By the Numbers
(1980 to 2012)

→ Number of Businesses Financed: 543
→ Number of Community Revitalization Projects Assisted: 367
→ Total Dollar Amount Loaned: $475.7M
→ Total Dollar Amount Leveraged From 2008 to 2012: $628M
→ Certified as a CDFI in 1995

Nonprofit Finance Fund
New York, New York

Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) envisions a world where capital and expertise come together to create a more just and vibrant society. To make this vision a reality, NFF provides mission-driven organizations with tailored investments, strategic advice, and accessible insights. Since 1980, NFF services have helped organizations adapt to changing circumstances and grow and innovate, when ready. NFF has received the highest impact rating, AAA, from the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Assessment and Rating System (CARS).

NFF’s investments include loans, lines of credit, and New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing. Its investments help nonprofits expand programs, manage cash flow, bridge receivables, purchase or renovate facilities, and more. Between 2007 and 2012, NFF provided strategic advice, including financial planning and workshops, to more than 4,600 nonprofit organizations. NFF also produces free or low-cost literature and webinars and participates in national conversations to shape the field of philanthropy.

Since 1996, NFF has been awarded over $13 million for its lending and financing-related work and $231 million in NMTC allocations by the CDFI Fund. As of 2012, this support helped NFF provide $280 million in loans and $195 million in NMTC-related financing. Over 80 percent of NFF’s investments went to organizations serving low-income communities. With the CDFI Fund’s support, NFF has pushed its mission even further, collaborating in innovative programs that allow NFF to share risk and operating costs. The CDFI Fund has been instrumental in helping NFF offer credit enhancements and blended capital to invest in organizations that would otherwise not qualify for traditional loans.

Fare & Square

Alternative financing is critical to attracting healthy food options to urban food deserts. While traditional grocery stores already face a challenging business model, those in urban areas are under the additional burden of high real estate and operational costs.

Partly funded by an award from the CDFI Fund’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), NFF provided a $1.1 million loan to help finance the construction of Fare & Square, the first nonprofit grocery store in the nation. Fare & Square first opened in 2013 and is operated by Philabundance, a Philadelphia-area hunger relief organization. By combining traditional philanthropic support, CDFI loans, and two New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocations—including $4 million from NFF—Fare & Square was able to finance this innovative project, which is projected to create up to 30 jobs during construction and 31 permanent jobs.

Fare & Square is located in Chester, Pennsylvania, a severely distressed, low-income community that has not had a supermarket for 12 years. In 2010, Chester was the second hungriest Congressional district in the nation, according to the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). To help meet the needs of its lower-income customers, Fare & Square offers food staples at low prices. Other foods are offered to customers for free. The grocery store accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and provides additional discounts to members who meet certain income requirements.