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NEWS RELEASE

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**CDFA Launches National SSBCI Coalition
-- Coalition to Provide Advocacy for Innovative Small Business Program --**

Columbus, OH – The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) today announced the creation of the CDFA State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Coalition to provide advocacy and other support for states, municipalities and territories engaged in operating SSBCI small business lending programs.

"The SSBCI is a very innovative mechanism for federal economic development support, but like other federal programs, it does have certain challenges," said CDFA President & CEO Toby Rittner. "The Coalition will formalize the support CDFA has provided since the beginning of the program, and enable the Council and states to more effectively seek changes and secure the long-term success of the SSBCI and state support for small business lending."

The SSBCI was created as part of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 to assist small businesses seeking private loans. The U.S. Department of the Treasury administers the SSBCI, which allocates \$1.5 billion to the states in order to capitalize approved small business lending programs. These state programs aim to achieve a leverage ratio of one public dollar for every ten private dollars lent over the life of the SSBCI, which currently expires in 2017. States had committed \$250 million through SSBCI programs to small businesses through September 2012.

The SSBCI Coalition announcement comes at a critical time for the federal program. The focus of the Treasury and the states over the past two years has largely been on implementing the SSBCI and preparing new small business lending programs for operation. In 2013, states will be focused on the long-term success of SSBCI programs, which requires program marketing, administrative oversight, and loan origination.

The CDFA SSBCI Coalition will help the states, municipalities and territories by providing a recognizable and national source of program information, advocacy and communication. In addition, the Coalition will begin to lay the groundwork on Capitol Hill for the reauthorization of a second round of funding in the future.

CDFA is the leader in supporting the SSBCI. CDFA hosts the SSBCI Portal, a repository of state program documentation, and the SSBCI Webinar Series, a state-focused educational program. The highly popular series is returning in 2013, and states interested in registering can do so online at www.cdfa.net. The first webinar of 2013 will take place on February 27.

Formal participants of the CDFA SSBCI Coalition must be members of the Council. In addition to the Coalition, CDFA will be establishing a Coalition advisory committee to help guide this effort. States interested in joining the SSBCI Coalition or the advisory committee are urged to contact CDFA.

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.

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