Champions Funding LLC, a certified CDFI financing entity, provides construction loans to nonprofit developers for the rehabilitation of distressed houses and the construction of new single-family homes on scattered lots for low-income families.

Champions Funding LLC was formed in 2013 to initially help communities fight blight brought on by the foreclosure crisis. Champions Funding’s parent company is in the business of providing contract services to municipalities. These services include the management and enforcement of property registry ordinances requiring lenders to register properties in default. In the performance of this service, the founders were exposed to a unique view of the municipality’s economically distressed communities and became keenly aware of the need to not only register these properties, but also to help the community revitalize the distressed vacant properties it was registering.

Success Story: The Nehemiah Project—Phase II, Tampa, Florida

Champions Funding provided $2 million in construction funds for phase two of the Nehemiah project, an affordable housing development in Tampa that when completed will offer 38 homes for purchase.

These homes are for exclusive purchase for low-income families and have attracted other nonprofits to effect community revitalization, including Keep Tampa Beautiful, a nonprofit engaged in beautification of the neighborhood; the YMCA of Tampa Bay; Community Stepping Stones, a nonprofit art group; and Solita’s House, a HUD approved counseling agency that provided new home buyer financial counselling services.

Since 2016, Champions Funding has provided its nonprofit partners with more than 45 mortgaged-backed construction loans, totaling more than $4 million across 33 different census tracts and serving more than 120 people.

It has financed more than 100 projects in nine Florida counties.