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## **Eight CDFIs Receive Grants to Improve Social Determinants of Health in Rural Georgia**

*The "Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia" program aims to promote good health for all Georgians through the work of CDFIs in underserved rural communities*

**Philadelphia, PA, December 14, 2017**—Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) today announced eight recipients of the *Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia* program. Developed with support from Healthcare Georgia Foundation, the program awards capital and technical assistance grants to CDFIs (community development financial institutions) that provide financial and development services to improve the health and well-being of rural Georgians. CDFIs finance social determinants of health such as community facilities, healthy food options, affordable housing, small business and microloans, consumer financial products and services, transportation and transit development, and technology access.

"We're proud to work with OFN on a program that aligns so well with the Foundation's mission of advancing the health of all Georgians," said Gary D. Nelson, PhD, President, Healthcare Georgia Foundation. "We believe that healthy communities support the health of the individual, and CDFIs, by definition, play a vital part in the development of that ecosystem by deploying capital in areas of particular need across the state: the underserved in rural areas and areas of persistent poverty."

"For more than 30 years CDFIs have been doing mission-driven lending. This program highlights the critical role CDFIs play in bringing health-related investment capital into underserved communities," said Ginger McNally, Senior Vice President of Strategic Consulting at OFN. "We applaud Healthcare Georgia Foundation for their generous commitment to improving outcomes for all Georgians through the support of *Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia*."

The eight CDFIs who received grants are:

- **Albany Community Together (ACT!),** Albany, GA: To provide workshops in rural areas to strengthen credit readiness
- **Carver Financial Corporation/Carver State Bank,** Savannah, GA: To develop a strategic plan for Catalyst Development Corporation, a nonprofit affiliate
- **Community Health Center Capital Fund, Inc.,** Boston, MA: To complete Performance Evaluation Profiles for Federally Qualified Health Centers in Georgia
- **Georgia Cities Foundation,** Atlanta, GA: To develop Georgia Placemaking Collaborative pilot program



- **LiftFund**, San Antonio, TX: To implement marketing and expansion in Georgia
- **National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions**, New York, NY: To expand financial education into rural areas, in partnership with Peach State FCU
- **Neighborhood Lending Partners**, Tampa, FL: To support expansion into Georgia
- **Southwest Georgia United Empowerment Zone, Inc.**, Cordele, GA: To develop a sustainability plan and strengthen lending technology

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### **About OFN**

Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the national network of community development financial institutions (CDFIs), strives to ensure low-income and other under-resourced communities have access to affordable, responsible financial products and services. Members of OFN are CDFIs that deliver responsible lending to help low-income communities join the economic mainstream. Through 2015, OFN's network originated \$48 billion in financing in rural, urban, and Native communities. This financing has helped to create or maintain more than 1,044,000 jobs, start or expand nearly 191,000 businesses and microenterprises, and support the development or rehabilitation of nearly 1.5 million housing units and 9,800 community facility projects. For more information, visit [www.ofn.org](http://www.ofn.org).

### **About Healthcare Georgia Foundation**

Healthcare Georgia Foundation is a statewide, private independent foundation. The Foundation's mission is to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities. Through its strategic grantmaking, Healthcare Georgia Foundation supports organizations that drive positive change, promotes programs that improve health and healthcare among underserved individuals and communities, and connects people, partners and resources across Georgia. For more information, please visit the Foundation online at: [www.healthcaregeorgia.org](http://www.healthcaregeorgia.org).