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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Announces Winners of CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards
—Winners recognized at annual Ohio Conference in September—

Columbus, OH – The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards.

“Each year CDFA is proud to honor excellence in development finance. The work of our award winners is cutting-edge, innovative and an example of best practices in our industry,” said Toby Rittner, CDFA President & CEO.

The CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards recognize outstanding development finance programs, agencies, leaders, projects and success stories. These awards, presented at the CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Conference, honor excellence in the use of financing tools for economic development, as well as the individuals who champion those efforts. This year’s honorees include:

CDFA Excellence Award: Leadership – Tracey Nichols

CDFA is proud to award Tracey Nichols with the CDFA Excellence Award. Ms. Nichols has been the Director of Economic Development for the City of Cleveland since 2008 and is responsible for financial incentives, business attraction, and helping businesses navigate City Hall. Before her role at the City of Cleveland, Ms. Nichols served 17 years at Cuyahoga County, where she was the Assistant Director of Economic Development for her last four years. Since joining the City, Ms. Nichols has led her team to complete over 560 projects that will create over 11,800 new jobs and retain over 8,000 jobs. Her efforts have resulted in \$146.8 million in new grants or pass-through loan funding. CDFA is pleased to honor Tracey for her years of service and leadership in the development finance industry.

CDFA Excellence Award: Program – TechGROWTH Ohio

CDFA is proud to award TechGROWTH Ohio with the CDFA Excellence Award. TechGROWTH Ohio connects entrepreneurs with assistance and offers valuable tools for growth and sources of funding to all early-stage, technologically-innovative companies. TechGROWTH is funded by an Ohio Third Frontier grant with support from Ohio University and private capital. TechGROWTH’s impact shows a leverage ratio of over \$9 of follow-on resources acquired for client companies for every \$1 of state money invested, achieving over \$218 million flowing into the Southeast Ohio region over its first seven years.

CDFA Excellence Award: Project – REEB Avenue Center

CDFA is proud to honor the REEB Avenue Center with the CDFA Excellence Award. The REEB Avenue Center will provide childcare, educational services, and supportive services for families, job training and workforce development. Estimated at over \$13 million, the renovation of the historic elementary school is funded by a large public-private partnership including the City of Columbus, the State of Ohio, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as numerous large contributions from local businesses and families.

The CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Conference Excellence Awards were formally presented at the 2015 CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable, in Columbus, OH on September 1.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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