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Loan fund in running for major award

The Concord-based New Hampshire Community Loan Fund has been named a semifinalist in a national competition in which two community development financial institutions will share \$8.25 million in grants and awards.

The Wachovia NEXT Awards for Opportunity Finance are presented by the Opportunity Finance Network and sponsored by The Wachovia Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The winners will be named in December in Miami.

The New Hampshire Community Loan Fund has been providing loans and training since 1984 to help nonprofits and entrepreneurs build and preserve affordable housing, help small businesses grow, and develop new community facilities, such as schools, health clinics and centers for child care, recreation and culture.

"New Hampshire Community Loan Fund embodies the type of high-potential CDFI that the Wachovia NEXT Awards for Opportunity Finance was designed to propel to a next level of growth, success, and staying power with a major one-time infusion of capital," said Mark Pinsky, president and CEO of the Philadelphia-based Opportunity Finance Network.

New Hampshire Community Loan Fund President Juliana Eades said the organization was "delighted" to be named a semi-finalist. "This validates our hard work in the community and our efforts to bring opportunity finance to people and neighborhoods that might not otherwise benefit from it." – JEFF FEINGOLD/NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS REVIEW