



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LiftFund Awarded Grant to Improve Social Determinants of Health in Rural Georgia

The “Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia” program aims to promote good health for all Georgians through the work of CDFIs in underserved rural communities

GEORGIA — LiftFund today announced its designation as one of eight awardees selected to participate in the *Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia* program. Developed through a partnership between Opportunity Finance Network and Healthcare Georgia Foundation, the program awards capital and technical assistance grants to CDFIs (community development financial institutions) that provide financial and development services to improve the health and well-being of rural Georgians. CDFIs finance social determinants of health such as community facilities, healthy food options, affordable housing, small business and microloans, consumer financial products and services, transportation and transit development, and technology access.

“Through this generous grant, LiftFund will increase its capacity to empower entrepreneurs and improve living standards for underserved rural communities in Georgia,” said Stephaney Bolden, LiftFund Georgia Officer. “We know that a solid financial and health foundation can create lasting, positive change and we are excited to provide business owners a financial lift.”

“We’re proud to work with OFN on a program that aligns so well with the Foundation’s mission of advancing the health of all Georgians,” said Gary D. Nelson, PhD, President, Healthcare Georgia Foundation. “We believe that healthy communities support the health of the individual, and CDFIs, by definition, play a vital part in the development of that ecosystem by deploying capital in areas of particular need across the state: the underserved in rural areas and areas of persistent poverty.”

“For more than 30 years CDFIs have been doing mission-driven lending. This program highlights the critical role CDFIs play in bringing health-related investment capital into



underserved communities,” said Ginger McNally, Senior Vice President of Strategic Consulting at OFN. “We applaud Healthcare Georgia Foundation for their generous commitment to improving outcomes for all Georgians through the support of *Building the Capacity of CDFIs in Georgia.*”

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About LiftFund

In 2015, LiftFund began serving the great state of Georgia’s small business economy. Since then, we’ve served many entrepreneurs with over \$300,000 in small business loans. LiftFund has one of the largest microlending portfolios in the nation, and is committed to providing capital to entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Since its inception, LiftFund has made over 19,000 loans totaling more than \$250 million. LiftFund operates in 13 states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. To learn more about LiftFund visit www.liftfund.com.

About OFN

Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the national network of community development financial institutions (CDFIs), strives to ensure low-income and other under-resourced communities have access to affordable, responsible financial products and services. Members of OFN are CDFIs that deliver responsible lending to help low-income communities join the economic mainstream. Through 2015, OFN’s network originated \$48 billion in financing in rural, urban, and Native communities. This financing has helped to create or maintain more than 1,044,000 jobs, start or expand nearly 191,000 businesses and microenterprises, and support the development or rehabilitation of nearly 1.5 million housing units and 9,800 community facility projects. For more information, visit www.ofn.org.

About Healthcare Georgia Foundation

Healthcare Georgia Foundation is a statewide, private independent foundation. The Foundation’s mission is to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities. Through its strategic grantmaking, Healthcare Georgia Foundation supports organizations that drive positive change, promotes programs that improve health and healthcare among underserved individuals and communities, and connects people, partners and resources across Georgia. For more information, please visit the Foundation online at: www.healthcaregeorgia.org.