

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund)
United States Department of the Treasury

Minutes

Date: Monday, December 29, 2025
Location: Virtual (video conference)
Presiding: Tanya McInnis, Acting Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Board Members Present:

- Seema Agnani, Executive Director, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
- Janie Simms Hipp, Founding CEO, Native Agriculture Financial Service
- Mark Kaufman, CEO, Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund
- Harold B. Pettigrew Jr., Chair, President & CEO, Opportunity Finance Network
- Susan Chapman Plumb, Board Chair & CEO, Local Bank
- Michael Swack, Director, Center for Impact Finance, Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire
- Darrin Williams, CEO, Southern Bancorp Inc
- Manuel Chinaea, COO, Popular Bank

Board Members Absent:

- Marla Bilonick, President & CEO, National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders

Department of Treasury Staff Present

- Alexandria Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community and Economic Development and Acting Director of the CDFI Fund
- Tanya McInnis, Deputy Director of Consumer Policy and Acting Designated Federal Officer

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
 - Tanya McInnis called the meeting to order after confirming a quorum.
2. **CDFI Fund Director's Report**
 - **Overall State of the CDFI Fund:** Acting Director Smith acknowledged significant transition and operational turbulence during the year, including impacts from administrative changes and shutdown-related delays. Treasury

reaffirmed its strong commitment to the CDFI industry and its role in advancing economic opportunity, affordable housing, small business growth, and rural development. CDFI Fund staff were commended for adaptability, responsiveness, and sustained performance under constrained conditions.

- **New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program:** The week of December 22nd, a \$10 billion NMTC Program allocation was completed. 216 applications requesting approximately \$19.2 billion were submitted; 146 organizations received awards, and 68 awardees committed an estimated \$2.4 billion to rural investments, representing more than 20% of the total allocation. The NMTC program was made permanent, providing long-term certainty for investors and communities.
- **CDFI Bond Guarantee Program:** The FY 2025 application round closed on February 24 with \$300 million requested by applicants. \$100 million bond issuance was approved on September 30. Since the program's inception (2010) \$3.1 billion has been guaranteed, with \$2.1 billion disbursed thus far.
- **Capital Magnet Fund (CMF):** CDFI Fund completed the FY 2024 round in early 2025. Demand remained high, with 136 applicants requesting over \$1 billion. 48 organizations were awarded \$246.4 million. The CMF team also completed a public comments review of the program application under the Paperwork Reduction Act and developed and published updated policy and compliance guidance.
- **CDFI Program & Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program:** FY 2024 Financial Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA) awards were announced in September and November 2024, respectively. 246 organizations received \$72.6 million in CDFI TA awards. FY 2025 applications opened on January 17, and 56 organizations across the country will receive \$8 million in TA awards using funds appropriated by Congress in FY 2024. The awards reflect Treasury's commitment to funding effectiveness, economic opportunity, and diversity. Any remaining FA and TA awards are anticipated to be awarded this winter.
- **Depository Institution Initiatives:** Administrative streamlining of the Bank Enterprise Award (BEA) and Small Dollar Loan (SCL) programs is underway. Revisions are intended to shorten award cycles, reduce applicant burden, and improve transparency.
- **Administrative Updates - Certification, Compliance, and IT:** The Certification Team has reviewed certification applications received during the early application submission window and applications submitted by new organizations through February. Going into 2026, the focus will be on processing applications and sending CDFI certification agreements as soon as possible. The CDFI Fund team is also assisting with work on Opportunity Zones, a tax

program that was made permanent in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The compliance team continued to invest time in examining core compliance monitoring processes for the current programs. On the IT front, the team made progress on modernization efforts, including enhancements to the AMIS system. Administratively, 2025 focused on aligning CDFI Fund programs and operations with applicable executive orders.

- **Future Outlook:** Treasury plans to engage the industry through roundtables in 2026 to refine application processes, policy objectives, and customer service. Focus areas include job creation, rural investment equity, long-term community impact, and improved applicant experience.

3. Advisory Board Discussion and Questions

- **Certification Concerns**
 - Michael Swack raised significant industry concerns regarding the CDFI certification and recertification process, noting widespread anxiety among certified institutions. He proposed re-establishing a collaborative advisory group or subcommittee to review certification procedures and recommend improvements.
 - Alexandria Smith expressed support for collaboration, noting constraints on formal working groups but being open to structured roundtables involving Advisory Board members and certification staff.
 - Harold Pettigrew emphasized that certification underpins all CDFI Fund programs and cautioned against unintended exclusion of legitimate CDFIs due to administrative barriers.
 - The Acting Director acknowledged staffing limitations and shared that Treasury is exploring options to augment certification capacity.
- **Rural, Tribal, and Native CDFI Considerations**
 - Janie Sims Hipp highlighted disproportionate impacts of funding delays on rural, Native, and agricultural communities. She encouraged greater interagency coordination (e.g., USDA and VA) and stronger use of tribal government partnerships. Discussion included the importance of minimizing federal-level delays to prevent downstream community harm.
 - **The Acting Director emphasized the need for creative solutions** regarding Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) funding as it relates to affordable housing opportunities and acknowledged the efforts toward fast-tracking clearance operations with the Treasury.
- **Roundtables and Targeted Policy Discussions**
 - Susan Chapman Plumb echoed support for industry roundtables and volunteered participation. She noted specific concerns related to reservation-

specific requirements within NACA applications as a potential discussion topic.

4. Acknowledgements

Board members and Treasury leadership recognized Bill Luecht for years of service, institutional knowledge, and stewardship of the Advisory Board. Multiple speakers, including Acting Director Smith and Acting DFO McInnis expressed appreciation.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Darrin Williams
- Second: Harold Pettigrew
- The meeting was adjourned without objection.

Adjournment Time: 4:28 p.m. ET

Action Items / Next Steps

- Treasury to explore roundtable engagements with Advisory Board participation, particularly focused on:
 - CDFI certification and recertification processes
 - Application timelines and administrative efficiency
 - Rural, Native, and Tribal CDFI needs
- CDFI Fund to continue internal efforts to streamline reviews, enhance IT systems, and address staffing constraints.