

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



State Representative James Hoops
Chairperson, Development Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street - 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

March 3, 2025

Dear Chairperson Hoops:

I am writing to seek your support for an amendment to House Bill 96, the State's main operating budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to provide grant support to CDFI's in Ohio.

CityWide Development Corporation is a nonprofit community economic development organization and a Community Development Financial Institution. (CDFI). We are certified and regulated by the U.S. Department of Treasury. As a mission driven lender, we provide risk tolerant capital to developments efforts that create jobs, housing, and economic opportunities for our community.

Over the last several years our CDFI lending has had a tremendous impact in the Dayton region. A few notable examples include:

- The rebuilding and expansion of the Dayton Phoenix Company, which was devastated by the 2019 Dayton tornadoes preserving 260 jobs and adding an additional 117.
- Providing capital to a local nonprofit housing developer to secure control of one hundred units of affordable housing after expiration of tax credits and abandonment by an out-of-town developer.
- Providing predevelopment funding to Dayton Children's Hospital to build Kinship Family Housing, specialized housing for grandparents raising grandchildren who are medically compromised.
- Providing capital for the First Floor Fund, a special lending program to support retail businesses post Covid. Thirty-Two businesses have been supported to date through this program, creating 269 jobs and activating 87,000 square feet of retail space.

While we are proud of our success, our lending is limited to the funds we can raise and always outstrips demand. Through the Ohio CDFI Coalition we have researched a program in Michigan which provided grants to CDFI's to expand their reach in their State. A similar program in Ohio would expand our ability to fund many more worthy projects through the Ohio CDFI network. Included with this letter is a fact sheet detailing the proposed investment strategy and impact on Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Kane".

Dan Kane
President



INVEST IN OHIO'S HOMES AND BUSINESSES

State policy ask for the 2026-2027 Main Operating Budget:

**\$50M CDFI Fund Program to build
housing, grow businesses, and create a
vibrant Ohio.**

Summary

Ohio's CDFIs request the State of Ohio create a \$50 million CDFI Fund Program in the upcoming Main Operating Budget.

This Fund, which would be modeled after a successful program in Michigan, would issue grants to Ohio's CDFI loan funds.

The CDFIs will use the grants to provide capital and professional services to small businesses, affordable housing developers, and developers revitalizing commercial corridors.

What are CDFIs?

CDFI loan funds are mission-driven lenders. They are certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

CDFIs provide access to credit and specialized loan products to business owners, real estate developers, and nonprofits that usually do not qualify for a typical bank loan.

CDFIs **lend in all 88 counties across the state** and have financed housing, businesses, and downtown revitalization for **more than 30 years**. In total, CDFIs have leveraged more than **\$4.3 billion in Ohio**.



CREATE A \$50M CDFI FUND PROGRAM

to invest in Ohio's homes, businesses, and communities

Proven Model from Michigan can Inspire Ohio Program

In 2022, Michigan created a \$75M Michigan CDFI Fund. In 2023, Michigan allocated another \$19M to fuel investment in rural and low-income areas.

Key features of Michigan's CDFI Fund Program that Ohio should replicate, include:

- Funds can be used for capital, technical assistance, and administrative purposes. All monies must be deployed in the state of Ohio, and dispersed no more than three years after the award is announced.
 - 80% must be awarded to financial products and services
 - No more than 10% can be used for technical assistance
 - No more than 10% can be used for administrative and/or operations
- To determine the amount a CDFI can apply for, the state should utilize a three-year lookback on the CDFIs commitments. There are parameters for CDFIs that only work in Ohio and those that are multistate.
- Eligible CDFIs must maintain one or more physical offices in Ohio, and employ two or more staffers.
- The Michigan CDFI Grant Fund is administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Ohio's CDFI Program could be administered by Ohio Department of Development.

