CDFIs as Allies in Early Care and Education

National Children's Facilities Network
The National Children’s Facilities Network (NCFN) is a coalition of nonprofit financial and technical assistance intermediaries and other interested stakeholders involved in planning, developing, and financing for high quality early care and education (ECE) facilities and business models.

The Network’s purpose is to:

• Share information on ECE facilities issues and aligned ECE provider technical assistance and capacity building;

• Recommend legislation and regulations affecting access to high quality ECE facilities; and

• Develop and support various financing strategies, initiatives and programs

NCFN Executive Committee

• Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
• Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)
• IFF
• Reinvestment Fund
• Self-Help

NCFN Members

• Build Up for San Mateo County’s Children
• Coastal Enterprise, Inc.
• Children’s Investment Fund Foundation
• Colorado Enterprise Fund
• Finance Fund
• First Children’s Finance
• Florida Community Loan Fund
• Leviticus Fund
• New Hampshire Community Loan Fund
• New Jersey Community Capital
• Opportunity Finance Network
• Vermont Community Loan Fund
• Women’s Community Revitalization Project
What is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)?

CDFIs are financial intermediaries with community development as a primary mission. We cultivate specialized knowledge and forge deep relationships to channel private investment into distressed communities.

CDFIs provide a range of services:
- Capital Investments (grants and loans)
- Technical assistance & capacity building
- Emergency/Disaster Recovery
- Policy, Advocacy, Research

CDFIs partner with:
- Public agencies
- Philanthropy
- Community stakeholders
- Resource and Referral Agencies
- Other local and state intermediaries

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Why Are CDFIs Important Partners in ECE?
The Role of Capital in Strengthening the ECE Sector

Financing Challenges

• ECE is a chronically underfunded sector, with governments rarely reimbursing the full cost of quality care
• ECE professionals are also undervalued, a legacy of slavery and women of color doing child care work
• ECE businesses have extremely low margins, making them hard to finance through traditional methods, and making it nearly impossible for the owners to build wealth

Financing Opportunities

• **Technical assistance (TA), capacity building, and flexible financial products (grants and loans)** help ECE providers navigate the real estate, financial, regulatory and other components of creating high-quality ECE programs
• CDFIs have developed decades of expertise assembling and deploying public and private sources of capital
Child Care: A Missing Piece in Community Planning & Development

- Employment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Child Care
Contact Information

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