



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Michael Crapo
Chairman
Committee on Banking Housing & Urban Affairs
United States Senate
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
Committee on Financial Services
United States House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking Housing & Urban Affairs
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
United States House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crapo, Chairwoman Waters, Ranking Member Brown and Ranking Member McHenry:

On behalf of the undersigned banking trade associations, we strongly urge you to fund \$1 billion for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund of the U.S. Department of the Treasury as part of the next economic stimulus package.

During the Great Recession, CDFIs played a pivotal role in stabilizing the local economies and preserving and creating jobs in low- and moderate-income communities. Likewise, the 2020 recession is already taking a devastating toll on the most economically fragile households and the communities where they live. In 2009, Congress channeled \$100 million in stimulus funds into CDFIs through American Renewal and Recovery Act (ARRA). CDFIs were able to quickly and successfully mobilize and deploy funds to help businesses, consumers and others to survive the Great Recession.

Collectively our organizations represent thousands of FDIC-insured depository institutions across the United States. Since 1996, hundreds of banks have participated in the programs of the CDFI Fund and/or have partnered with CDFIs to serve low-and moderate-income communities. The programs of the CDFI Fund have a documented record of creating impact. They are invaluable in helping banks find ways to serve credit markets and communities that otherwise might not be served.

The \$1 billion request is modest relative to the size and scope of the CDFI industry. Currently, there are 1,131 CDFIs that collectively total \$211 billion in total assets with total outstanding portfolios of \$158.7 billion. The \$1 billion request represents a modest 0.47% of total CDFI industry assets. This capital, however, is critically important at this time. The monies will leverage up to 12-times (\$12 billion) the \$1 billion in private capital that will be channeled to local businesses, nonprofits, and others to help recover the devastating effects of the recession and begin rebuilding.

The CDFI Fund and CDFIs are one of the Federal Government's best market-based strategies for leveraging and channeling needed resources to our most distressed communities.

In the interests of promoting economic stabilization, job preservation and creation, and addressing community needs in the hardest hit urban, rural and Native American communities, we strongly urge you to allocate \$1 billion in stimulus funding to the CDFI Fund.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
www.aba.com

Bank Policy Institute
6000 13th Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
www.bpi.com

Community Development Bankers Association
1444 I Street, NW, Suite 201
Washington, DC 20005
www.cdbanks.org

Independent Community Bankers of America
1615 L Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036
www.icba.org

National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 710
Washington, DC 20036
www.naahl.org

National Bankers Association
1513 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalbankers.org