

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 1, 2004Contact: Bill Luecht  
(202) 622-8042**CDFI Fund Successfully Launches Data Collection Effort  
the  
"Community Investment Impact System"**

To better understand the benefits achieved by organizations it has made awards to that serve low-income communities across the nation, the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the Fund) developed and recently launched a web-based system to collect data from hundreds of community development organizations affiliated with the Fund. "The development of a data collection system that can demonstrate the significant impacts of our investments is not only noteworthy but critical to the Fund and its awardees' ability to evaluate their programs, ultimately making these programs even more effective catalysts for change in our nation's most economically distressed communities," said Arthur A. Garcia, Director of the Fund. "This new system and the data it will allow us to collect will enable the Fund to demonstrate how our awardees are performing and the impact they are having on the lives of the people they serve that live in low-income urban and rural communities, and in knowing this, we will all know how to do even better," Garcia continued.

With the launching of the Community Investment Impact System, or CIIS, the Fund is creating the country's most complete repository of data on the community development finance industry. The Fund's new system build on the experiences of a collaborative data collection effort undertaken by the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Corporation for Enterprise Development, the major CDFI industry trade associations, and the CDFI Fund. With CIIS, the Fund will collect information on CDFI and CDE institutional characteristics, financial performance, markets served, loan terms and performance, loan sales and purchases, financial services, technical assistance and training, and community development impacts. A subset of those reporting will also have to provide detailed information on each loan or investment in the institution's portfolio. This transaction-level data will include borrower characteristics, loan terms and status, and community development impacts.

In addition to helping the Fund ascertain the benefits of the federal government's investment in CDFIs and CDEs, this data will be available to the industry, private sector investors, and other interested parties that seek to analyze the performance of this important pro-growth industry. Perhaps most importantly, it will be an invaluable resource for both long- and short-term research on how the community development finance industries promote economic growth and development in economically distressed communities.

To learn more about the Fund's new data collection effort, please read the related article found on the CDFI Fund's website at <http://cdfifund.gov/ciis/CIISArticle.pdf>.

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