

JOIN OFN

Thank you for your interest in joining a growing membership network of mission-driven community lenders that are dedicated to providing fair, responsible financing to rural, urban, Native, and other communities that mainstream finance doesn't traditionally reach.

MEMBER BENEFITS

By offering exclusive access to direct financing, learning opportunities, advocacy, and more, **OFN maximizes the effectiveness of our membership.**

- **Access to Capital:** OFN members have access to various funding opportunities, including:
 - [Finance Justice Fund \(FJF\)](#)
 - EPA's [Clean Communities Investment Accelerator \(CCIA\)](#)
 - [CCIA frequently asked questions](#)
 - CDFI Fund's Bond Guarantee Program
 - Other [special initiatives](#)

- **Capacity Strengthening**
 - OFN members receive **significant discounts** on OFN publications, and [training](#) and [event](#) registration fees.
 - Example: The registration fee for the 2024 Annual OFN Conference will be **\$1,950 for general attendees and \$900 for OFN members**. As an OFN member, your organization would **save \$2,100** on the conference registration fee for two (2) people.
 - **2023 CDFI Loan Fund Compensation Survey** – OFN members receive a **discount of \$550-\$750** on this valuable resource that can help them recruit, reward, and retain high-quality employees. Visit the OFN [CDFI Resource Library](#) to access the compensation survey and other OFN publications.
 - **Peer Comparison Reports** – an exclusive resource that can help member organizations understand their performance in relation to their peer group.
 - OFN members have access to a **private community on the [CDFI Connect](#) platform.**
 - **Peer Learning Communities (PLC)** – Members can join working groups centered around a specialty, like financial management, communications, technology, operations, and more.
 - **PurchasingPoint – a group discount program** that provides double-digit savings from more than 200 brand-name vendors. Millions of products and services are offered such as office supplies, shipping, copiers/scanners, postage equipment, furniture, cleaning supplies, promotional merchandise, car rental, and more. Enrolled members can **pass along the savings** to their non-profit clients.
 - Members are assigned a **dedicated relationship manager** for all membership needs and questions.

- **Amplified Voice**
 - OFN helps shape public policies that enable mission-driven community lenders to create the greatest impact. OFN members can receive support with [public policy advocacy](#), as well as marketing.

Continue for eligibility requirements and application instructions.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

OFN membership is reserved for **mission-driven community lenders**, including certified community development financial Institutions (CDFIs) that fit the criteria listed below. Note that CDFI Fund certification is not an OFN membership requirement.

The organization:

- Has a primary mission of community development and strives to have a positive impact on low income, low-wealth, and other underserved people and communities. If the organization is part of or controlled by another corporation(s), that corporation also has a primary mission of community development.
- Is primarily a financing institution that provides affordable, responsible financial products and financial services.
- Serves primarily low-income, low-wealth, or other disadvantaged people or communities.
- Has an active lending and/or investing history of two or more years.
- Has completed at least one annual financial audit. (For credit unions without audited financials, the NCUA 5300 report is acceptable.)
- Pro-actively manages the risks in its portfolio and has appropriate loan and risk management policies and procedures in place to effectively manage the risks of its financing activities.
- Has positive net assets (equity) and, for nonprofit loan funds, positive unrestricted net assets.
- Is a non-governmental entity. (Exceptions are made for organizations under Tribal governance.)
- Commits to participating in OFN's required member data collection initiatives and making a good faith effort to actively participate in OFN peer learning activities.
- Affirms its support for OFN's mission to lead CDFIs and their partners to ensure that low-income, low-wealth, and other underserved people and communities have access to affordable, responsible financial products and services.

Organizations that do not meet OFN's member eligibility requirements are invited to become [Organizational Allies](#) to support extending the reach, awareness and impact of the CDFI industry.

Continue for member dues structure and application instructions.



HOW TO APPLY

If you're ready to become an OFN member, **start your application** [here](#).

Required Documentation:

We will request the following documents from all applicants:

- IRS exemption letter, if applicable.
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Board List with Affiliations
- Staff List (with titles, emails, and phone numbers) – optional
- Sample Impact Tracking Report (or a list of impact indicators the organization uses)
- Loan Policies (including risk management policies)

In addition, Loan Funds and Venture Capital Funds will be asked to provide:

- Audited financial statements for the most recent three (3) years. If the organization has fewer than three years of financial statements, submit all available audits (minimum of one).
- Most recent interim financial statement
- Most Recent Audit Management Letter
- (only Venture Capital Funds) Most Recent Quarterly Investor Report

For a **sample membership application**, click [here](#). This sample application is only for reference as applications must be completed online.

Turnaround time:

The membership team will review complete applications within a month of submission and will follow up with outstanding questions, as needed.

OFN reserves the right to deny membership to applicants that, at OFN's sole discretion, do not demonstrate a commitment to mission, community, or performance.

2024 ANNUAL DUES STRUCTURE

Organization Asset Size (per most current audited financial statements)	Annual Dues
Less than \$2 million_____	\$250
\$2 million to less than \$5 million_____	\$750
\$5 million to less than \$10 million_____	\$1,500
\$10 million to less than \$20 million_____	\$2,000
\$20 million to less than \$50 million_____	\$3,000
\$50 million to less than \$100 million_____	\$3,500
\$100 million or more _____	\$5,000

Please contact the [membership team](#) with any questions.