

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 2, 2006 NEWS/CALENDAR ADVISORY...

**NEW FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN BERNANKE TO SPEAK AT
OPPORTUNITY FINANCE NETWORK NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

***Keynote Conference Focus on "Bringing Those On the Economic Margins Into the
Financial Mainstream."***

WASHINGTON, D.C.///News Advisory///New Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the October 30-November 2, 2006 conference of the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) in Washington, D.C. The conference will address the challenges and opportunities of bringing people living on the economic margins of our nation into the economic mainstream while opening emerging domestic markets to the financial mainstream.

Now in its 22nd year as the leading community development finance event in the U.S., the 2006 Opportunity Finance Network Conference is expected to attract more than 600 CDFI practitioners and board members, bankers, foundation staff, investors, and government officials from across the United States. The theme of this year's conference is "The New Opportunity Era." The conference will spotlight policy and politics, feature more networking, and give attendees an opportunity to see Washington, D.C. beyond the Capitol.

The Opportunity Finance Network Conference will take place at the JW Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C. Dr. Bernanke will speak at 1:00 p.m. on November 1st. The three-day conference will be \$545 for Opportunity Finance Network members and \$675 for nonmembers. A \$25 early registration discount will be available for a limited time. Conference details are online at <http://www.opportunityfinance.net>.

Gold sponsors of the OFN conference include: Citibank; Fannie Mae Foundation; JP Morgan Chase; and Wachovia. Silver conference sponsors include Washington Mutual. Bronze conference sponsors include HSBC Bank USA, N.A. Conference co-hosts include: Calvert Foundation; Enterprise Community Loan Fund; Housing Assistance Council; Nonprofit Finance Fund; Partners for the Common Good; Self-Help; The Reinvestment Fund; Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation; and Washington Area Community Investment Fund.

CONTACT: Patrick Mitchell, (703) 276-3252 or pmitchell@hastingsgroup.com. All media in attendance will be required to RSVP in advance.

BACKGROUND: The Opportunity Finance Network of 167 financial institutions in all 50 states and Native American communities finds and finances opportunities that others overlook. We are community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other opportunity finance institutions who work just outside the margins of conventional finance to bring those markets into the economic mainstream and to help the economic mainstream flow into those markets. OFN's track record of success encompasses \$4.1 billion in current assets and \$9.6 billion in cumulative financing that is low-risk, with a net charge-off rate of only 0.7 percent.