

Organization Highlights

- Timeframe/years for organization highlights: 10 years
- Jobs created or retained: 3,500
- Businesses assisted: 62
- Individuals provided with financial counseling and literacy training: 1,725
- Community revitalization projects (schools, social services, or health facilities) assisted: 16
- Housing units developed and percentage developed for low-mod households: 2,242
- Total square footage of commercial or retail space developed: 73,250
- Total dollar amount loaned: \$51,000,000
- Total dollar amount invested: \$103,000
- Total amount of financing leveraged from non-CDFI sources: \$42,000,000

Contact

Name: Charles Hammerman, President & CEO
Email: chammerman@thedof.org
Phone: 516-399-3020
Website: www.thedof.org

The mission of the Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF) is to provide technical and financial services to individuals and organizations serving the disability market throughout the United States, with a focus on affordable housing, education, vocational training and employment.

The Vision of DOF is to create a society where financing is readily available to address the gap in housing and related services for people with disabilities and their families. The DOF bridges the disability market and community development financial institutions (CDFIs), that have the necessary infrastructure and resources to address the continuing needs of this growing market.

DOF has funded projects in 22 states, from California to Massachusetts and Florida to Wisconsin. From less than \$400,000 in assets in 2008, DOF now has \$38 million in total assets and \$8.8 million in net assets of which half are the result of Awards from the CDFI Fund.

DOF's technical assistance function is critical to its borrowers and ultimate beneficiaries. DOF's work in public policy includes increasing housing solutions for people with disabilities and developing new asset development programs like the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts.

Rising Tide Grows Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

DOF is working with borrowers, including for-profit companies, on job-creation initiatives. DOF's first such project came in 2016 and 2017 with our two loans (\$800,000 in 2016 and \$2,000,000 in 2017) to Rising Tide Car Wash, a

Parkland, Florida, for-profit business. More than 80 percent of its employees are people with disabilities. Our financing helped Rising Tide get off the ground, and we are now providing funding for a second and third location. To date over 80 young adults with disabilities have been employed at Rising Tide.

Rising Tide delivers a first-rate car wash experience to its Margate, Florida, customers and demonstrates that private-sector employers can hire and train people with disabilities in ways that make good business sense.

By leveraging awards from their CDFI Fund, DOF attracted additional capital which invested in DOF as an intermediary so the organization could in turn lend this money to Rising Tide Car Wash to build a second location. DOF's partnership provided additional opportunities for individuals with autism to have stable, fulfilling careers.



To date, Rising Tide boasts a 100 percent customer satisfaction rating and was named "Employer of the Year" by the Autism Society of America and by the South Florida Business Connection.

Project Highlights

- Unemployment among people with disabilities exceeds 70%
- Total Projects Cost: \$4,000,000