

Opportunity Finance Network Announces Veteran Economic Development Leader Lisa Mensah as New Chief Executive Officer

Organization Taps Leader with Extensive Public and Private Sector Experience in Revitalizing Communities

PHILADELPHIA, PA, February 28, 2017—Today, Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the leading national network of community development financial institutions (CDFIs), announced that Lisa Mensah has been named the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer. She will officially begin her new duties on March 15, 2017.

Mensah, former Under Secretary, Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was chosen unanimously by OFN's Board of Directors, chaired by Lori Chatman. Mensah's deep experience in both the public and private sectors, her accomplishments in economic development, and in opening financial access for the working poor and rural communities, combined with her success at developing new partnerships with private and philanthropic partners, drove the selection.

"Lisa will be an amazing leader for OFN, especially given her passion for our work and her extensive government, foundation, banking, and social institute professional experience," said Lori Chatman, OFN Board Chair and President, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, Inc. "Most importantly, her career has been conducted in the spirit of OFN's core purpose of aligning capital with justice."

In 2014 Mensah was appointed Under Secretary, Rural Development, where she managed a loan portfolio of \$215 billion, directing annual investments of \$30 billion in critical infrastructure for rural America, and generating \$120 million in private grants and loan guarantees for persistently poor communities in rural America. She achieved record levels of productivity by developing new partnerships with private and philanthropic partners.

Before joining the USDA, Mensah spent 12 years at the Aspen Institute as Executive Director, Initiative on Financial Security. She was the founder of a program encouraging personal savings for low- and middle-income Americans. Her responsibilities included making non-partisan recommendations for expanding savings incentives and developing new financial products. Prior to that, she spent 13 years at The Ford Foundation, starting as Program Officer for Rural Poverty and Resource Program before being named Deputy Director, and then becoming Deputy Director of the Economic Development Unit. She also worked for Citibank in a series of increasingly responsible positions.

"Our country urgently needs the money, skill, and experience of community development financial institutions as we seek to bring jobs, housing, and opportunity back to rural and urban America," said Mensah. "I'm excited to have the chance to lead a network of loan



funds, credit unions, and community banks, which are so critical to achieving the country's full economic promise."

Mensah will be filling the role following Mark Pinsky's departure in June 2016 and replacing Fran Lutz, Interim CEO, who will remain with OFN.

Mensah holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard and an M.A. with distinction in Economics and African Studies from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Mensah, born and raised in Oregon the daughter of an immigrant from Ghana and an Iowa farm girl, now resides in Maryland with her husband Barry Ford and two children.

Korn Ferry handled the executive search.

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About OFN

Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the leading national network of private financial institutions, creates growth that is good for communities, investors, individuals, and the economy. Members of OFN are community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that deliver responsible lending to help low-wealth and low-income communities join the economic mainstream. Through 2015 OFN's network originated \$48 billion in financing in urban, rural, and Native American communities. This financing has helped to create or maintain more than 1,044,000 jobs, start or expand nearly 191,000 businesses and microenterprises, and support the development or rehabilitation of nearly 1.5 million housing units and 9,800 community facility projects. For more information, visit ofn.org.

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