



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development

RURAL GATEWAY PEER-TO-PEER CONFERENCE CALL
Strengthening Small and Emerging Community
Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in Rural America:
A Discussion of Best Practices

Date: May 29, 2013

Time: 2:00 p.m. EST

The Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) invites you to take part in our next Peer-to-Peer conference call. Scheduled for **May 29, 2013**, this call will offer participants the opportunity to learn about the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund's (CDFI Fund) new Capacity Building Initiative training series focused on Strengthening Small and Emerging CDFIs and its relevance throughout rural America.

Representatives from ORHED, the CDFI Fund and the Opportunity Finance Network will discuss new technical assistance and training for Strengthening Small and Emerging CDFIs, and the potential impact it will have on expanding and creating opportunities for those living in Rural America. Conference call participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the training series, discuss the challenges of developing CDFIs within rural communities, and establish contacts for future reference.

Please join ORHED, the CDFI Fund and the Opportunity Finance Network as we engage rural community leaders in this open forum. Speakers will include:

- Valerie G. Piper, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- Jackie L. Williams, Ph.D., Director, Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development, Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- Mark Kudlowitz, Associate Program Manager, CDFI Fund, U.S. Department of Treasury;
- Pam Porter, Executive Vice President of Strategic Consulting, Opportunity Finance Network;
- Tabitha Atkins, Vice President of Strategic Consulting, Opportunity Finance Network

Topics to be discussed

- Overview of the CDFI Fund's Capacity Building Initiative
- Overview of the Strengthening Small and Emerging CDFI training series and the training provider – the Opportunity Finance Network
- Upcoming CDFI training locations

Format of the call

Call-in instructions and additional materials will be emailed to participants on **May 28, 2013**. The call will consist of a 60 minute presentation by our speakers, including a Q&A session.

Please **RSVP** by email to rhed@hud.gov no later than close of business on **May 28, 2013**. Please include your name and organization.

If you have any questions, please call 1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526).