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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Recognizes Chris Lawson, DFCP

—Newest Graduate of the Prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program —

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to congratulate Chris Lawson, Executive Director of The Hamilton Mill in Cincinnati, OH, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. Mr. Lawson joins the ranks of fellow graduates who are recognized as the most qualified leaders in the development finance industry.

“We are excited to welcome Chris into the ranks of the DFCP program,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “Chris has been engaged with CDFA for many years and we are excited to continue to watch him grow and learn in his professional career.”

Chris Lawson is a lifelong resident of Greater Cincinnati. Chris holds a B.A. in Urban & Regional Planning, a Master’s in Public Administration with a focus on regional policy solutions and organizational dynamics and a second Master’s Degree in Environmental/Ecological Sciences with a focus on environmental policy and sustainable land-use. He serves on several notable regional and national boards and organizations, including an appointment to the Commerce Secretary’s Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee. Regionally, he serves on the executive committee for the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors and as board president of the Butler County Regional Transit Authority.

Currently, he serves as the Executive Director of The Hamilton Mill, a regional nonprofit incubator charged with assisting in the development of the “startup/innovation” economy. His work has been honored by the International Economic Development Council and the Ohio Economic Development Association for green/sustainable [cleantech] advancement, and creating one of the most Innovative Economic Development Strategies in the State of Ohio.

Chris has been recognized by numerous outlets including being named by the Cincinnati Business Courier as one of Greater Cincinnati’s 40 Under Forty. He is named one of the “Next Generation Leaders” in Public and Civic Affairs by the Northern Kentucky Chambers of Commerce. He is recognized as a “Rising Star” 40 under 40 in the U.S. economic development industry. He is named Development Counsellors International 40 under 40 Emerging Leaders in Innovative & Clean Energy Economy | Energy News Network. Chris is also a graduate of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce “Leadership Cincinnati Class 42”.

CDFA’s Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program is an intense training course learning experience and is the industry’s only comprehensive development finance professional certification program. The DFCP Program is designed to produce graduates with a comprehensive knowledge of development finance concepts, tools, and applicability as well as a deep understanding of the entire development finance spectrum. Graduates of the DFCP Program gain valuable knowledge and experience within the complex development finance industry and achieve a level of understanding unmatched by any other professional certification program.

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).

*CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation*

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