

Virtual Training

Funding and Financing Coastal Resilience: Spotlight on Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) Investing in Underserved Communities

Experts from the field will share how community development financial institutions (CDFIs) are helping economically disadvantaged communities build their resilience. Learn how CDFIs are creating equitable access to prosperity and financing community resilience. To help guide the discussion, participants will be encouraged to ask questions and talk about their funding and financing challenges.

This training is part of an informational series focused on funding and financing options for coastal resilience projects.

Check out our new quick reference, “[Funding and Financing: Options and Considerations for Coastal Resilience Projects](#).” View [recorded webinars and associated resources](#) on funding and financing basics and the use of environmental impact bonds.

Who: Hosted by NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management

When: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. (Eastern)

How: To register, visit https://noaacsc.adobeconnect.com/cdfi_02-01-22/event/event_info.html

More: For questions, please contact Lauren.Long@noaa.gov



Jeff Merkowitz, senior advisor at the CDFI Fund, brings both policy and on the ground experience in the areas of housing finance and community development. He previously served as director of operations and legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, where he crafted the senator’s policy responses to the foreclosure crisis and the long-standing shortage of affordable housing in California. Prior to that, he worked for a CDFI, creating the financial infrastructure to manage the organization’s affordable housing development, small business, and New Markets Tax Credit loan programs.



Keith Bisson, president of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) and previously the senior vice president, where he managed CEI’s small business advising, natural resources, and workforce development programs. He was also responsible for federal rural development policy and investor relations. Keith is active in the community and serves on the Board of Directors of United Way of Midcoast Maine and Family Focus, as a commissioner on the State of Maine’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations, and on the advisory board of Four Directions Development Corporation, a CDFI serving Maine’s four Native American tribes.



Adam Zimmerman, CEO of Craft3, a not-for-profit, community development financial institution serving all of Oregon and Washington. Founded in 1994, Craft3 has invested over \$600 million in improving the economic, ecological, and family resilience of communities in the Pacific Northwest region. Adam has played an integral role in growing Craft3 to a \$175 million organization with eight offices across two states. Prior to accepting the CEO role in 2016, Adam served as executive vice president, guiding organizational growth, consumer lending, external affairs, and brand management.



Kim Penn, acting manager, Communities Program, NOAA Office for Coastal Management. Kim oversees implementation of the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a state-federal partnership with 34 Great Lakes and coastal states and territories that balances coastal resource use, economic development, and conservation. She also works to connect coastal partners to resources that can help advance community resilience. Previously, at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Kim led the resilience finance portfolio within the President's Climate Action Plan.