

for joining the conversation today.
Send us your questions and comments!

Food Systems Finance Webinar Series: Financing Food Systems Through FinTech

Welcome

The Broadcast will begin at 2:00 PM (Eastern)



for joining the conversation today.
Send us your questions and comments!

Food Systems Finance Webinar Series: Financing Food Systems Through FinTech

Moderator



Ariel Miller

Manager, Research & Technical Assistance Council of Development Finance Agencies

See all of CDFA's resources online at www.cdfa.net/resources



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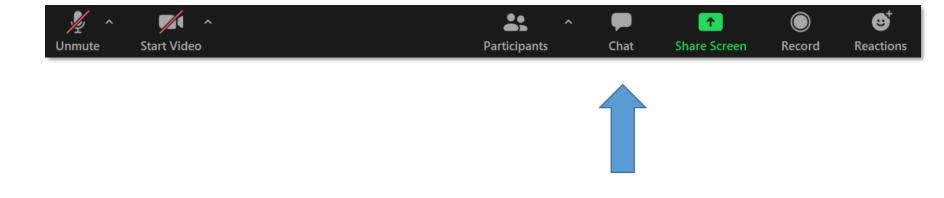
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Submit your questions to CDFA staff



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Defining the Food System Asset Class

For the past several years, CDFA has been researching how development finance agencies can become more engaged in developing localized food systems through traditional finance approaches. The premise of this project is to suggest and then prove that, if organized and defined properly, the food system can become a defined asset class worthy of traditional investment. Through this work, CDFA aims to advance opportunities and leverage capital to scale local food systems, increase access to better food, and create new living wage jobs in communities across the country.

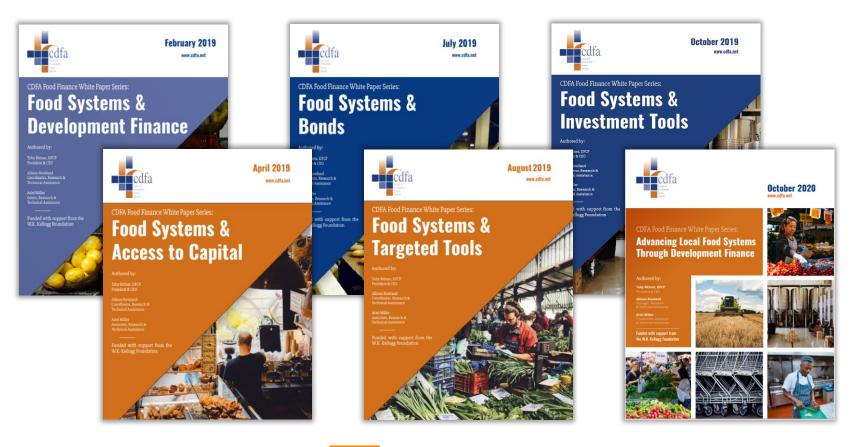




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CDFA Food Finance White Paper Series





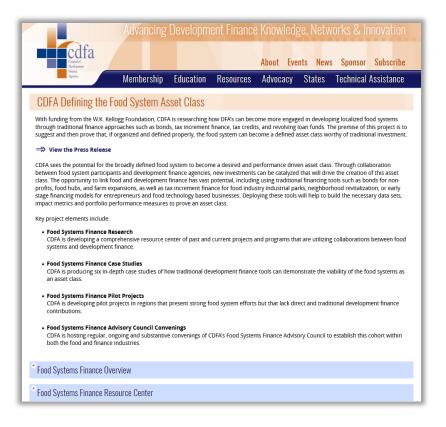


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CDFA Food Systems Finance Resources





https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html



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Food Systems Finance Webinar Series: Financing Food Systems Through FinTech

Panelists



Topiltzin Gomez Chief of Staff Honeycomb Credit



Brad McConnell
CEO
Allies for Community Business



Dan MillerFounder & CEO
Steward



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Panelist



Topiltzin GomezChief of Staff
Honeycomb Credit



Building communities, one small business at a time

Small businesses are a key part of any community impact thesis, yet....

Banks are undersupplying capital to small businesses

businesses that receive no outside funding at launch¹

decrease in small business loan volume between 2007 and 2018²

of SBA loans in 2019 went to Blackowned businesses³

Returns from business lending don't stay in the community

community bank is acquired or dissolved per day on average⁴

94% average interest rate of online small business lenders⁵

of small businesses searching for loans have applied to online lenders⁶

Kauffman Foundation, Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs: Removing Barriers

^{2.} Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council

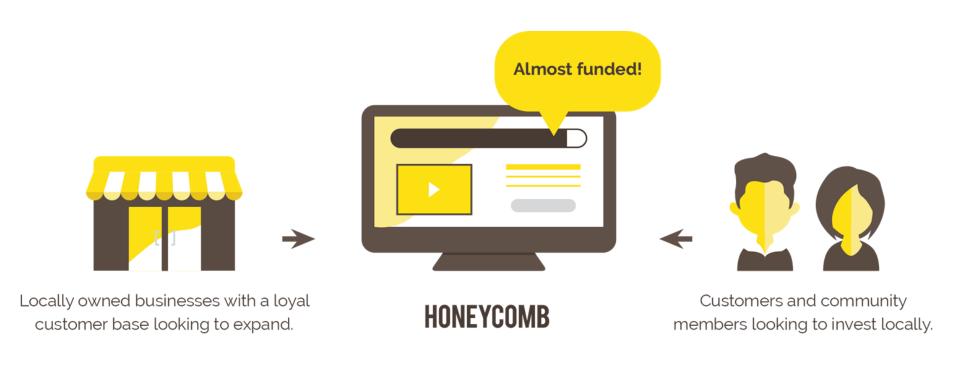
^{3.} The Business Journals, One System, Unequal Access

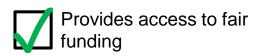
^{4.} FDIC

Opportunity Fund, Unaffordable and Unsustainable: The New Business Lending

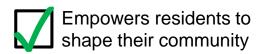
^{6.} Federal Reserve. 2019 Small Business Credit Survey

Honeycomb tackles these trends headon with our loan crowdfunding platform









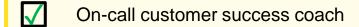
Businesses use Honeycomb to raise fair capital from their own communities





Honeycomb helps business owners access local investment to create jobs

Honeycomb helps businesses with:



✓ Weekly campaign strategy meetings

SEC filing support

Outreach tools and templates

Access to the Honeycomb investor network

Pitch opportunities and coaching



Square Cafe Pittsburgh, PA

Sheree crowdfunded a \$250,000 loan from Honeycomb to expand her restaurant and create **30 living** wage jobs



UnBar Cafe Cleveland, OH

Melissa crowdfunded a \$30,000 loan from Honeycomb to stabilize her business and **rehire employees** for her coffee shop

Companies that raise on Honeycomb see a 60% average increase in YoY revenue

The Honeycomb portfolio

Campaigns funded (since 2018): 102

Community dollars deployed: \$4.7M

Community investors: 3,000+

% woman-owned: 49%

% minority-owned: 24%

% in LMI communities: 50%



Squash the Beef Cleveland, OH



Rolling Pepperoni Pittsburgh, PA



The Upperow Detroit, MI



8 Myles Washington DC

Businesses across the country are turning to local investment













Case study 1: Squash the Beef turns social capital into community capital

Squash the Beef – Cleveland, OH Founded their catering operation in 2019.

Expanded to a food trailer in 2020 with \$30,000 of community capital from 78 investors.

"We had only been in business for a little over a year, but we knew most big banks required a business to be in business for 5 years. Our customers are our community." It's no surprise that Squash the Beef's customer base was integral to the success of their Honeycomb campaign!

- Candace Maiden, Co-owner of Squash the Beef



Case study 2: Iron Born Pizza ushers the first crowdfunded/public loan stack

Iron Born Pizza - Pittsburgh, PA Expanded from a pick up window operation to a second location in the Strip District.

Raised \$107,000 from 49 investors to pay off a 40% APR Kabbage loan. As a result, Iron Born was able to access a \$125,000 loan from the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

"Even though we had a good track record," Tolman recalls, "that isn't always enough for a traditional bank, particularly for refinancing conversations. Honeycomb and our investors really came through for us"

- Pete Tolman, Owner of Iron Born Pizza





Takeaways

Dormant capital is in every community. Investment crowdfunding can wake it up.

People can fund their economy. Broad financial participation is more fun, generates stronger businesses, and builds local wealth.

Institutions can use the crowd as signal. Foundations, banks, and economic development organizations are recognizing community capital as a growing part of capital stacks.



Let's rebuild Main Street, together!

www.honeycombcredit.com



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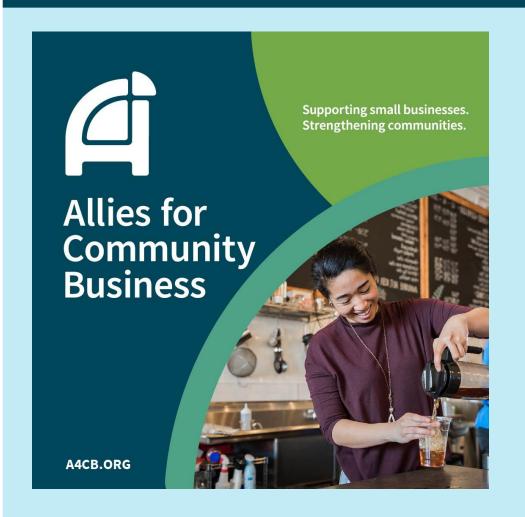


Brad McConnellCEO
Allies for Community Business



Our Vision and Mission





Our vision is that entrepreneurs from any background can start and grow businesses that create generational wealth for their families and communities.

Our mission is to provide the capital, coaching, and collaboration entrepreneurs need to grow great businesses in their communities.

Our 2020 Impact









15,000Community Businesses
Coached



22,000Community Businesses
Funded

Capital





Loans

Allies for Community Business offers loans between \$500 and \$100,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses at fair prices.

Grants

We frequently manage grant programs with partners who share our mission to provide funds to business owners who will put those dollars to good use in their communities.

Loans



Overview

Allies for Community Business offers term loans and lines of credit between \$500 and \$100,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses in Illinois and Indiana.

We are a little different from other lenders: we do not use credit scores and do not put liens on your personal assets. Instead, we evaluate how well you have managed your debts over the past two years and how much cash you have available to make monthly loan payments to us.

Terms and policies

We can approve loan requests in as little as 24 hours for eligible borrowers, but we often will ask you follow-up questions that will take additional time.

We charge 9% in interest and 1% in closing fees which means your APR will be approximately 10%, depending on whether you pay your closing fee up front or over time.

Our standard term is 24 months, but we can adjust that if required.

Apply for a loan at a4cb.org/loans

Loans up to \$25K



EITHER

STEP 1 : Credit Report

- For the past 24 months, no bankruptcies or collections larger than \$500?
- For the last 12 months, at least one open line and all payments on time?
- Today, at least 25% available to borrow on all open revolving credit?

Loan = 1.5x the largest amount borrowed and repaid over the last 12 months (excluding student loans)

OR

STEP 2: Financial Statements

- Loan max where debt service coverage >= 1.25 using tax returns
- Loan max where debt to income ratio <= .35 using bank statements
- Loan max where DSC >= 1.25 and DTI <= .35 using financial statements

OR

STEP 3: Credit Builder

Loan <= \$2.5K for otherwise ineligible borrowers, if all debts are current.

Loans between \$25K and \$100K



BOTH

STEP 1 : Credit Report

- For the past 24 months, no bankruptcies or collections larger than \$500?
- For the last 12 months, at least one open line and all payments on time?
- Today, at least 25% available to borrow on all open revolving credit?

AND

STEP 2: Financial Statements

- Loan max where debt service coverage >= 1.25 using tax returns
- Loan max where debt to income ratio <= .35 using bank statements
- Loan max where DSC >= 1.25 and DTI <= .35 using financial statements

Coaching





1:1 Coaching

Allies for Community Business provides free 1:1 coaching to anyone who wants to start or grow their business.

Group Coaching

We provide frequent business classes online, and run cohort programs such as the Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab.

1:1 Coaching



For Early-stage Businesses

- Assessing the Business
- Getting Started
- Preparing to Launch
- Planning for Stability

For Emerging Businesses

- Improving Financial Management
- Defining Business Operations
- Preparing for Growth

For Established Businesses

- Participate in Collaborations
- Attract Outside Investors
- Planning for Succession or Acquisition

Schedule a free coaching session at a4cb.org/schedule

Collaboration





Kitchen Space

Through The Hatchery, we provide a wide range of services and networking opportunities to help food and beverage entrepreneurs at every stage.

Licensing

Allies for Community Business can help you secure the business license you need to operate legally in the City of Chicago.

Procurement

We can help you secure your Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE) or Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) certification and can then help you secure contracts from our institutional partners.

Kitchen Space







Grow Food Businesses at The Hatchery

- 54 private kitchens leasable by year
- 5 shared kitchen spaces rentable by the hour
- Dry/cold storage, loading docks, and meeting spaces

Train with Great Chefs with Impact Culinary

- 12-week training program for aspiring young chefs
- Classroom courses to prepare for a restaurant job
- Paid internship at a Chicagoland restaurant

Promote Local Products at the Garfield Park Neighborhood Market

- Year-round indoor and outdoor market
- Showcase of West Side products across industries
- Prep space and storage inside the building

Prepare for Good Jobs with ICNC

- Adult training and job placement
- Support for West Side employers
- Business advice on hiring

Licensing and Procurement



Licensing

As one of the eight new Chicago Business Centers, we can help you secure the Chicago business license you need without traveling to City Hall.

Procurement

Allies for Community Business can help you secure your Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE) or Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) certification and can then help you secure contracts from our institutional partners.

Schedule a free coaching session at a4cb.org/schedule

Partner With Us





- Learn more at a4cb.org
- Apply for a loan at a4cb.org/loans
- Schedule a free coaching session at a4cb.org/schedule
- Refer an entrepreneur at a4cb.org/clients
- Follow us @Allies4CB
- Support our mission at a4cb.org/donate



Questions?

Brad McConnell CEO info@a4cb.org 312-275-3000



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Dan MillerFounder & CEO
Steward



Regenerative Agriculture: A New Way Forward





Global Demand for Sustainable Products Continues to Grow

US sustainable food sales are expected to grow by **\$63Bn** from 2019 to 2023, a 13.5% per year increase (<u>Business Wire</u>)

83%

American consumers report having purchased organic in the last year.

Organic Trade Association 10x

INCREASE

Sales of ethical goods & services have grown from **\$3Bn to \$30Bn** over the last 20 years

Financial Times

40%

OR MORE

People will pay a premium for identified local ingredients.

Penn State, Hospitality

<u>Management</u>

RISE OF REGENERATIVE / LOCALLY-SOURCED PRODUCT

sweetgreen







As Does Demand for Agriculture-Related Impact Investment

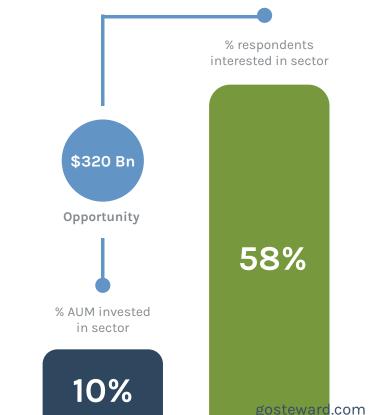
 According to the Financial Times, net inflows to US Sustainable Investment Funds quadrupled in 2019 - growing to +\$20Bn

• Despite this clear demand, AUM in agriculture-related impact investment has drastically lagged interest⁽¹⁾

(1) 2018 GIIN Impact Survey, 1,340 organizations surveyed

Food & Agriculture Investments⁽¹⁾

2018 Global Impact Investor Network (GIIN) Survey



Yet Regenerative Farmers Still have Limited Access to Capital





Dependent on government subsidies + loan programs.



Rigid underwriting process



Catered to high volume commodity producers



Limited private financing options







Eric Kessler, founder Arabella Advisors, impact investing advisory

Financing the Global Transition to Regenerative Agriculture is a Once in a Generation Market Opportunity

500,000 farms in the US expected to adopt "climate smart" practices by 2025⁽¹⁾

Project Drawdown projects that 270M hectares representing hundreds of billions of dollars in global farmland will convert to regenerative agriculture over the next 30 years⁽²⁾



- (1) Kellogg plans to support 500,000 farmers with "climate-smart" agricultural practices by 2025
- (2) Based on Project Drawdown regenerative agriculture report + 2017 US Farm Census Data



Created by Co-Founder of Fundrise, the Largest Real Estate Crowdfunding Platform





Dan Miller | Founder

- Dan was previously Co-Founder, President and Director of Fundrise
 - +\$1Bn AUM and over 100,000 unique investors
- His passion for agriculture stems from his maternal family, which has been farming on the Eastern Shore of Maryland since the 1880s
- He started Steward in 2017 to apply his learnings from Fundrise to the regenerative agriculture industry



Dan has already invested millions of dollars to bootstrap Steward and our loan portfolio



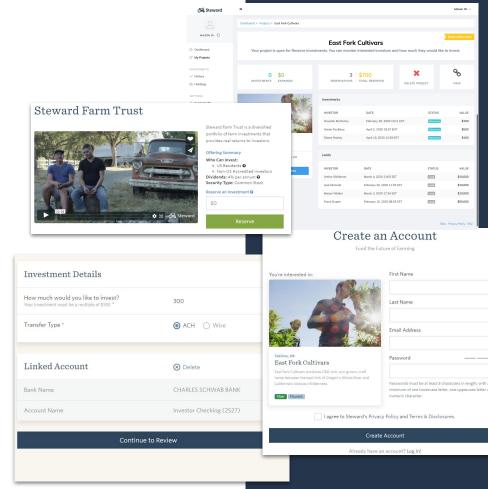
The Steward Platform

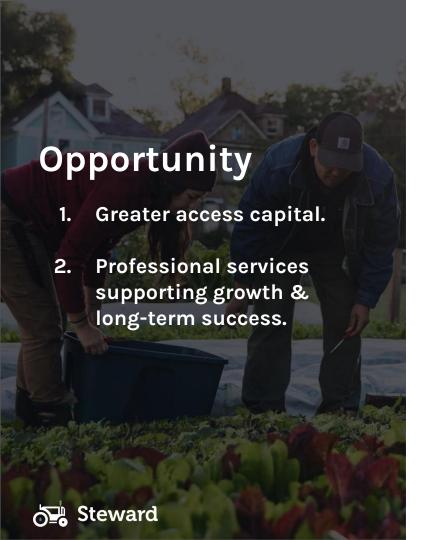
- 3,500+ farmers have created profiles on Steward
- 100+ farms registered for our microloan program
- \$4.5M already deployed across 20 farms



Accessible Platform for Regenerative Farmers & Responsible Lenders

- Flexibly structured financing & compliance software
- · Communicate with both borrowers and lenders
- · Direct access to capital
- Find talent to support your needs





Equipping Regenerative Farms with the Capital They Need to Grow

Steward Lending Platform

Steward funds private commercial loans to regenerative agriculture businesses. Qualified lenders buy "pieces" of loans through a participated loan model.

Steward Growth Services



Funding Loans



Bookkeeping



E-Commerce



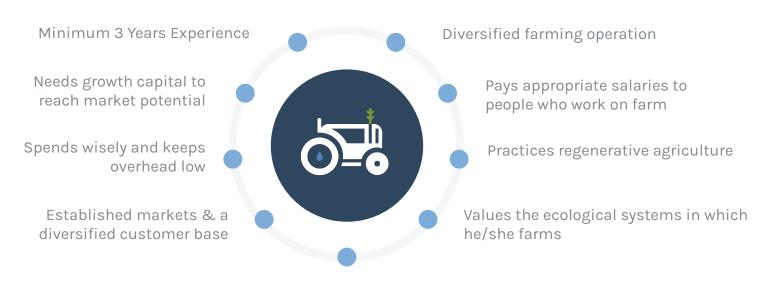
Grant writing



Compliance

Who is the Typical Steward Borrower?

Steward's borrowers have a direct sales model and are not dependent on low-cost labor or high fixed cost investments like herbicides & heavy machinery



Small to medium size farm (1-100 acres, larger for livestock)



CASE STUDY

East Fork Cultivars

East Fork desired to expand into craft hemp production, but finding the right financial backing was a major challenge.

Start Date: 2018

Loan Structure: First Mortgage Loan (Senior Secured)

Loan Size: \$640.000.00

Annual Interest Rate: 9.5%

Term: 5 years

Farm Products: East Fork is one of the leading CBD-focused hemp farms in the world. They take pride in their sun-grown, healthy, ethical production, & commitment to regenerative practices

Use of Funds: Purchased 24 acres directly adjacent to their existing farm, tripling the size of the operation. The loan also supports soil preparation and improved post-harvest

processing facilities to cure and dry hemp.

Steward Fees:

- · 2% origination fee
- 1% annual servicing fee

Other Key Terms:

• East Fork also uses Steward for bookkeeping & will leverage our platform again for a microloan



Location: Takilma, OR

Steward Investment Products



Individual Farm Loans

- On May 22, 2020, the US District Court for the Southern District of NY ruled in favor of the view that loans are not securities
- That decision allows Steward to rapidly advance our individual farm loan program
- To date, we have successfully funded 29 individual farm projects, and raised \$2.7M



Short-Term Credit

- Provides short-term bridge loans, giving regenerative agriculture businesses swift access to capital
- Used for immediate short-term financial needs that must be met to maintain continuous production or pursue time-sensitive opportunities
- Semi-liquid, 9-month loan term, offering fixed 5% annual interest, paid monthly
- Ability to withdraw funds at any time with 90 days' notice.





Steward is a Certified B Corp and Public Benefit Corporation

We Strive To

- Preserve natural resources
- Reduce environmental impact
- · Maintain soil health
- Increase biodiversity
- · Protect water quality

- Promote fair wages
- Increase the number of farmers and ranchers working towards meeting society's food needs
- Without compromising the planet's ecosystems and natural resources





"As many people as possible should share in the ownership of the land and thus be bound to it by economic interest, by the investment of love and work, by family loyalty, by memory and tradition"

Wendell Berry, The Unsettling of America (1977)







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Upcoming Events



REGISTER NOW

AUGUST 2-12, 2021

CDFA VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL

PRESENTED BY THE CDFA TRAINING INSTITUTE



CDFA SSBCI Briefing

Friday, July 16, 2021 @ 1:00 PM Eastern

CDFA // BNY Mellon Development Finance Webcast Series: How Healthcare is Investing in Communities Tuesday, July 20, 2021 @ 2:00 PM Eastern

CDFA-Bricker PACE Webinar Series: Advancing Multi-Family Housing & Renewable Energy Goals with PACE Tuesday, July 27, 2021 @ 2:00 PM Eastern

Register online at <u>www.cdfa.net</u>



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