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PRESS RELEASE

Council of Development Finance Agencies
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CDFA Recognizes Joshua Smith, DFCP

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

Dublin, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to announce Joshua A. Smith, President & CEO of the Butler County Finance Authority, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Mr. Foster joins the ranks of fellow graduates who are recognized as the most qualified leaders in the development finance industry.

“CDFA is always looking to engage the best and brightest in development finance with this program, and we are happy to welcome Joshua into the ranks of DFCP graduates,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP, President & CEO of CDFA. “Our hope is that through their participation in the DFCP program, graduates leave ready to employ development finance tools in the communities they serve. We look forward to seeing what Joshua will accomplish in his career.”

Mr. Smith serves as President & CEO of the Butler County Finance Authority, leading development finance, real estate, infrastructure, and redevelopment initiatives across Butler County. Since joining BCFA in April 2024, he has expanded its financing tools and partnerships to support business growth, job creation, and community development. In 2025, BCFA achieved designation as a Department of the Treasury Certified Development Entity and established a Jobs & Development Bond fund, further strengthening its capacity to support investment and economic growth throughout the region.

Previously, Mr. Smith served as City Manager of Hamilton, Ohio, from 2010 to 2024. He oversaw a \$400 million annual budget, more than \$1 billion in capital improvements, and major economic development projects. He brings more than 25 years of local-government leadership experience in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Mr. Smith holds a Master of Public Administration from Iowa State University. His executive education includes programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied innovation, organizational strategy, and emerging solutions to public-sector challenges. He also completed executive education at Harvard University, the University of Virginia’s Senior Executive Institute, and the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute, further developing his leadership and economic development expertise.

Mr. Smith is married to Frances Smith, a commercial real estate professional. They enjoy family time, boating, and traveling. His passions include golf, chess, and reading.

CDFA’s Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program is an intense training course learning experience 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.

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