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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Announces Third Grant Award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### —Defining the Food System Asset Class —

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is excited to announce a third round of funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). Over the past five years, CDFA has proven that catalyzing new investment can drive the creation of a desired and performance-driven food system asset class. With the continued support of WKKF, CDFA has made significant progress in defining this asset class by building networks, producing resources and strategic plans, challenging bias through research, and providing technical assistance to communities across the country. CDFA will build upon its body of research and experience to increase flexible capital that supports equitable local and regional food systems, increases access to healthy food for children and families, and creates jobs for people living in low-income communities.

“CDFA is thankful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for supporting our continued efforts to unlock capital for food and agriculture businesses and projects,” said Toby Rittner, President & CEO of CDFA. “Across the country, we are partnering with communities and development finance agencies to create better financing avenues for local food systems that grow and strengthen this critical component of our local economies.”

Over the next three years of funding, CDFA will engage with communities to increase opportunities to leverage existing capital by providing training, technical assistance, and strategic planning that offers guidance for directing and establishing financing programs for local food businesses and projects. CDFA will also build a marketplace to connect community food-based businesses and entrepreneurs of color with funding opportunities, develop an implementable model for a national food systems loan guarantee program, and continue to provide educational opportunities through webinars, online resource centers, and newsletters.

To learn more about CDFA’s Defining the Food System Asset Class initiative, visit [www.cdfa.net](http://www.cdfa.net)

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work, and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special attention is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org)

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).

*CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation*

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