Forward Community Investments

In its capacity as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Forward Community Investments (FCI) builds stronger and healthier communities by providing loans, advising and grants to Wisconsin-based nonprofit organizations that address the root causes of socioeconomic disparities and racial inequities in urban and rural communities alike. FCI’s resources are used to create jobs, enhance community services, improve equity and make positive change possible. Since 1994, loans—ranging from pre-development to construction to real estate and equipment to working capital—have been directed to building and developing affordable housing, community facilities and economic development initiatives. FCI has lent more than $70 million to hundreds of mission-driven organizations, making a difference in the lives of more than 650,000 people.

In addition, FCI has received three New Market Tax Credit Awards totaling $75 million; these credits have been used to fund various Wisconsin projects that include Central Wisconsin Community Action (Beaver Dam); Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (Milwaukee); Madison Northside Planning Council (Madison) and Chequamegon Food Cooperative (Ashland).

Success Story: Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Dodgeville, WI

A $246,000 loan from FCI enabled SWCAP, a nonprofit anti-poverty agency established in 1966, to purchase and renovate a building in Dodgeville, WI to create affordable office space for eight local nonprofits, including a free clinic. The facility offers low- and moderate-income people convenient access to a variety of essential services, many of which are not available elsewhere in the county. “Without Forward Community Investments and a willingness to provide non-traditional financing, we would not be able to provide these programs,” said Wally Orzechowski the Executive Director of SWCAP.

Financial and Social Impact

- Financing disbursed: More than $70MM
- Additional public and private sector capital leveraged: 4:1 for a total of $280MM
- Affordable housing units created or retained: 2,367
- Jobs created: 4,708
- Daycare slots created: 1,673
- Square feet developed: 1,145,155

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