



DISABILITY CDFI COALITION

Press Release

National Disability CDFI Coalition Officially Launches on 25th Anniversary of Landmark Disability Rights Legislation

Contact: Charlie Hammerman

Disability CDFI Coalition
201 I.U. Willets Road
Albertson, NY 11507
Cell (516) 361-3600
Office (516) 465-3741
DisabilityCDFICoalition.org

Washington, DC, February 24, 2015 – In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), a coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions, traditional financial institutions, disability service providers and advocacy organizations, and individuals with disabilities was officially launched today. Known as the Disability CDFI Coalition, the network aims to bridge the community development finance industry and the disability community to ensure that individuals with disabilities and their families can access the financial products and services they need to obtain accessible housing, build assets, find meaningful employment, and access assistive technology.

“While there are many CDFIs with a proven history of addressing the needs of this growing market through creative financing and tenacious technical assistance, many other CDFIs need guidance on how to take the first step,” said Charlie Hammerman, Chairman of the Disability CDFI Coalition. “This coalition represents the first, formal network of CDFIs dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities and their families.”

This initiative is made possible through the support of JPMorgan Chase. “JPMorgan Chase is committed to breaking down silos that have long prevented traditionally underserved populations from participating fully and barrier-free in their communities,” said Naomi Camper, Head of the Office of Nonprofit Engagement, JPMorgan Chase. “We are proud to support the Disability CDFI Coalition’s effort to give people with disabilities access to the financial tools they need to succeed personally and professionally.”

CDFIs are mission-driven, private, financial institutions that specialize in delivering affordable credit, capital, and financial services to individuals with low and moderate incomes, as well as residents and businesses in economically distressed communities. Like other target markets or populations served by CDFIs, individuals with disabilities and their families face significant barriers accessing traditional financial products and services, accumulating assets or savings, financing a home, an education, or a business, or purchasing a mobility device.

In addition to the challenges faced by individuals, the institutions that serve the diverse needs of people with disabilities and their families often have a difficult time securing the



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capital needed to develop, renovate, and maintain affordable housing, community facilities, and workspaces.

“For far too long, people with disabilities and their families have been overlooked and underserved by conventional financial institutions,” said Mr. Hammerman. “The Disability CDFI Coalition can help fill this vital niche providing the flexible, market-driven financing products and services that people with disabilities need to grow and thrive.”

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About the Disability CDFI Coalition (DCC)

DCC is a national membership a network of CDFIs, financial institutions, disability service providers and advocacy organizations, and individuals with disabilities. The mission of the DCC is to bridge the CDFI industry and the disability community, to ensure that CDFIs can respond effectively to address the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, and to offer technical assistance and support to CDFIs developing financing products and services to address the needs of people with disabilities.