



## Talking Points and Background for Hill Visits

### Status of CDFI Fund Appropriations

- **FY 25:** OMB has yet to allot the remaining \$289 million appropriation for the CDFI Fund. On March 10, the CDFI reopened Supplemental applications for FA/TA and NACA (Due April 10) and also requested comments on the BEA application. While this is a positive sign, it is not definitive.
- **FY 26:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act provides \$324 million for the CDFI Fund, the same as FY 25 and nearly 3 times the budget request. This is a strong indication of bipartisan support for the Fund and its programs.
- **FY 27:** Reps. Tran (D-CA) and Bacon (R-NE) sent a bipartisan letter on March 13 to the House Appropriations Committee, signed by 118 Members, requesting \$324 million for the Fund and language requiring Treasury to publish applications and make awards for FY 26 and FY 27.

**Talking Point:** Why is the CDFI Fund important to the [state/district]? Pick a CDFI Fund program or initiative and provide specific, concrete examples of how you would use those resources. Be sure to provide a state fact sheet.

### Small Business Talking Points

**Talking Point: CDFI Fund Programs support small businesses**

- Each year, CDFI Fund award recipients provide financing for over 100,000 businesses.
- With interest rates elevated, CDFIs bring down the cost of capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

### Housing Talking Points

**Talking Point: CDFIs Bring Down the Cost of Housing**

- CDFIs use CDFI Fund awards to boost the supply of housing, increasing affordability by financing tens of thousands of affordable homes every year.
- CDFI Fund award recipients help tens of thousands of Americans achieve the goal of homeownership. In FY 2024, CDFI Fund Financial Assistance award recipients made 46,117 loans totaling \$5.3 billion to support homeownership or improvements.
- The Trump administration has emphasized increasing the production of affordable housing. There is over \$1 billion<sup>1</sup> available to the Administration to use for affordable housing. Based on the past performance of award recipients, these funds will generate over 100,000 affordable homes.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes FY 25 and FY 26 appropriations as well as ECIP returns and Capital Magnet Fund resources available to Treasury.



- On March 13, the president issued an Executive Order (EO) – Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction, which promotes new residential construction in Opportunity Zones. Another way to promote residential construction is through the CDFI Fund and its programs.

## General Talking Points

- **Talking Point (Unlocking funds):** Unlocking the funds pending at the CDFI Fund will increase the supply of affordable housing, support small businesses, support homeownership, and improve community facilities in rural and urban communities across the country
- **Talking Point (Leverage):** CDFIs turn every public dollar into roughly eight dollars of private investment. That 8-to-1 leverage ratio shows how small federal investments catalyze much larger amounts of private capital into underserved communities.
- **Talking Point (Financial services for all):** CDFIs provide responsible, relationship-based financial services in communities that mainstream banks often overlook - offering safe accounts, affordable loans, and pathways into the financial mainstream.
- **Talking Point (Rural healthcare):** CDFIs finance clinics, hospitals, and health facilities in underserved rural communities, expanding access to essential care where traditional financing is often unavailable.
- **Talking Point (Certification):** CDFI Certification provides a trusted federal standard that allows banks to confidently partner with and invest in CDFIs serving underserved communities.
- **Talking Point (Native CDFIs):** Native CDFIs ensure that federal and private capital reaches Tribal communities through trusted, locally governed financial institutions.
- **Talking Point (Bipartisan Support):** The CDFI Fund and its programs have strong Bipartisan support. In October 105 Republicans signed a letter of support.

## Specific Asks:

**Note:** The CDFI Fund has support from both parties, including strong support from the Department of Treasury. However, because Republicans have a better line of communication to the White House, we are urging a slightly different ask for their offices.

**Request to All Members:** Ask your Representative or Senator to support \$324 million for the CDFI Fund in FY 2027 and to urge the Appropriations Committee to support language ensuring OMB and Treasury allocate pending and future funds.

**Request to Republican Members:** Ask your Representative or Senator to contact the White House Congressional liaison to express their concern over the status of CDFI Fund awards to support job creation and affordable housing and request a briefing