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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Announcing the CDFFA-NASDA Foundation Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Access to Capital Program**

—USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement 2501 Grant Program—

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFFA) and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation are excited to announce their partnership to create the CDFFA-NASDA Foundation Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Access to Capital Program in response to the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement 2501 Grant Program. This program will assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in building successful operations by accessing sustainable business capital. The program will do so in a linguistically appropriate way by developing a culturally significant educational curriculum that teaches agricultural finance in relatable and meaningful terms.

“CDFFA is proud and honored to have the support from USDA as we launch this program dedicated to helping communities address the economic problems created by the historic disinvestment in socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFFA. “Over the next three years, we will work with the NASDA Foundation to provide peer-based and actionable development finance expertise and collaboration to target communities.”

CDFFA will build on the organization’s 40-year leadership of the development finance industry, along with the experience of our strategic partners at the NASDA Foundation, to provide specialized assistance to rural communities and a transferrable toolkit to communities nationwide. Through this combination of expertise and collaboration, the CDFFA-NASDA Foundation Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Access to Capital Program will help rural communities understand the myriad of financing programs available to invest in socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and develop long-term access to capital programs and strategies.

“The NASDA Foundation believes that together we will work to improve access to capital programs and services across the nation that will advance agriculture in the U.S. This partnership and funding will create a sustainable structure for state departments of agriculture to continue supporting historically underserved farmers and ranchers,” NASDA Foundation Senior Director Chris Jones said. “We sincerely thank the Council of Development Finance Agencies for partnering with us on this grant-funded opportunity.”

In the coming months, the [CDFFA-NASDA Foundation Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Access to Capital Program](#) will achieve the overall outcome of increasing investment in rural communities through a multi-disciplinary set of technical assistance activities. Each activity is specifically designed to provide transferrable and practical advice on topics such as assembling financing, leveraging private capital, improving deal-making, and applying for federal funding. Collectively, these activities will assist rural stakeholders throughout the nation.

For those interested in becoming engaged in CDFFA’s and the NASDA Foundation’s approach to help the economic challenges experienced by rural communities struggling to invest in their socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, please contact CDFFA.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFFA 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 CDFFA, visit [www.cdfa.net](http://www.cdfa.net).

The **NASDA Foundation** is the only educational and research organization that directly serves the nation's state departments of agriculture. The NASDA Foundation's mission is to enhance American food and agricultural communities through education, outreach and research. The NASDA Foundation works with states to nourish people and communities while serving as the stewards of the environment and public trust. To learn more about the NASDA Foundation, please visit [nasda.org/nasda-foundation/](https://nasda.org/nasda-foundation/).

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

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