



CFED: Expands Economic Opportunity with Innovation

CFED MAKES IT POSSIBLE for moderate and low income people to go to college, start a business, own a home and save for their children's financial futures and their own retirement years. Since 1979, the national nonprofit Corporation for Enterprise Development has identified and advanced innovative ways to integrate more Americans into the economic mainstream. By moving more households into these proven methods of growing and protecting their assets, CFED has expanded economic opportunity and worked to strengthen America's economic security.

CFED's DRIVING PRINCIPLE is that America's economic vitality, stability and security are greatly strengthened when more and more of our people of all ages and backgrounds are able to invest in their futures and hold a stake in their communities.

CFED WAS A PIONEER in asset building even before it became a recognized field of economic and community development. Currently, the lead-off items on our long roster of successful innovations and joint ventures include:

- **Individual Development Accounts:** CFED's national demonstration of IDAs shows how matched investment accounts really do allow people to accumulate assets for homes, businesses and education, and achieve long-term economic security.
- **SEED Children's Savings Initiative:** CFED's multi-partner, multi-year, multi-million dollar project demonstrates the practice and power of providing matched savings accounts and financial education for children so that parents, grandparents and they themselves can start Saving for Education, Entrepreneurship and Downpayments (SEED).
- **Microenterprise:** CFED's success in expanding microenterprise to the United States is now raising the standard of living – and hope – of over 4.4 million, especially female head-of-households, rural residents, Native Americans and retired persons.

CFED LEADS THE FIELD in setting the policy agenda for economic security, working to raise asset limits, prevent predatory practices and protect assets for Americans of all ages. We also host numerous regional and national convenings, showcasing emerging issues and cutting-edge solutions to renew America's economy.

ABOUT CFED

CFED believes it is possible to provide every American the opportunity and resources to pursue higher education, start a business, buy a home and save for the future. We work at the national, state and local levels to mesh community practice, private markets and public policy to make this possible. We combine the vision of a think tank with real-world experience to:

Identify Good Ideas: CFED's research finds ideas with potential for making the economy work for everyone, particularly those on the margins.

Test Them Out: CFED works on the ground with local communities to test promising approaches and adapt them to diverse cultures and economic conditions.

Bring Them to Scale: CFED then takes it to the next level, involving all in devising policies and practices that widen the impact of successful innovations.

Give Them Staying Power: CFED stays with initiatives until they can stand on their own, creating intermediary institutions to broker skills, information and funding.

In 2007, the Council on Foundations honored CFED and its funding partners with its first-ever Critical Impact Award to recognize leadership, innovation and enduring change.