

May 11, 2022

Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

On behalf of Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), I write to thank you for the Administration's new guidance regarding non-profit lenders' eligibility for Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness.

These non-profit community development loan funds, as well as all other types of CDFIs, are on the front lines in responding to the economic impacts of COVID-19, ensuring access to credit for impacted businesses, nonprofits, healthcare facilities and individuals in our nation's low-wealth communities. In order to continue serving their existing customers and meet the evolving needs in their communities, CDFIs must be in the strongest possible financial position. As nonprofit small businesses, they are vulnerable to the same economic issues facing all other small businesses eligible for PPP loans.

As noted in the language released on May 6, eligibility for PPP loan forgiveness has been a source of confusion on the part of non-profit CDFI loan funds. Many non-profit lenders in OFN's membership encountered no issues in having their PPP loans forgiven but some, in seemingly similar circumstances, were rejected.

OFN is very grateful for the clarification provided by the SBA. We are reaching out to the non-profit lenders in our network to make sure they are aware of the updated guidance.

Thank you for your leadership. The CDFI industry greatly values its partnership with the SBA.

Sincerely,



Lisa Mensah
President & CEO

Cc: Patrick Kelley, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access