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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **CDFA Recognizes William Smith, DFCP**

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

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to announce William Smith, Economic Development Manager for the City of Douglasville, Georgia, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Mr. Smith joins the ranks of fellow graduates who are recognized as the most qualified leaders in the development finance industry.

“The CDFA team is excited to welcome William as the newest graduate of the DFCP program,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “He is an excellent representative of the excellence we love to see in our industry. Our hope is for every DFCP graduate to be equipped to drive meaningful, impactful finance initiatives in their communities. We believe William is already making great strides towards accomplishing this goal in his career.”

Mr. Smith, EDFP, DFCP, serves as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Douglasville, Georgia, where he leads initiatives focused on downtown revitalization, redevelopment strategy, and community-centered economic growth. With over a decade of experience in economic development, public finance, and real estate analysis, Mr. Smith specializes in aligning public tools with private investment to produce durable, place-based outcomes.

Prior to joining the City of Douglasville, Mr. Smith served as a Real Estate Analyst at Invest Atlanta, the City of Atlanta’s economic development authority. In that role, he supported complex real estate transactions and public-private partnerships, working on incentive structures, redevelopment financing, and investment analysis aimed at inclusive growth, neighborhood stabilization, and catalytic development.

Mr. Smith holds a Master of Public Policy from Georgia State University. He also studied at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, England, where he focused on small-region economic development and local governance. His academic and professional work includes a comparative study of economic development models, with international exposure across the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong.

In addition to graduating from the Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program, Mr. Smith earned the Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) certification in 2018, reflecting advanced training in development finance, deal structuring, public incentives, and downtown and corridor-based redevelopment strategies.

Mr. Smith remains actively engaged in civic and alumni leadership, contributing his expertise through the Morehouse College Alumni Chapter, and is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His approach to economic development is grounded in a Burmese proverb: “Water can wear away even the hardest rock,” a reminder that sustained, collective effort—not spectacle—creates lasting community change.

Mr. Smith resides in Southwest Atlanta, enjoys football and hiking with his dog, Roscoe, and, with his wife, is raising their sons, Alexander and Ilias.

CDFA’s Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program is an intense training course learning experience and is the industry’s only comprehensive development finance professional certification program. The DFCP Program is 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](http://www.cdfa.net).

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