



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2025

**CDBA Statement on the Release of the White House FY 2026
Discretionary Budget Request**

Washington, D.C. – The Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA) is gravely concerned with the White House’s recent proposal to eliminate all appropriated programs of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) in the FY 2026 Budget.

The CDFI Fund and its programs are widely recognized by bipartisan policy makers, investors, and local community leaders to represent the very best version of American public-private partnerships. The CDFI Fund grant programs align squarely with free market principles and support for key pillars of the Trump Administration’s economic agenda. We are optimistic about the economic future of American communities served by CDFIs, and we urge the Administration to work with CDFIs, Congress and the broader capital markets to expand, rather than eliminate, investment in these critical financial institutions.

When leveraged 8 to 1 with private capital, CDFI Fund grants help private financial institutions reach deep into American communities that are most in need of investment. As we wrote in a joint letter with national banking trades in March of this year:

“The CDFI Fund supports the administration’s commitment to putting America First by ensuring that all communities—urban and rural, large and small—have access to the capital necessary to participate in and contribute to our national economy. The CDFI Fund is a targeted, accountable, and impactful program that enables private capital to do more for more Americans.”

CDFIs have earned bipartisan support because they are fully non-partisan. They work in all types of low income and distressed communities – urban, rural, and Native American. Fully 92% of all voting Congressional districts have at least one CDFI physically located within and serving their local communities.

During the first Trump Administration, the White House forged highly effective partnerships with CDFIs. CDFIs demonstrated their value with the Paycheck Protection Program and other pandemic era stimulus initiatives because they are able to get credit to Main Street businesses. Serving Main Street is what CDFIs do every day, but they cannot do it without the CDFI Fund.

Institutional and private investors know that CDFIs are an investment opportunity that is good for America. CDFIs ensure no one is left out of the American economy. We urge the Administration to work with Congress to expand and strengthen CDFI effectiveness, efficiency and impact through deeper integration with capital markets. Multiple opportunities exist for the Administration to advance its priorities in partnership with CDFIs via bipartisan legislation such as updates to Opportunity Zone legislation, the “[Community Development Investment Tax Credit Act](#)” the “[Scaling Community Lenders Act](#),” and more.

CDBA strongly opposes the proposed funding cuts and respectfully urges the Administration to work with Congress to ensure consistent funding for CDFI Fund grants and programs, and to actively promote new policies that will drive economic opportunity through private investment in America’s low-income communities.

For more information, please contact:

Jeannine Jacokes, CEO
Phone: (202) 689-8935 ext. 222
Email: jacokesj@pcgloanfund.org

Brian Blake, Chief Public Policy Officer
(202) 689-8935 ext. 225
blakeb@pcgloanfund.org

Community Development Bankers Association
1201 15th NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005

About the Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA):

For over two decades, the Community Development Bankers Association has led the community development banking movement, advocating for economic opportunity in the nation’s most economically distressed areas. The CDBA and its member banks are unwavering in their commitment to making banking a force for good. For more information on the CDBA’s mission and initiatives, please visit www.cdbanks.org.