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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Announces 2023 CDFA Equitable Lending Learning Series

—Created in Partnership with Lendistry—

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is excited to announce the CDFA Equitable Lending Learning Series, created in partnership with Lendistry, a minority-led small business lender, and The Center by Lendistry (The Center), a nonprofit that provides business education.

The CDFA Equitable Lending Learning Series will provide in-depth instruction to small business lenders on loan fund policies, lending processes, and other practices that remove barriers to capital and proactively advance economic justice. This Learning Series will offer five, three-hour opportunities designed primarily for current or prospective lenders in the development finance industry. Each session will combine historical background and framing of a challenge in the lending community with a deep dive into strategies to address the issue. This education will be followed by examples to demonstrate how these strategies can be implemented by lenders to benefit underserved borrowers. Technical topics covered in this Learning Series will include evaluating risk, loan fund capitalization, underwriting strategies, reaching target borrowers, and program design.

“CDFA is grateful to Lendistry and The Center for collaborating with us on this Learning Series,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “With small businesses still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting to recent inflation, now is the time to learn about and embrace strategies that unlock capital for underserved borrowers in an equitable manner.”

Lendistry is a minority-led small business lender dedicated to supporting access to capital through multiple avenues. “Lendistry was formed to make a real impact on underserved small businesses through access to capital,” says Everett K. Sands, CEO of Lendistry. “The pandemic proved that our business model was on the right track, we’ve learned a great deal more, and, most importantly, we’ve taken swift action to innovate new solutions. We’re happy to share our knowledge if it helps create an ecosystem in which all small businesses get a fair chance at responsible financing.”

“The American small business owner profile is changing. Small businesses are more likely to be started by women, minorities, income, and language-diverse communities, which requires our capital access systems to evolve,” said Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, President and CEO of The Center by Lendistry. “The Center is proud to partner with CDFA to provide knowledge and strategies so that small business lenders can adapt and respond with new and effective models of deploying capital.”

The first session on Evaluating Risk, May 23, 1:00-4:00 PM Eastern, will provide an overview of the history of risk assessment in lending, discuss technical strategies and best practices for conducting a more equitable evaluation of borrowers while maintaining sustainability, and share examples of how these approaches can be put into action. Learn more about the 2023 CDFA Equitable Lending Learning Series at cdfa.net/e/2023EquitableLending.

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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