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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CDFA Announces Distinguished Development Finance State Agency Award  
—Presented to Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development—**

Columbus, OH – The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) as the winner of the 2016 CDFA Distinguished Development Finance State Agency Award.

The CDFA Excellence in Development Finance Awards recognizes outstanding development finance programs, agencies, leaders, projects, and success stories. These awards honor excellence in the use of financing tools for economic development, as well as individuals who champion these efforts.

DEED works every day to bring Minnesotans together to build a more prosperous state. They have found success by producing multiple resources such as statewide economic development program guides, how to guides on starting a new business, and even fact sheets to promote targeted industries. In addition to these resources DEED has multiple direct financing programs. The largest of these programs include the Minnesota Investment Fund, which provides funding to local governments so that they can make loans to assist with business expansion, and the Job Creation Fund, which can provide companies with up to 1 million dollars for construction and job creation initiatives.

“CDFA is proud to honor DEED this year. They are an exemplary organization using the development finance toolbox approach. From the bedrock tools to tools to support entrepreneurs, their toolbox is filled,” said Toby Rittner, President & CEO of CDFA.

The CDFA Excellence in Development Finance Awards will be formally presented at the 2016 CDFA National Development Finance Summit, in New Orleans, LA on November 3.

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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