

CDFIs: Government Partners In Environmental Justice

Intensifying wildfires. Rising sea levels. Scorching heat, devastating drought, and deadly floods. No one is safe from the effects of our changing planet, and climate change disproportionately hurts low-income, low-wealth communities. Clean energy and other sustainability solutions are expensive and often require financing that's out of reach for these communities.

Specialized Green Finance Lenders

Community development financial institutions (CDFIs) offer responsible green financing products and services to help communities withstand climate change. Specialists in lending in low-income, low-wealth rural, urban, and Native communities, CDFIs are effective partners to government in transitioning to a clean energy economy.

Policy Recommendations

Administration

- Include CDFIs in clean energy programs created in the Inflation Reduction Act, such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.
- Partner with CDFIs to implement Justice40, a Biden-Harris Administration initiative that drives 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to low-income, low-wealth communities, the very communities CDFIs serve best.

Congress

- Partner with CDFIs as a part of any new investments in clean energy.



GLOBAL CRISIS, LOCAL IMPACT

Currently, 55% of OFN's member CDFIs offer green lending products.



CAPITAL PLUS

CDFIs tailor loans to fit people not a credit box and offer training, coaching, and support services when people need help.



SMART INVESTMENTS

CDFIs leverage \$8 in private sector investment for every \$1 in public funding.

Visit ofn.org/impact-stories to read CDFI green finance stories.

To learn more, email OFN's Public Policy team at public.policy@ofn.org or call 202.618.6100.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY FINANCE NETWORK (OFN)

Based in Washington, D.C., OFN is a leading national network of more than 390 CDFIs. An intermediary between CDFIs and government agencies, corporations, banks, foundations, and other investors, OFN helps our public and private sector partners invest in CDFIs to catalyze change and create economic opportunity in low-income, low-wealth rural, urban, and Native communities. Visit [OFN.org](https://ofn.org) for more.

WE BELIEVE IN OPPORTUNITY.
FOR ALL.

OFN.ORG