

CDFI FINANCING FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Financing Opportunity, Supporting Self-Sufficiency

Access to capital and supportive services can determine whether individuals with disabilities are able to work, live independently, and participate fully in their communities. The following stories illustrate how CDFIs provide tailored financing and hands-on support that address barriers often overlooked by traditional financial institutions.

From a Florida business expanding employment opportunities for individuals on the autism spectrum, to the development of more than 300 community-based housing units in Illinois designed for accessibility and long-term stability, to a low-interest loan in rural Pennsylvania that enabled a farmer to continue operating independently after a serious injury, these stories demonstrate the practical impact of flexible, mission-driven capital. Together, they show how CDFIs finance not only projects, but greater independence, dignity, and opportunity.

RISING TIDE CAR WASH

DOF LOANS HELP RISING TIDE CAR WASH EXPAND

Parkland, FL

CDFI: THE DISABILITY OPPORTUNITY FUND

Rising Tide Car Wash is a flex-style car wash in Parkland, Florida that employs individuals on the autism spectrum. The business provides meaningful job opportunities in a supportive and structured environment designed to help employees succeed.

After extensive research into business models that could sustainably employ people with autism, John D'Eri and his son, Thomas, purchased the car wash. The D'Eri family is deeply committed to the mission, as their own family includes an adult on the autism spectrum who works at the business. Their long-term goal is to use this initial location as a scalable model, expanding to additional car washes and creating more employment opportunities for individuals with autism.

