both large and small certified CDFIs, including those financing businesses that provide healthy food options. FA awards can be used for lending capital, loan loss or capital reserves, operations or development services. A CDFI is required to match its FA award dollar-for-dollar with non-federal funds.

→ **Technical Assistance (TA) Awards** - The CDFI Fund makes TA awards of up to \$150,000 to certified CDFIs as well as emerging CDFIs, to support efforts to expand the organization's success and sustainability. There is no match requirement for TA awards and funds can be used to support a variety of capacity building activities including hiring consultants or contract services, training staff or board members.

→ **The Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program** – The NACA Program was launched in 2001 to encourage investing in Native Communities by supporting the creation and expansion of Native CDFIs, which in turn help to create jobs, establish or improve affordable housing, and provide appropriate financial services and counseling to community residents. The number of Native CDFIs has increased from 14 in 2001 to 68 in 2018.

→ **The Bank Enterprise Award (BEA) Program** – The BEA Program provides monetary awards to FDIC insured banks and thrifts that have increased their investment activity in communities with high rates of poverty and unemployment. The size of a BEA award is based on how much the bank or thrift has increased its investing in low income communities or in CDFIs. All BEA funds awarded must be reinvested either into a distressed community or in a CDFI. Since the program was launched in 1994 through Fiscal Year 2018, the

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<sup>1</sup>The CDFI Fund was authorized as part of the *Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act (PL 103-325)*.

<sup>2</sup> To be eligible for CDFI certification an organization must be a non-governmental entities (with the exception of Tribal governmental entities); with a primary mission of promoting community development; that provides both financial and educational services to one or more defined low income target markets; and is accountable to the target market it serves. Number current as of 11/31/2018.

CDFI Fund has awarded \$470 million in BEA grants. In FY 2017 alone, \$22.8 million in BEA awards generated \$470.4 million in additional loans and investments in distressed areas.

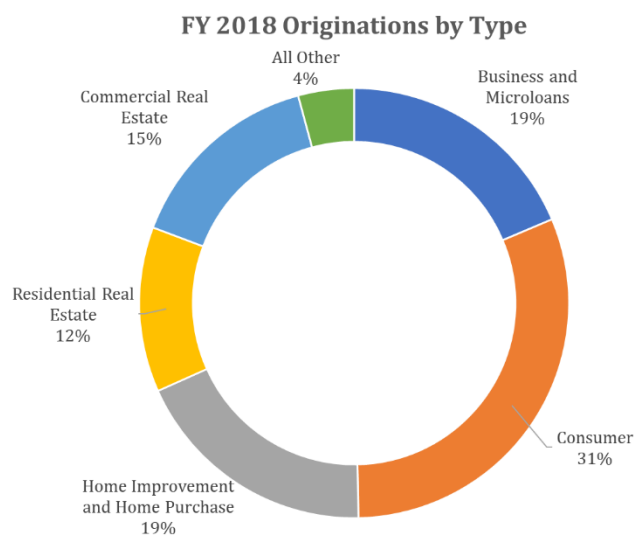
→ The CDFI Fund also administers the **New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program** which was authorized in 2000<sup>3</sup> to stimulate private investment in low income communities. To date, the CDFI Fund has made 1,105 allocation awards totaling \$54 billion in NMTC allocations. Between 2003 and 2015, NMTC investments created over one million jobs at a cost to the federal government of under \$20,000 per job. Through 2017, the NMTC leveraged more than \$93 billion in capital investment in communities with high rates of poverty and unemployment. Additional information on the NMTC can be found on the NMTC Coalition's website ([www.nmtccoalition.org](http://www.nmtccoalition.org)).

→ In addition, the CDFI Fund administers the **CDFI Bond Guarantee Program**<sup>4</sup> which was authorized in 2010 to empower the Treasury Department to guarantee notes or bonds issued at no cost to the federal government to support CDFI lending and investments activity. Since September 2013, the CDFI Fund has awarded \$1.5 billion in bond authority through the CDFI Fund Bond Program.

→ Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) is administered by the CDFI Fund and provides grants on a competitive basis to CDFIs and other non-profit organizations to finance the housing acquisition construction, preservation and rehabilitation affordable housing projects and related economic development efforts for low-income families and economically distressed communities. CMF is authorized under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 and is funded by allocations from Government Sponsored Entities (GSEs) regulated by the Federal Housing Finance Agency. On February 13, 2019 the CDFI Fund announced CMF awards to 38 organizations for \$142.9 million. The CDFI Fund projects that more than 25,000 units of affordable housing will be developed as a result of these awards.

### **CDFIs - BY THE NUMBERS**

- 1,066 CDFIs, including 68 Native CDFIs, have been certified to work in low-wealth communities across the country at the close of calendar year 2018;
- The list of institutions certified as CDFIs includes 544 loan funds, 285 credit unions, 56 depository institution holding companies, 165 banks or thrifts, and 16 venture capital funds, located in rural and urban areas in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam;
- Since 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded over \$3.2 billion on a competitive basis to CDFIs including Native CDFIs, small and emerging CDFIs and financial institutions through the TA, FA, BEA, and NACA Programs; and
- In FY 2018, CDFIs program awardees made over 280,000 loans or investments totaling over \$11 billion, including loans to nearly 15,000 small businesses. The average size of each loan or investment was \$39,821. CDFIs also financed over 33,613 affordable housing units; and provided financial literacy training to 343,471 individuals.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>3</sup> The NMTC was authorized as part of the *Community Renewal and Tax Relief Act of 2000* (PL 106-554)

<sup>4</sup> The CDFI bond Program was authorized as part of *The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010* (PL 111-240)

<sup>5</sup> Audit of the CDFI Fund's 2018 and 2017 financial statements by the Treasury Dept. Office of Inspector General