

investment for affordable housing, small business, and community development within underserved communities. The CDFI Fund administers the Bank Enterprise Award [BEA] Program, which provides a financial incentive to insured depository institutions to undertake community development financing activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$221,000,000 for the CDFI Fund. Of the amounts provided, \$161,900,000 is for financial and technical assistance grants, \$15,000,000 is for Native Initiatives, \$21,000,000 is for the Bank Enterprise Award Program, and \$23,100,000 is for the administrative expenses for all programs.

The Committee notes the CDFI Fund's ability to leverage private sector investment in community development projects such as affordable housing, retail development, and community centers, as well as lending to small businesses. However, the Committee is concerned about an overall lack of transparency into many of the CDFI Fund's programs and nominal ability to verify investment impacts. The Committee recognizes the CDFI Fund released two independent studies that provided an initial evaluation of CDFIs. The Committee expects to know how program funding generates meaningful community impacts. Therefore, the Committee directs the CDFI Fund to establish clear reporting requirements and collect and evaluate performance data to inform the Committee how the CDFI Fund is making a difference in underserved populations and communities in the United States.

The Committee strongly believes it is important to ensure that CDFIs are delivering investments to the borrowers and communities that need it most. However, it is difficult to determine whether program goals are being achieved. As one independent study reported, the CDFI industry lacks a set of common definitions around key impact measurements, which could be helpful for collecting impact data. In addition, the independent study noted that the CDFI Fund experiences disparate feedback from awardees and not enough CDFIs provide necessary data. The Committee directs the CDFI Fund to continue working to improve the quality and completeness of the data it tracks, including validation of self-reported data, further development of common definitions for use by the CDFI industry, and the ability to fully account for investment activity in a timely manner after an award has been issued. The Committee also directs the CDFI Fund to continue taking steps to provide a risk rating system for certified CDFIs.

Core Program.—The Committee recommends \$161,900,000 for the CDFI Fund to carry out its financial assistance and technical assistance programs, including the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative. The Committee believes that applicants for CDFI awards should receive fair and equal consideration, consistent with section 102 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–325), including financial and technical assistance for lending and investment in small businesses, affordable housing, community development, and efforts to increase the availability of affordable, healthy foods in underserved communities. The core CDFI Program should be the source of awards allocations for these purposes. The Committee looks for-

ward to reviewing work from the Inspector General on the CDFI Fund's overall administration of grants awarded under the core program. Specifically, the Committee hopes to learn more about whether funds are awarded to eligible recipients' in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; whether the CDFI Fund has established and maintained internal control procedures and oversight over grants; and whether there is a process for measuring outcomes to ensure program objectives are achieved.

Bank Enterprise Award Program.—The Committee recommends \$21,000,000 for the Bank Enterprise Award [BEA] Program to increase lending, investment, and service activities within economically distressed communities. This program plays an important role in providing financial services to underserved communities across the country.

Native Programs.—The Committee recommends \$15,000,000 for grants, loans, and technical assistance and training programs to benefit Native American, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian communities in the coordination of development strategies, increased access to equity investments, and loans for development activities.

Non-Metropolitan and Rural Areas.—The Committee directs Treasury to take into consideration the unique conditions, challenges, and scale of non-metropolitan areas when designing programs to address economic revitalization and community development. The Committee notes that the CDFI Fund is required by 12 U.S.C. 4706(b) to seek to fund a geographically diverse group of award recipients, including those from non-metropolitan and rural areas. In addition, the Committee encourages funding to be used for projects that serve populations living in persistent poverty counties as required by Public Law 112-74.

Bond Guarantee Program.—The Committee includes a provision enabling the Secretary of the Treasury to guarantee up to \$750,000,000 in bonds in fiscal year 2016, as authorized by section 1134 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-240). The bond guarantees will not result in a cost to the taxpayer. The bonds are intended to support CDFI lending and investment activities in underserved communities by providing a source of long-term capital, and the funds raised through the bonds will be used to capitalize new loans or refinance existing loans.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing [BEP] has been the sole manufacturer of U.S. paper currency for almost 150 years. The origin of the BEP is traced to an act of Congress passed on February 25, 1862, 12 Stat. 345, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue a new currency—United States notes. While this law was the cornerstone authority for the operations of the engraving and printing division of the Treasury for many years, it was not until an Act of June 20, 1874, 18 Stat. 100, that the Congress first referred to this division as the “Bureau of Engraving and Printing.” The Bureau's status as a distinct bureau within the Department of the Treasury was solidified by section 1 of the Act of June 4, 1897,