



Positively Impacting Communities for Decades

Since 1983, the Community Development Finance Authority has strategically invested in New Hampshire's communities—building capacity and strengthening resiliency to make these cities and towns places where people want to live, work and play.

CDFA is committed to collaboration that lends success to its community investments in people, institutions and systems. Leveraging a unique combination of financial and technical resources, including the competitive deployment of grant, loan and New Hampshire state tax credit programs, CDFA addresses changing community development, economic development and clean energy needs statewide.

The organization is driven by mission, committed to community and focused on the future. The following community spotlights illustrate how CDFA's work results in vibrant communities.

Laconia

With the highest population in Belknap County, Laconia has historically experienced economic challenges evidenced by lower household median income than the statewide median, and high rates of participation in school lunch assistance programs.

Using its hallmark holistic approach, CDFA has made significant investments in Laconia's infrastructure to improve the availability of housing, childcare, social services and small business support.



For example, CDFA subsidized two Laconia Housing Authority housing developments over the past two decades—Stafford House and the Scott & Williams Building—totaling \$1 million. It also helped expand local access to high quality child care services through a \$1 million investment in Lakes Region Day Care Center.

Other notable CDFA-funded projects include facility improvements and expansion of services for the Boys & Girls Club of Central NH; facility consolidation support for the Lakes Region Mental Health Center to meet growing demand for community mental health services; and a \$350,000 award to the City of Laconia for Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region to purchase a downtown property to serve people with substance use disorder.

In addition, CDFA has assisted with the renovation of downtown Laconia arts and culture venues, including the Colonial Theater and Belknap Mill, and has provided technical assistance grants and capacity support to the Belknap Economic Development Corporation to support small business development.

These efforts have helped positively transform Laconia: improving livability and positioning the city for continued community and economic success.

Keene

Over the past two decades, CDFA has strategically invested in the City of Keene with impactful results. Its multifaceted approach has expanded housing availability, boosted economic development opportunities and created jobs.

One of the most significant investments include the redevelopment of the former Railroad Yard. This environmental cleanup and revitalization project was made possible by CDFA-provided Community Development Block Grant funds to the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). It led to the construction of the Courtyard by Marriott and Railroad Square Senior Housing (affordable housing), the development and expansion of the Monadnock Food Co-op, and infrastructure improvements, including the Cheshire Rail Trail. This resulted in the creation of more than 150 jobs.



Along with CDFA's continued support of MEDC's efforts, it has provided tax credits to the Community Kitchen and MoCo Arts; technical assistance grants to the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship to assist small businesses; and economic development loans to help businesses like 603OPTX and Compass Innovative Behavior Strategies to create new jobs.

CDFA has financed notable downtown Keene redevelopment projects including the Colonial Theatre, the Cheshire County Courthouse, the Monadnock Community Market, Keene Headstart and the Lane Hotel. Other recipients of CDFA awards include the City of Keene, Southwest Community Services, NH FastRoads, the Keene Housing Authority, the Keene Family YMCA, Monadnock Family Services, the Troy Redevelopment Group and the Park Theatre.

In addition to housing, job creation and cultural revitalization projects, CDFA recently provided Community Development Block Grant and tax credits to Hundred Nights, Inc. This organization provides shelter and crisis-related services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Monadnock region, with three locations in Keene, and is developing a new, 48-bed emergency shelter and resource center.

These investments in the City of Keene support critical social services, job opportunities and safe, accessible housing for a healthy community.

Franklin

Since 2010, CDFA has invested more than \$3.8 million in resources to support community economic development and clean energy initiatives in Franklin, one of New Hampshire's most challenged former mill towns. This included façade improvements, affordable housing, energy efficiency, nonprofit capacity and economic development projects, including the creation of the first whitewater park in New England.

Three downtown properties that house new businesses benefited from \$400,000 in CDFA-provided tax credits for façade and building improvements. The renovated properties feature a restaurant, a community coffee house, an outdoor recreation business, a co-working center and a penthouse suite. The Façade Improvement Program is positioned as the catalyst for the long-term plan for the revitalization of historic Franklin Falls, which is slated to create 48 new jobs and increase property values by 20%.



In 2016, Franklin completed a municipal streetlight conversion project as part of the “Franklin Goes Green” initiative. Financed with a low-interest loan through CDFA’s Clean Energy Fund and using rebates from the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, the conversion replaced nearly 500 streetlights with energy efficient LED fixtures and is now saving Franklin \$31,000 annually in electricity costs.

The City of Franklin has also benefited from the CDFA-funded development of 45 units of permanent affordable housing for 80-100 adults and children with CATCH Neighborhood Housing. CDFA is currently working with the Community Action Program of Belknap-Merrimack Counties to create a new community services facility to support child development, health and nutrition, energy assistance, job development and housing resources for low- and moderate-income residents.

By taking a holistic, public-private approach to economic development, efforts like those underway in Franklin can trigger additional investments, increase access to critical services, attract new business tenants downtown that will create jobs and positively contribute to the growth of the regional economy.

Future-focused

These snapshots of CDFA’s community economic development investments showcase the organization’s ability to collaborate with partners to identify community needs—and implement solutions that garner results. CDFA’s proven model of investing in New Hampshire communities achieves local priorities and creates positive impacts that have long-lasting ripple effects. CDFA is always ready to make a difference.

