

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 2021

Ms. Kevin Wheeler
Associate Administrator for Congressional
and Legislative Affairs
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 7900
Washington, DC 20416-2230

Dear Associate Administrator Wheeler,

I write in strong support of the application submitted by the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) for funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Community Navigator Pilot Program. CDFA has an extensive and proven record in administering federal funds, and it is uniquely suited to manage a program designed to support underserved small businesses.

CDFA is a statewide nonprofit authority created by an act of the New Hampshire Legislature. It has worked for over 30 years to successfully deploy grants, financing and technical assistance that advance community economic development projects and programs across the Granite State. Since 2010, CDFA has administered the Federal Community Development Block Grant program, including more than \$900,000 this year to assist more than 330 microenterprises across the state. It also worked in collaboration with 10 regional partners to craft and implement a Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program that provides direct support to small business owners. Services include business planning, marketing, training and access to capital, and CDFA's guidance through this program has helped strengthen businesses, create more jobs and generate more income for New Hampshire families.

With support from the SBA's Community Navigator Pilot Program, CDFA would leverage its extensive experience, strong partnerships and other resources to expand the work of its well-established microenterprise technical assistance network. CDFA's Microenterprise Program is already focused on assisting small businesses, and its existing statewide network of business technical-assistance providers is a ready-made system that will effectively implement the Community Navigator Pilot Program. Through expanded access to small business support and increased attention to aiding our underserved neighbors, CDFA would bolster a critical part of the New Hampshire economy. According to SBA's Office of Advocacy, 99% of businesses in New Hampshire are considered small and collectively they employ nearly half of our private workforce. Those businesses created more than 7,200 new jobs in 2019, and firms with fewer than 20 employees created 74% of those jobs.

I strongly support the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority's application for a U.S. SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program grant, and I request that you give all due consideration to its worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Jarvis in my office at 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator