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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Successfully Closes A 3-Year \$150,000 USDA Grant —CDFA Community Facilities Technical Assistance Program—

Columbus, OH — In 2020, the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) was awarded a grant from the **USDA Rural Development** to provide technical assistance to rural communities that have recently experienced a natural disaster. The goal of this program was to help rural communities utilize the USDA's Community Facilities Program along with identifying other potential development finance tools to aid in the rebuild and recovery after a natural disaster.

During this three-year grant period, CDFA successfully provided technical assistance to four rural communities: Puna Region, Hawai'i; Lake City, South Carolina; Southern Pines, North Carolina; and Menominee County, Wisconsin. Each community received one on-site visit to discuss the potential use of the USDA Community Facilities Program, a roadmap outlining recommendations and potential next steps, and ongoing support to apply for the USDA's Community Facilities Program.

CDFA helped the Puna region in Hawai'i experience sustainable economic recovery from the Kīlauea Volcano eruption by identifying the financing challenges and opportunities for resilience hubs that provide the local community with food, childcare, education, job training, and critical infrastructure. CDFA recommended a variety of financing and funding opportunities for Lake City, SC to assist in building a community center to combat stagnant economic growth, high crime rates, and high levels of obesity. CDFA assisted the Southern Pines Land & Housing Trust to discover financing opportunities to help the redevelopment of the Center for African American History, Cultural Arts and Business, which aims to preserve and advance African American culture. CDFA visited the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin to offer recommendations on financing the construction of a new clinic to increase access to care for tribal members.

In addition, CDFA created a transferable Rural Development Finance Toolkit of finance programs and other resources to leverage community facilities infrastructure in rural communities throughout the nation. This included three Rural Development Webinars, a Rural Development Finance Resource Center with over 600 resources, and a monthly Rural Finance Newsletter. All the reports and resources can be accessed [here](#)

"The successful completion of this grant exemplifies CDFA's enduring commitment to rural community development. The efforts we've undertaken have been truly transformative and meaningful," stated Toby Rittner, President & CEO of 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.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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