

Contact: Stefanie Arck
Opportunity Finance Network
sarck@opportunityfinance.net
215.320.4306

For Immediate Release

New Data Reveals 50% of CDFIs That Undergo a CARS™ Analysis Improve Impact Performance in Subsequent Review

Improvement Shown Among the CDFI Loan Funds Rated by CARS™ in First Quarter 2011

Philadelphia, April 12, 2011—CDFIs that participate in a CARS™ rating not only demonstrate commitment to transparency and accountability, but strive to improve their impact performance, according to new data from CARS™. Of the 51 CDFIs that have gone through the full ratings cycle (which comprises a full rating plus at least one annual review), 50% received a ratings upgrade for Impact Performance or showed improvement in one or more components of the rating from their first rating to their second rating.

"Rated CDFIs tend to address weaknesses identified through the ratings process, which makes them stronger institutions in the long run and better positioned to raise capital," said Paige Chapel, EVP of CARS™. "Socially responsible investors are attracted to CDFIs because they offer a unique blend of financial discipline plus positive social or economic impact in their marketplace. We are delighted by the finding that CARS™-rated CDFIs demonstrate marked improvement in their impact performance rating over time, and we believe investors will appreciate CARS™-rated CDFIs even more as a result."

The CARS™ Impact Performance Rating assesses how well a CDFI loan fund strives to achieve its mission. It is comprised of four components: alignment of strategies with mission; effective use of financing resources in pursuit of its mission; tracking appropriate output data that indicate the CDFI is accomplishing its mission-focused goals; and, tracking appropriate outcome data that indicate the CDFI's efforts are benefitting disadvantaged people and communities.

Mile High Community Loan Fund is one of the CDFIs re-rated in the first quarter that showed improvement in one or more of the Impact Performance rating categories. Jeff Seifried, the Fund's Executive Director, said, "We appreciated the rigor of the CARS™ analysts and their process. It helped us focus on how we track the impact of our work and how we could meet our mission objectives even more concretely."

CARS™-rated CDFIs represent about 11% of all CDFI Fund-certified loan funds. However, these rated institutions currently manage 30% of all on-balance sheet assets among certified groups. By the end of 2011, CARS™-rated institutions will represent about 45% of all on-balance sheet assets. It is anticipated that investors who are looking for CDFI loan funds to support will

increasingly turn to CARS™ ratings reports to help them identify prudent and profitable new investment opportunities.

CARS™ ratings cover a three-year period. An annual Review Report, issued for each of the subsequent years following the full Ratings Report, highlights significant changes in the CDFI's impact and financial performance. In the first quarter of 2011, the following eight CDFIs were rated or re-rated by CARS™:

- **Boston Community Capital** (2nd rating)—Boston, MA: BCC's mission is to build healthy communities where low-income people live and work through socially responsible lending and investing.
- **Chicago Community Loan Fund** (2nd rating)—Chicago, IL: Provides low-cost, flexible financing to non- and for-profit community development organizations for the revitalization of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods throughout metropolitan Chicago.
- **Community Housing Capital** (1st rating)—Decatur, GA: Provides both interim real estate development loans and permanent multifamily loans with favorable rates and terms that support long term affordability in the U.S.
- **Community Loan Fund of New Jersey** d/b/a New Jersey Community Capital (1st rating)—Trenton, NJ: Facilitates the flow of money and knowledge to create wealth and well-being in communities throughout New Jersey.
- **Leviticus 25:23 Alternative Fund** (1st rating)—Elmsford, NY: A not-for-profit financial intermediary, motivated by faith, that is dedicated to using the power of capital to create positive change in communities that need it most in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.
- **Low Income Investment Fund** (3rd rating)—San Francisco, CA: LIIF's programs promote economic advancement and self-sufficiency for the very poor by delivering capital to organizations working in low income communities.
- **Mile High Community Loan Fund** (2nd rating)—Denver, CO: Formed in 1999 as a community-based, non-profit organization to administer a loan fund and provide access to capital for developers of affordable housing.
- **Mountain BizWorks** (1st rating)—Asheville, NC: Mountain BizWorks' mission is to build economic opportunities through business development and capital in Western North Carolina.

For further information, or to schedule an interview with Paige Chapel, or CARS™ Members, please contact Stefanie Arck, VP of Strategic Communications at Opportunity Finance Network, at 215.320.4306.

About CARS™

CARS™, the CDFI Assessment and Ratings System, is an independent project of Opportunity Finance Network. Launched in 2004 to promote performance as a primary criterion determining the flow of capital through CDFIs and to promote standardization of information and industry-wide performance standards, CARS™ is the only ratings system of its kind. Ratings include an



Comprehensive ratings for CDFI investments.

assessment of impact performance and financial strength and performance. Ratings are based on five years of historical performance and cover a projected three-year period with annual updates in subsequent years. CARS™ publishes a list of CDFIs who are scheduled for an upcoming rating, and also provides an on-demand CDFI rating service for investors. More information about CARS™ is available at www.carsratingsystem.net.

About Opportunity Finance Network

Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the leading network of private financial institutions, creates growth that is good for communities, investors, individuals, and the economy. Members of OFN are community development financial institutions (CDFIs) who deliver responsible lending to help low-wealth and low-income communities join the economic mainstream. Over the past 30 years, the opportunity finance industry has provided more than \$30 billion in financing to underserved markets nationwide. In 2008, OFN Members financed more than 200,000 jobs, 600,000 housing units, 50,000 businesses and microenterprises, and 6,000 community facility projects. More information is available at: www.opportunityfinance.net.