Established in 1997, the Charter Schools Development Corporation (CSDC) is the only CDFI in the nation that focuses exclusively on serving public charter schools. CSDC’s mission is to spur innovation and improvement in K-12 education by financing and developing the educational facilities of great public charter schools nationwide. The organization is dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing school choice, and catalyzing competition within the American K-12 public education system. To that end, it provides a wide range of services to help charter school entrepreneurs and leaders finance, build, expand, and replicate their school models. These products and services include regional loan fund financing, a Building Block Fund to close financing gaps for charter schools, nonprofit property development, and fee-based financial analysis and consulting services. CSDC was the recipient of the 2011 Wells Fargo NEXT Award for Demonstrated Excellence in Financing.

Success Story: Atlas Preparatory School, Colorado Springs, CO

Atlas Preparatory School opened in 2009 with 81 students in a leased facility. In 2011, Atlas wanted to increase its enrollment, so it approached CSDC for a loan to purchase the facility. CSDC provided the financing, and in 2011–2012 enrollment at the school increased to 350 and reached 700 in 2013–2014. Additionally, Atlas Prep is the recipient of the 2010 Center of Excellence Award from the Colorado Department of Education for Improvement and Academic Achievement.