



GROUNDING VALUES

A Study of Community-Based Development Organizations

A NACEDA Initiative

Conducted by the Urban Institute

BECOME A PARTNER

PROJECT SUMMARY

As a response to the growing and urgent social and economic demands placed on the community development sector, the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) is embarking on a new “Grounding Values” research project. Spearheaded by NACEDA in collaboration with other national organizations, this study will comprehensively examine the financial health and programs of local community development corporations (CDCs) across the United States. The project primarily consists of an examination of CDCs performed by the Urban Institute. Our goal is for the study to be used by institutions in our sector to:

- Advocate for new funding structures;
- Reimagine CDC relationships with investors;
- Identify new opportunities to partner within and across emerging areas of practice;
- Develop new capacity building models; and
- Support the diverse leaders currently emerging who will help the field meet this moment in history.

This comprehensive, objective, and public data will be used by institutions throughout community development to drive the field forward. The centerpiece of this research consists of an industry survey somewhat similar to those done in the past by the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED). The study will draw on automated tax records and personal interviews. Research products completed from 2021 – 2023 will include:

- A financial health analysis of the sector;
- A “field scan” of CDC activities, challenges and outcomes;
- Two technical reports presenting tabular analysis and detailed methodologies;
- Six policy briefs on selected topics; and
- A series of fact sheets.

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How this data can be used

The information from this study can be used to advocate for resources and to craft capacity building programs. Further, the questions and survey instrument related to programs and production will be publicly available to use among your stakeholders, allowing results to be compared against the national Grounding Values dataset.

As a partner of NACEDA, we hope you will join us in supporting this valuable, comprehensive, objective, and public data to be used by institutions throughout community development and elsewhere to drive the field forward.

As a Community Partner of Grounding Values, you will receive the following:

- Access to preliminary results before they are public;
- Public recognition as a supporter.

In return, NACEDA asks that you provide:

- Your organization's logo;
- Promotion of the survey when it becomes active in 2021/2022 to boost responses (NACEDA will provide support materials);
- Consideration of the results when shaping your future strategies and programs;
- General endorsement.

How to Join

To accept our invitation and join Grounding Values as a Community Partner, we ask that you register your organization's support in order to receive project updates and recognition on the "Grounding Values" landing page: <https://forms.gle/SRBtC61umSvwkNro7>