Launched in 2007, the mission of The Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF) is to provide technical and financial services to individuals and organizations serving the disability market throughout the United States, with a focus on affordable housing, schools, and vocational training centers. DOF is a national CDFI committed to creating housing solutions that promote independence by providing a range of services from financial support to educational curriculum for families of people with disabilities. By working together with other CDFIs, banks, investors, families, social service providers, developers and government entities, the DOF funds projects to find creative solutions to the nationwide shortage of housing for people with disabilities. The DOF also helps those with disabilities realize their full potential by funding community facilities, such as schools, and vocational training centers. Other products and services include community-oriented programs, lending and financing opportunities, educational programming, and technical assistance to parents and social service institutions.

Financial and Social Impact (As of 12/31/14)

- Total loans made: 40 equaling $13,500,000
- Number of group home united created/redeveloped: 75
- Housing units created/supported: 417
- Community Centers: More than 150,000 sq.ft
- Schools funded/students served: 343 classroom desks
- Parents and families reached through technical assistance: More than 1,600
- Roundtable discussions co-hosted with Federal Reserve: 9, with more than 1,200 attendees
- States served: 12 (CA, CT, DE, MA, MD, NY, NJ, OH, TN, VA, VT, WI)

Success Story: The Cottage in Darien, Darien, CT

The Cottage in Darien, the DOF’s first housing solution for adults with disabilities, is the result of a decade of hard work spearheaded by six determined families. This parent-driven, co-funded project affords six disabled adults to live alone, rather than with family or in adult foster care. For all of them, it’s their first experience living on their own, an important step towards gaining independence. “By financing its development, DOF has helped our daughter, Ashley, to live an independent life in a safe and supportive environment,” said Doug Milne, a father of The Cottage in Darien resident Ashley Albertson.

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