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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA & The Food Trust Launch Partnership **—CDFA “Defining the Food System as an Asset Class” Project —**

Columbus, OH — With funding from the WK Kellogg Foundation, CDFA is researching how DFA's can become more engaged in developing localized food systems through traditional finance. CDFA aims to prove that the food system can become a defined asset class worthy of traditional investment. As part of this project, CDFA is partnering with The Food Trust to develop and produce a pilot project that will utilize traditional development finance tools to finance a food related development.

“CDFA is very excited to announce this pilot project with The Food Trust,” said Toby Rittner, President & CEO of CDFA. “This support will be invaluable towards defining and proving the viability of a food system asset class. We believe this is a big step forward for our work in food systems finance. With the support of The Food Trust, we intend to continue to shape our mission in advancing development finance knowledge, networks, and innovation.”

The goal of this pilot project is to use development finance to help build the food system in Pennsylvania. CDFA and The Food Trust will make this happen by bringing together a pilot project team which will include development finance agencies, private capital, foundations, and local food systems stakeholders. This team will regularly convene over the duration of the project and will consider various financing structures to determine the best fit.

“We're excited to have the opportunity to partner with CDFA on a potential Pennsylvania Food System Financing Pilot Project,” said John Weidman, Executive Vice President of The Food Trust. “Our region’s robust food system efforts would benefit from more resources and access to more capital; through collaboration with CDFA and groups across the state, we can catalyze the conversation around making the Pennsylvania food system a financeable asset class that could support us all in our efforts to provide access to healthy food across the commonwealth.”

Since 1992, The Food Trust has been working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food and information to make healthy decisions. The Food Trust's comprehensive approach includes improving food environments and teaching nutrition education in schools, working to increase healthy offerings to the community, and making affordable produce accessible. For more information on the great work that The Food Trust is doing, visit www.thefoodtrust.org.

More information about food systems and development finance is available at www.cdfa.net.

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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