

Community Development Financial Institutions Assistance Program

Empire State Development (“ESD”) is issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) and is inviting NYS **federally-certified Community Development Financial Institutions** (“CDFIs”) to submit proposals for funding assistance through the CDFI Assistance Program. (“The Program”) The Program awards grants to help strengthen organization’s ability to serve minority and women-owned businesses and women entrepreneurs (“M\WBEs”) and small businesses. Award opportunities will be used in the areas of loan capital, loan loss reserve, institutional capacity and technical services.

In 1994, the U.S. Government established a program known as the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the “Fund”), administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The Fund’s purpose is to facilitate the flow of lending and investment capital into distressed communities and to targeted populations that have traditionally had difficulty accessing the mainstream financial services industry.

CDFIs provide vital services to their communities. However, because of their very small average loan size and the labor-intensive pro-bono technical assistance, it is difficult for them to be self-sustaining from operating income alone. Since 1997, ESD has provided more than \$23.4 million dollars in grants to CDFIs to support M/WBE and small business related services; and this RFP will continue its support for the collaborative efforts of NYS CDFIs. Through this RFP, CDFIs may apply for awards of up to \$100,000. ESD encourages partnerships among organizations, as described in the RFP and will likely award fewer grants than in previous years, but at slightly higher award levels. In most cases, ESD will not make awards to any CDFI higher than noted amount, although reserves the right to make higher awards for CDFIs with substantial capacity.

For a copy of the RFP and more Program details, please go to http://esd.ny.gov/CorporateInformation/Data/RFPs/CDFI/CDFI_16_FINAL.pdf

Questions associated with this RFP must be submitted to CDFIQA@ESD.NY.GOV. The last date to submit questions is September 18, 2014. **No phone calls please.**

Three unbound copies of the Proposal must be received no later than **Tuesday, September 23, 2014** at 2 p.m., and should be mailed to:

Ms. Marion Samuels
Director, Community Development Programs
Empire State Development
633 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10017
CDFI Assistance Program Round 16 RFP

Excel exhibits must be submitted to CDFIQA@ESD.NY.GOV no later than **Tuesday, September 23, 2014** at 2 p.m.,

Due Date: September 23, 2014

Location: Statewide

Contact: Marion Samuels

Empire State Development Corp.

633 Third Avenue 33rd Floor

New York, NY 10017