

2017 OFN Board Candidate Profile

At its September 2017 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, Opportunity Finance Network's (OFN) Members will elect three (3) Board Members from the Membership. The purpose of this document is to describe the priorities that the OFN Board has set for prospective candidates.

OFN exists to align capital with social, economic, and political justice. In 2011, OFN began work on its ambitious 15-year strategy to lead CDFIs and their mainstream partners to ensure that all low-income and low-wealth people and communities have access to affordable, responsible financial products and services.

Board Members elected in 2017, alongside continuing Board Members, will assume oversight responsibility for OFN's strategy. For this reason, the Board is interested in identifying prospective candidates representing a wide range of perspectives who demonstrate significant strengths in strategic thinking, who are dedicated to performance, bring outstanding analytical ability, who are passionate about OFN's core purpose and mission, and who are committed to OFN's core values of justice and excellence.

Criterion

Prospective candidates must represent (as a staff or Board member) a current OFN Member in good standing¹. All Members are invited to consider Board service. OFN Members select Board Members in an election process that will begin in June 2017 and culminate on September 28 at the OFN Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

Diversity

Since 1985, OFN and its Members have consistently sought to elect a diverse demographic and geographic mix of candidates, as well as a blend of CDFIs of various sizes, financing strategies, and types. The Board believes it is important that the organizations represented on the Board reflect the range of types of financing, asset size, geographic reach, etc., of its Members, and that the individuals on the Board represent a variety of racial, ethnic, gender, position level, and geographic perspectives.

The Board Composition Matrix and Comparison Chart profile the current Board and how the organizations represented on the Board compare to OFN's Member organizations.

Representation

The Board is seeking candidates who are committed to performance and willing and able to serve as effective ambassadors to external groups and/or constituencies; who bring diverse perspectives and are able to represent them effectively in Board settings; and who

¹ "Good standing" is defined as having completed the 2017 Annual Member Survey and paid 2017 Membership dues at the time that nominations close.



understand or are willing to work to understand the external context in which OFN works—including financial markets, public policy, development theory and practice, business strategy, and organizational development.

In addition, the Board strongly recommends that the Membership assess key skills related to the particular challenges OFN will face. The Board is particularly interested in CDFI perspectives that broaden the organization's awareness and understanding of innovative solutions in capitalization, public policy, talent development, communicating with a mass audience, and racial equity. With a strategy emphasizing CDFI "influence"—increasing the CDFI industry's ability to shape the operating environment that it and its customers work in—we are eager to draw on leading industry expertise.

Priorities

The OFN Board has identified several priorities for the Board and urges prospective candidates from the OFN Membership to consider how they match up with the identified characteristics and/or attributes. In particular, the OFN Board is seeking Board Candidates who:

- Strongly support OFN's mission and core purpose (see below) and are comfortable with OFN's determined pursuit of both, particularly its focus on social, economic, and political justice.
- Demonstrate a deep commitment to OFN's core values of excellence and justice, including demonstrated commitment to OFN's emphasis on performance as key to achieving coverage, growth, and innovation in the industry.
- Represent ethnic, racial, and gender diversity that reflects the geographic reach and intended outcomes of its Members.
- Represent and/or are the next generation of CDFI leaders.
- Demonstrate the ability to balance the interests of the CDFI industry with the interests of the CDFI they represent.
- Represent all CDFI types, including Community Development Credit Unions and Community Development Banks.
- Bring a national or "macro-level" perspective to the OFN Board with experience and/or a particular ability in public policy, economics, and/or financial markets.
- Are willing and able to be active ambassadors for OFN and its strategy to external allies and Members and who are prepared to do substantial work to understand and embrace the strategy and its components.
- Bring to the Board strong network communications skills and commitment to transparency needed to communicate proactively with the OFN Membership.



Board Candidate Responsibilities

Prospective candidates will be required to submit a written statement to the Membership describing their qualifications for the Board and make a brief (five-minute or less) speech to the Membership at OFN Connect—the Annual Membership Meeting—on October 26 in Atlanta. The candidates will also be invited to produce a short video that OFN will post on its Meet the Candidates website. Candidates may also produce and distribute other campaign materials at their discretion.

Board Service

Board Members serve three-year terms (the maximum number of terms is two).

Board Members are expected to participate in three, 2-day Board meetings, one organizational Board meeting (at the Conference, the day after the Board Elections), and 3-4 one-hour Board conference calls. In addition, all Board Members serve on two or more Board Committees, with the exception of the Board Chair.

OFN's Board is a strategic board focused on aligning the organization's work with its mission and core purpose. Board Members are not expected to assist in fundraising and/or capitalization; in rare instances, a Board Member might be asked to participate because of a unique relationship. Elected OFN Board Members represent the interests of the Membership in the context of OFN's mission and strategy.

OFN's Mission & Core Purpose

Opportunity Finance Network's **mission** is to lead CDFIs and their partners to ensure that low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged people and communities have access to responsible, affordable financial products and services.

Opportunity Finance Network's **core purpose** is to align capital with social, economic, and political justice.

Two **core values** anchor Opportunity Finance Network's work:

Justice: Every facet of our work should be directed toward and reflect an unwavering commitment to fair and equal access to, opportunity in, and responsibility for social, economic, and political life. For us, justice is a unifying value.

Excellence: The people and communities we serve have a right to expect excellence, and we have a responsibility to provide it. A commitment to excellence is a statement of respect for our customers, investors, funders, staff, Board, and Members.