



THRIVE TOGETHER



CDFA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

IN COLLABORATION WITH



2026-2027 Mentorship Program Kick-Off

Wednesday, July 22, 2026



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Council of Development Finance Agencies





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- Welcoming Remarks
- Program Overview
- Icebreaker: Poll Questions
- Presentation: Pitch to Thrive
- Breakout Rooms: Group Exercises
- Breakout Room Reports
- Sponsor Remarks
- The Journey Ahead





Noelle Sheets

Vice President, CDFA and Executive Director, CDFA Foundation
Council of Development Finance Agencies





Welcome to the CDFA Mentorship Program: **Thrive Together**

- Member-exclusive program
- Designed to foster personal and professional growth
- Built on the belief that **we thrive together** through connection, reflection, and support



Program Highlights: Roles and Expectations

Mentor

- Share experience, insight, and feedback
- Reflect on personal journey and help mentees explore goals and values
- Stay connected to emerging talent

Mentee

- Take initiative
- Be curious
- Reflect on strengths and challenges
- Set personal and professional goals
- Stay open to feedback



Program Highlights: **Purpose & Intention**

- Space to explore vision and develop goals
- Tools for building resilience and navigating uncertainty
- CDFA staff available for support and guidance





Program Highlights:

Four Themes

- Thrive from Experience
- Thrive with Purpose
- Thrive with Intention
- Thrive to Advance

A Multimodal Format

- CDFA led virtual meetups
- Self-guided one-on-one sessions
- In-person LIVE event at the National Development Finance Summit (optional)



Poll Questions:





Pitch to Thrive





CDFA Mentorship Program – Pitch to Thrive

Crafting & Delivering a Personalized Elevator Pitch

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

What is an Elevator Pitch?



PURPOSE

Spark interest

Create a personal connection

Open the door to deeper conversation and collaboration

CONTENT

Concise, purposeful, and engaging

LENGTH

30–60 seconds



Why is it Important?

- Sets the tone for how others **perceive you**
- Highlights your **unique value**
- Gives you **clarity** and **confidence** when introducing yourself



The Key Components

- Who **you** are
- Your **professional focus**
- Something interesting about **your work or journey**
- Why you're **excited to connect**



Component Breakdown

Your Name + Focus Area

Katie Endres – Building knowledge, strengthening relationships, and expanding professional networks in development finance

What You're Working On

Growing CDFA's community and creating meaningful opportunities for learning, collaboration, and engagement

Your Purpose for Networking

To build relationships that foster collaboration and drive meaningful impact nationwide

Sample Pitch



“Hi, I'm Katie Endres, Senior Director of Knowledge and Networks at CDFA. My work focuses on building knowledge, strengthening relationships, and expanding professional networks in development finance. Right now, I'm focused on growing CDFA's community by creating meaningful opportunities for learning, collaboration, and engagement. I'm excited to connect with others who are passionate about strengthening communities, and I'm here to build relationships that foster collaboration and drive meaningful impact. ”



Helpful Tips

Crafting Your Pitch

- Tailor to your audience
- Use clear language
- Emphasize value
- Be conversational

Delivering Your Pitch

- Practice aloud
- Watch tone and body language
- Smile and maintain eye contact
- Be adaptable



Breakout Room Exercise

- Each program participant will spend 5-10 minutes crafting a personal elevator pitch
- Mentors will each take a turn to present their pitch to the group to introduce themselves
- Mentees will each take a turn to present their pitch to the group
- Mentors will provide feedback to help polish and refine each pitch



Breakout Rooms



Participant	Room	Participant	Room
Adrian Beaumont	BO 9	John Wooten	BO 1
Alison Nadeau	BO 7	Julia Phipps	BO 6
Alexander Lazard	BO 2	Kara Legg	BO 8
Alexander Previts	BO 5	Katie Schaible	BO 1
Andrea Loreg	BO 8	Keith Klein	BO 9
Anastasia McIntosh	BO 7	Kelly Raney	BO 3
Anna Berg	BO 1	Krystian Gawron	BO 6
Cam Miller	BO 6	Lauren Burnhill	BO 7
Carla Hoffman	BO 4	Lauren Cashio	BO 2
Charity Karanja	BO 8	Mabel Alvarez	BO 4
Christina Billings	BO 9	Mary Louck	BO 8
Dana Clark	BO 7	Matt Nord	BO 9
Dan Boyer	BO 1	Meghan Heddings	BO 7
David Safer	BO 5	Miles Mercer	BO 9
Diale Penda-Fomukong	BO 5	Natalie Del Toro	BO 5
Ellie Beckett	BO 8	Niel Goldberg	BO 1
Enid Flores	BO 4	Paul Depew	BO 4
Erica Mesker	BO 7	Rebecca Smith	BO 6
Erin Englebrecht	BO 9	Rob Lockett	BO 3
Ernesto Villarini	BO 6	Rodney Williams	BO 2
Farida Ibrahim	BO 2	Samuel Weinstein	BO 6
Gary Smith	BO 8	Sarahbeth Sutton	BO 4
Greg Gordan	BO 4	Scott Fesler	BO 6
Iliya Krutko	BO 5	Seth Crone	BO 2
Janet Perez Shensky	BO 5	Sharron Alexander Jackson	BO 8
Jen Thackeray	BO 7	Terrance Louk	BO 3
Jennifer Crowther	BO 2	Toni Stinnett	BO 3
Jennifer Syx	BO 1	Weston Rich	BO 3
Johanne Singh	BO 9		



Breakout Room Reports

- Pitch Presentations
- Key Take-Aways



The Journey Ahead



Dan Boyers

Senior Vice President
US Bank



Join Us!

2026 National Development Finance Summit

November 18-20, 2026
Savannah, Georgia



CDFA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM KICK-OFF EVENT | [CDFA.NET](https://www.cdfa.net)

Upcoming Events & Next Steps

Self-Guided One-on-one session

Thrive from Experience – Getting to Know Each Other
TBD – Mentee to schedule

CDFA Led Virtual Learning Session

Thrive from Experience – Sharing Stories that Shape Us
Wednesday, August 12, 12:30PM – 2:00PM ET



Thank You

Thank you to our Mentorship Program Sponsor:

