CDFI Symposium
May 19-20, 2020 St. Louis, MO

CALL FOR PAPERS
Submission Deadline: Friday, January 31, 2020

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Minneapolis, Richmond, San Francisco, the Board of Governors, and the CDFI Fund invites the submission of papers for an upcoming symposium focused on better understanding evidence surrounding community development financial institution (CDFI) activities and their implications on policy issues affecting the industry.

The St. Louis Fed will host the convening of researchers, CDFI leaders, policymakers and funders from May 19-20, 2020.

TOPICS: We invite the submission of papers that discuss empirical studies, policy implications and those that explore all aspects of CDFI activities. Topics of interest for the symposium include, but are not limited to:

- **The Role of CDFIs in the U.S. Financial System**
  - Provision of financial and/or development services to households, small businesses, real estate developers, housing developers, etc.
  - Impact of CDFIs on local/state economic activity
  - Relationships between CDFIs, banks, and capital markets

- **The Effects of Government Policy on CDFIs**
  - The impact of federal and/or state policies
  - Regulatory impacts (Community Reinvestment Act, federal and state financial regulation)
  - Federal agency programs and funding for CDFIs (Department of the Treasury, Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Home Loan Banks and the Federal Emergency Management Agency)
  - Federal, state or local tax policy (Tax expenditures, New Markets Tax Credit and Opportunity Zones)

- **The CDFI Model**
  - Benefits of local knowledge and strong relationships
  - Costs of operating at a small scale
  - Financial performance, default rates and risk management in the CDFI industry
  - CDFIs operating in highly distressed geographies

- **CDFI Capitalization**
  - Trends in CDFI capitalization
  - Innovations with sourcing equity and/or debt capital
  - Impact of subsidized capital
• **CDFI Development Pathways**
  - Successes and/or challenges of CDFI partnerships
  - Models of operation scaling and revenue generation

• **CDFIs and Social Impact**
  - Impact of CDFIs on under-resourced households/communities
  - Relationship between social and financial performance

**SUBMISSIONS:** The deadline to submit a detailed abstract or completed paper is **Friday, January 31, 2020.**
Please send your submissions by email to communitydevelopment@stls.frb.org. You will receive a confirmation email within two business days of your submission. Please contact Mike Eggleston at michael.c.eggleston@stls.frb.org or (314) 444-8610 with questions.

Authors of accepted papers will be notified by **Friday, March 27, 2020.**

**Datasets for CDFI research include, but are not limited to:**

- **The CDFI Fund’s Transaction Level Reports**
  - Includes data on over 550,000 CDFI transactions, totaling more than $49 billion. Details such as census tract of the transaction, loan amount, interest rate, lien position and more are available. The data has been aggregated to counties, MSAs and states through the St. Louis Fed’s [Community Investment Explorer](http://www.communityinvestment.org) tool.

- **Aeris**
  - CDFI Loan Fund Data.
  - Aeris, a CDFI ratings and information service, collects longitudinal data on approximately 150 CDFI loan funds. Their dataset includes quarterly information on CDFI financial performance (including year-end audited data), aggregated portfolio performance, operations and impact. Aeris is willing to make their data available for academic research on the CDFI industry. To learn more about the data, contact Helen Leung, Aeris’ COO at hleung@aerisinsight.com.

- **The Federal Reserve’s Small Business Credit Survey.**
  - Includes survey data from a national sample of small businesses or firms with fewer than 500 employees. Their aim is to provide insight into the financing and debt needs and experiences of the firms, including the pursuit of financing from CDFIs.

- **Opportunity Finance Network** (OFN)
  - OFN’s Annual Member Survey collects detailed data on CDFI staffing, capitalization, lending, investing, portfolio performance and impact. The database spans from 1999-2017 (2018 data to be added in fall 2019), with 214 CDFIs reporting fiscal year 2017 and varying counts in previous years. OFN is willing to make their data available for academic research on the CDFI industry. To learn more about the data, contact Lance Loethen, OFN’s vice president of research, at lloethen@ofn.org