The Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) is a CDFI and statewide microenterprise intermediary providing gap financing services to businesses and Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) in Nebraska. NEF’s mission is to ensure that Nebraska microbusinesses and small businesses have access to capital, training, and technical assistance by providing it directly and connecting entrepreneurs with other resources in the state. NEF provides financing by making direct loans as large as $150,000 to businesses that typically do not have access to bank financing, as well as by offering a certificate of deposit loan guarantee product. NEF’s technical assistance to business borrowers helps insure loan repayment and positive change for the business. Technical assistance to its partners builds capacity for programs to reach increasing numbers of businesses. NEF’s work has been instrumental in creating a network of resources for start-up and growing businesses across Nebraska. Additionally, NEF’s Web site serves as a directory for businesses seeking resources in their county.

Financial and Social Impact
- Loans disbursed: More than $4.3 million. In addition, NEF-funded MDOs have loaned approximately $20 million, leveraging an additional $20 million in loans by banks since 1997.
- Jobs created/retained per loan: An average of two jobs have been created and/or retained per loan closed.
- Business assistance provided: More than 30,000 individuals have received assistance from MDOs that receive support from NEF.

Success Story: Lincoln Family Funeral Care, Lincoln, NE
Vicki Newman had experience in the funeral home industry and wanted to open a new kind of funeral home that provided personalized service at a lower cost. After several challenges along the way, including the progression of multiple-sclerosis and being turned down for a loan by a bank, Vicki’s dream came true thanks to a microenterprise loan from NEF. Vicki and licensed funeral director, Scot Dewitt, opened Lincoln Family Funeral Care in March, 2012, and have since hired three part-time assistants. The success of the business has allowed them to expand to Colorado, where they plan to create two new jobs.

Contact
330 N. Oakland Avenue
Oakland, NE  68045
P: 402.685.5500
E: nef@nebbiz.org