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# PRESS RELEASE

Council of Development Finance Agencies  
100 East Broad Street, Suite 1200  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-705-1300  
[www.cdfa.net](http://www.cdfa.net)

**CONTACT:**

Toby Rittner  
President & CEO  
[trittner@cdfa.net](mailto:trittner@cdfa.net)

## 2019 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award

### —CDFA Announces Recipient of 2019 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award—

Columbus, OH - The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the recipient of the **2019 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award**. This year's winner was formally presented the award during a special ceremony at the CDFA National Development Finance Summit, in Tampa, Florida on November 7, 2019.

In 2011, the CDFA Board of Directors created the CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the development finance industry throughout their professional careers. In order to be eligible, candidates must have made innovative and lasting contributions that impact the way development finance programs are operated, managed, and administered. Individuals may also be eligible for the award if they have made significant legislative contributions to the advancement of new development finance tools, strategies, and approaches. This year's recipient is **Mike O'Donnell, Executive Director at Colorado Lending Source**.

Mike began his career in the United States in 1990 as the executive director of the University of Kansas Small Business Development Center. After the University of Kansas, Mike took the helm of a certified development company located in Lawrence, Kansas in 1997. In 2000, the opportunity arose to relocate to Colorado and join the nonprofit, mission-based lender, Colorado Lending Source. He began expanding outreach and capital access to new and existing small business owners across the length and breadth of Colorado.

Colorado Lending Source now offers four different types of loans, from \$5,000 up to \$5.5 million, and additionally provides back-office small business lending assistance to 54 community banks as a Lender Service Provider for Small Business Administration guaranteed loans. In 2018, Colorado Lending Source facilitated 221 loans to small business owners who created some 1,747 new jobs and had a \$331.7 million impact on the Colorado economy. Mike holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne and an MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia.

CDFA is honored to present **Mike O'Donnell** with this prestigious honor as the **2019 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award** winner.

Learn more about the Colorado Lending Source and their remarkably different business lending at [coloradolendingsource.org](http://coloradolendingsource.org)

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](http://www.cdfa.net).