



## CDFI Friendly Evansville Region FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are CDFIs?

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are private financial institutions that exist to meet community financing needs for under-financed people and communities just outside the margins of conventional finance. CDFIs work in all 50 states in urban, rural, and Native communities. They specialize in financing people and communities that historically are under-resourced and under-valued.

They provide customized, affordable financing and technical assistance (or development services) to help their borrowers succeed). CDFIs are sustainable because they are *profitable* but not *profit-maximizing*.

CDFIs have provided more than \$200 billion in community-centered lending over the past 40 years. But not every community has received its share of CDFI financing.

### What is CDFI Friendly Evansville Region?

*CDFI Friendly Evansville Region* is an emerging strategy to connect businesses, housing developers, community organizations, and others in the region with access to financing. Local residents, business owners, community leaders, public officials, and non-profit professionals volunteer to coordinate this strategy and make sure it is serving the people who need it most.

In 2022, local community leaders asked CDFI Friendly America to work with the community to build out the CDFI Friendly Evansville Region strategy.

### What is CDFI Friendly America?

CDFI Friendly America is a national company that is working in many communities to connect local borrowers to flexible and affordable CDFI capital. For more information visit [CDFIFriendlyAmerica.com](https://CDFIFriendlyAmerica.com).

### What is CDFI Friendly Evansville Region Doing in 2023?

CDFI Friendly America (CFA) is now talking with people in the Evansville region to tell them about this work and how they could benefit. In addition, CDFI Friendly Evansville Region will bring people from across the region together on May 17th for an open discussion about the work and its potential. It will host a second public gathering in September to discuss its findings and potential. . These community sessions will help everyone learn about the potential of CDFIs in the Region. At the same time, CDFI Friendly Evansville Region will learn from you about financing needs.

CFA will work with Evansville region leaders to complete a business plan for CDFI Friendly Evansville Region. It will incorporate feedback from community, business, finance, and civic leaders. CDFI Friendly Evansville Region expects to start operations in late 2023 as an independent, community-centered and community-controlled nonprofit organization. The projected timeline for completing this work is shown below:

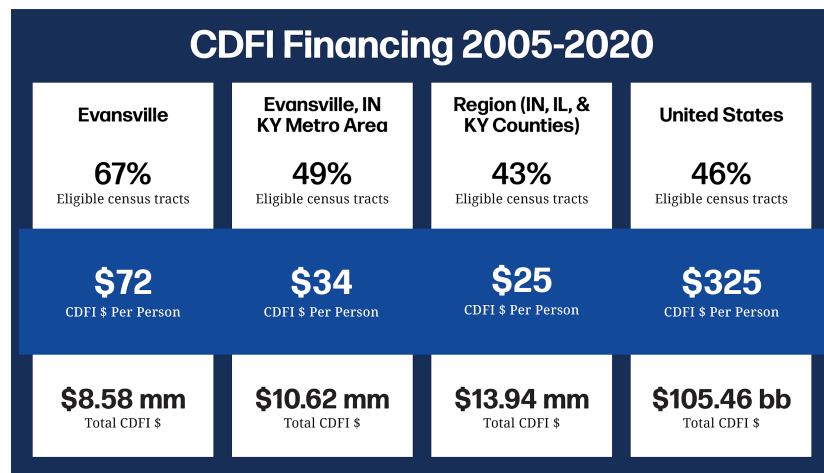
CDFI Friendly Evansville					
Projected Timeline by Quarters					
	1Q2023	2Q2023	3Q2023	4Q2023	1Q2024
Phase I: Assessment & Outreach					
Convening #1					
Phase II: Education & Organizing					
Convening #2					
Phase III: Business Planning					
Phase IV: Implementation					
CDFI Financing (where possible)					



## Why is CDFI Friendly Evansville Region Needed?

In the Fall of 2022, Evansville community, civic, and business leaders decided to work with CDFI Friendly America to assess the needs of individuals, businesses, housing and real estate developers, and nonprofits in the community. They identified a pressing need for more customized, affordable financing as well as additional development services in the Evansville region. The group identified CDFIs as key to addressing those needs.

CDFIs have made loans and investments in the Evansville region over the past 15 years, but they can do more if we help them identify opportunities and expand their access in the community.



## What will CDFI Friendly Evansville Region do?

CDFI Friendly Evansville Region will connect local borrowers to CDFIs and other lenders that can help them achieve their goals. Finding local demand and increasing the total pool of available financing will help get funding for local entrepreneurs and others.

Like a CDFI, CDFI Friendly Evansville Region will focus on community benefits, but it will not be a CDFI. It will work with community-based technical assistance and training providers and it may provide financing in partnership with CDFIs. At the same time, CDFI Friendly Evansville Region will make it easier for CDFIs from our region and across the United States to finance some of the most pressing needs in our communities.

## How can I get involved?

If you think you might want to borrow money from a CDFI or know someone who might want to, write to us at [info@cdfifriendlyevansville.org](mailto:info@cdfifriendlyevansville.org). We'll be glad to talk with you to learn more and to see if we can match you with a CDFI.