# Pre and Post-Loan Closing and Servicing

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#### Who Is NDC?





#### **Technical Assistance**

- Create EDF systems
  - Business credit
  - Investment real estate
  - Affordable housing
- Deal structuring
- Negotiation and loan packaging





- Four-course Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) Certification Program™
- Four-course Housing Development Finance Professional (HDFP) Certification Program<sup>™</sup>
- Professional Development and Online Trainings
- Customized courses
- Sponsored Training
- Entrepreneurial training
- NDC Academy



#### **Financial and Development Services**

- Grow America Fund (GAF)
- NDC Corporate Equity Fund, L.P. (CEF)
- Housing and Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)
- HEDC New Markets, Inc. (HEDC-NM)
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)





 Advocate for community and economic development organizations and programs across the United States.





#### **Contractual relationships**

- Public entities
- Non-profit organizations



Awarding the loan is just the beginning of a longer process. This session will cover pre- and post-loan closing, including the documents that are needed in various collateral situations and the importance of file preparation. Also discussed will be establishing a servicing process to assure quick detection of issues within the RLF portfolio.



#### **Loan Review Procedures for RLFs**

- Loan Review Process
  - Composition of the loan review committee
    - Officials of the RLF (director, etc.)
    - Private sector lender
    - Accountant
    - Local economic development officials
    - Realtor/appraiser/contractor
    - Architect/engineer
    - Small business person



#### Loan Review Procedures for RLFs (cont.)

- Loan review criteria
  - Application requirements fulfilled
  - Quality of venture
  - Probability of success and payback
    - 10 credit questions
    - Is CF > D/S?
  - All potential risks and assumptions examined
  - Other pieces of financing in place
  - Terms and conditions of loan met
  - Loan is consistent with the RLF's goals and Administration Plan rules



### **Closing an RLF Loan**

#### **Closing Process**

- Commitment letter review and pre-closing conference
  with borrower and borrower's attorney
  - Review all the terms and conditions of the commitment letter to insure borrower's <u>understanding</u> of the terms and <u>agreement</u> with them
  - Schedule a pre-closing conference with <u>all</u> lenders to <u>identify</u> and <u>assign</u> responsibilities for the documents among the parties
  - Pre-closing conference will actually save the borrower money and establish your credibility with other lenders



#### **Document preparation**

- Closing the bank loan is the private lender's responsibility, but you must make sure it happens
- Closing the RLF loan is the responsibility of the Economic Development Staff person (or staff member assigned to program) and the RLF attorney - facilitated by creation of standard loan documents
- Standard loan documents make sure your attorney reviews them for legal issues specific to your state



#### Closing

- Closing involves both signature of requirements and follow-up to insure mortgages and collateral documents are filed and recorded
- Bank and RLF closing can be done separately or simultaneously
- Biggest surprise RLFs discover liens are not perfected because documents are not filed or not filed properly



- Major Closing Documents
  - Bank commitment letter
  - Promissory note
  - Loan agreement
  - UCC filing
  - Inter-creditor agreement
  - General security agreement
  - Opinion of counsel
  - Corporate guarantees
  - Personal guarantees
  - Hazard insurance and assignment





#### If you take Real Estate as collateral:

- Deed of trust or mortgage (attach appraisal)
- Title insurance
- Survey of property
  - Can be other documents depending on structure, location and ownership of the project
  - Depending on deal specifics, all of these documents are not always needed

Other Items that are good to obtain:

- Life insurance policy and assignment, if required by loan
- Succession Plan



#### **Bank Commitment Letter**

- Contract between borrower and lender executed when loan was approved
- State terms and conditions
  - Property description
  - Loan amount
  - Term of loan
  - Rate of loan
  - Collateral
  - Guarantees required
  - Special conditions



- Protects lender by giving ways out of the commitment based on conditions of the company
- Common problems
  - Not detailed enough
  - No time limits to terms and conditions



#### **Promissory Note**

- Business promises to repay debt (obligates borrower to the debt)
- Outlines monthly payments or refers to attached amortization table
- Defines
  - Amount of indebtedness
  - Collateral required





- Outlines
  - Pre-payment terms
  - Default rights
  - Liquidation of assets
  - Late fees
  - Personal guarantees
- Common problems
  - Improper description of repayment terms
  - Improperly signed
- Can include a personal guarantee provision



- Loan Agreement
  - Defines all terms and conditions of the loan
  - Includes representations and warranties that the borrower <u>can</u> legally borrow
  - Conditions of loan that must be met by borrower (legal documents)





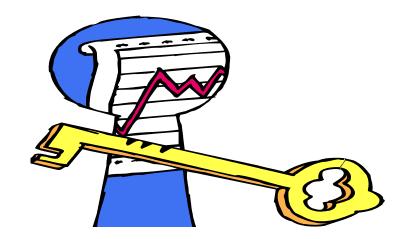
- Covenants to Be Met or Prevented while Borrowing
  - Affirmative
    - Pay loan
    - Pay other debts
    - Provide equity
    - Maintain site
    - Pay taxes
    - Overruns
    - Inspections
    - Provide regular financial statements
  - Negative
    - No extra debt
    - Cannot sell assets
    - No change in ownership
    - No change in project



- Events of default allows lender to accelerate or demand payment in full
  - Non-payment of RLF loan
  - Non-payment of other loans
  - False representations
  - Default on covenants
  - Insolvency
  - Judgments in excess of insurance coverage
  - Inability to get necessary permits



Problem - lack of financial performance and financial reporting covenants (key to successful portfolio management)





- Mortgage or Deed of Trust
  - Documents real estate collateral for loan and places a lien upon subject property
    - Provides legal description of property
    - Notice of lien must be filed with governmental unit with jurisdiction over real estate (typically the county)



- Must be supported by
  - Evidence of recording the lien (deed of trust)
  - Title report showing no prior liens
  - Title insurance guaranteeing a secure lien



- Common mortgage problems
  - Inaccurate description of the property solved by having a current survey of property
  - Failure to record lien in county
  - When refinanced, failure to change or add new amount



- General Security Agreement for Financing M&E
  - Used to secure machinery and equipment (chattel) as collateral for a loan
  - Notice of lien must be filed with Secretary of State - some states <u>also</u> require filing with county



- Uniform Commercial Code Filings
  - Notice to the world of your indebtedness
  - Legal filing of notice on machinery and equipment - <u>perfects the lien</u>
  - Description of collateral
  - Date is critical first to file will be first satisfied



- UCC is on personal property mortgages on real estate
- UCCs expire every five years date will be essential part of tickler file in loan portfolio management system



- Common problems
  - UCCs are not filed
  - UCCs are not renewed (every five years)
  - Improper collateral description
  - Check for previous filings
  - May need to file a blanket lien prior to the purchase of equipment if serial numbers are not available and re-file lien after purchase



- Inter-creditor Agreement
  - Outlines relationship of primary lenders to subordinated lenders
  - Specifies
    - Security positions
    - Events to occur in case of a default
    - Notification procedures



- Shows that the public sector lender has power in any potential negotiation
- Common problem inter-creditor agreement does not exist; not needed when RLF provides 100 percent of the financing



- Opinion of Counsel
  - Loan is legally binding on the borrower
  - The business is properly organized and legal
  - The borrower will not violate any laws
  - The security deeds are legal and enforceable
  - There are or have not been any adverse actions





- Tips on Disbursement
  - Control how your dollars are spent
  - Think of who the end recipient is make check out to the supplier, not the company
  - Make "periodic" draw vs. "lump sum" draw downs especially on construction projects



- Counter checks signed by RLF as lender and the company as borrower
- Protect your collateral position!
- Contract financing disburse directly to vendors and receive payments from contractors



- Escrow Accounts
  - Escrow accounts set up when funds cannot be disbursed at closing
    - Most common reason go to closing but all documents not yet signed (time deadline requires closing)
    - Escrow may also be "normal" way of doing business for lender - e.g., HUD requires escrow accounts for some programs
    - Projects with several lenders may require that funds go into escrow to protect lien positions



# **Closing an RLF Loan (cont.)**

- Critical issue provide specific instructions to escrow agent regarding actions to be taken
  - Escrow agent can be bank or RLF's attorney
  - Escrow agent makes no decision follows your directions



#### **Purpose of Servicing Your Portfolio**

- Monitor performance of individuals loans
  - Continued repayment ability
  - Strength and condition of collateral
  - Adequate insurance coverage

#### Who does Portfolio Management/Loan Servicing

- Designated staff to work with businesses regularly and catch any small issues before they become big problems; or
- Outsource loans to Portfolio Management companies



- Preventive strategy keep minor problems from becoming major problems
  - Active servicing is the best solution for delinquencies
  - Cost effective approach to safeguarding capital base and earnings potential
  - Invest in personnel to manage this task



- Servicing Roles of the RLF Lender
  - Billings and collections
    - Use terms in note, coupon book system or contract out billing responsibilities
    - Enforce timely repayment with penalties for late payment - borrowers must perceive that you are serious about being paid
    - Develop clear and enforceable policies on delinquencies to ensure that collections are taken seriously



- Key factor ongoing portfolio management
  - Repayment ability of the loan tracking of loan repayments
  - Status of collateral and guarantees securing the loan
  - Compliance with loan covenants





- Annual review process ongoing portfolio management
  - Takes place within 60 to 90 days after the end of the borrower's fiscal year - divide portfolio by quarters, if possible
  - Identify non-fiscal year-end borrowers





- Involves the following steps
  - Spreading and analyzing financial statements
  - Updating credit and payment history
  - Verifying collateral and guarantee status (need updated personal financial statement)
  - Checking for loan covenant violations through financial statement analysis
  - Preparing status report
  - Developing action plan to correct delinquencies
  - Setting deadlines for steps in action plan



## **Portfolio Review Summary Sheet**

- Borrower
- Type of Business
- Closing & Maturity Date
- Interest Rate and Payment Amount
- Adjustment Period Information
- Fiscal Year End
- Next Update
- Next Annual Review
- Current Classification
- Previous Classification
- Loan Officer/Servicing Officer



- Note: These Deadlines Must Be Entered into Tickler File
  - Date of Final Disbursement
  - Maturity Date
  - Due date for life insurance premium; review coverage
  - Due date for hazard and liability insurance; review coverage
  - Property tax(es) due
  - Lease renewal date
  - Updates on corporate and personal financial statements (including those of guarantors)
  - Check on corporate guarantees
  - UCC renewal dates (must renew every 5 years)



- Number of Jobs at Application Date
- Number of Jobs to Be Created As of
- Numbers of Jobs Created As of Minorities Women
- Other Applicable Community Impact Thresholds
- Financial Statements (A,Q,NR)
- Requested
- Received
- Violation Covenant Requirement



- Financial Condition Concerns
- Loan Documentation Deficiencies: Changes
  - Any changes in insurance?
  - Business license renewed?
  - Any changes in leases? Other?
  - Changes in ownership?
  - Has client incurred additional debt?
  - Property taxes current?
- Site Visit
- Date
- Has Collateral Been Maintained?



Reason for Classification

Corrective Action Plan

Site visits performed annually to discuss/update financial condition and examine loan collateral

- Compare existing collateral to collateral originally pledged
- Report on condition of the collateral
- Ask questions regarding future plans, other lenders



- Loan classification system
  - Each loan classified based on
    - Payment status
    - Financial condition
    - Collateral value
    - Violation of financial covenants
  - Classification system becomes major management tool for identifying priorities for servicing in portfolio
  - Develop classification for loans that evaluates the relative risk/performance of the loans
  - Classify existing portfolio to identify problem loans and potential problem loans



- Managing delinquencies and workouts
  - Develop defined policies and written procedures to handle delinquent loans
  - Consider transferring responsibility from servicer to "work-out" specialist or committee



- Conduct new credit analysis to use as basis for generating possible workout strategies such as
  - Extend term
  - Lower rate
  - Deferral of payments
  - Partial moratoriums
  - Refinancing
  - Infusion of additional capital
- Work closely with senior lender(s) in developing strategy
- Prepare cost/benefit analysis to weigh different options (should undertake prior to abandoning collateral)



- Warning signs in portfolio loans
  - Drop in cash
  - Slow down in collections
  - Slow down in inventory turnover
  - Large increases in accounts payable or accruals
  - Rising debt to equity ratios
  - Shrinking margins
  - Increasing bad debt losses
  - Notices of cancellation of life insurance or other insurance



- Portfolio reporting
  - Depends on funding source
  - Monitor and report loan payments monthly
  - Monitor job creation and other economic development compliance issues
  - Prepare annual report on active portfolio
  - More emphasis on community impacts to satisfy non-traditional funding sources such as foundations, NMTC investors, etc.



# **In Conclusion**

- Closing a Loan
  - Gather appropriate collateral documentation
  - Personal and Corporate Guarantees
  - Gather any leveraged lending info
  - Work with your attorney for all legal documents
- Portfolio Management
  - Visit Borrower and gather updated information on a regular basis (at least annually)
  - Contact borrower if there is a missed payment sooner rather than later
  - Keep a classification system to track good, bad and problem loans
  - Look to outsource Portfolio Management
- RLFs Improve Communities, Businesses and the Lives of Target-area Residents





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