



NATURAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

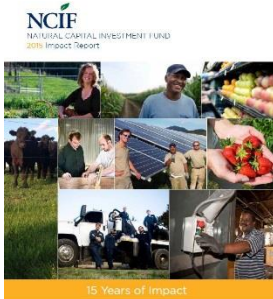
November 2016

U.S. Treasury Awards NCIF \$2 Million

We're thrilled to share that the U.S. Treasury Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund has awarded \$2 million to NCIF to support its business lending across Appalachia and the Southeast—our largest award to date!

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15 Years of Impact...and Counting!



Read about NCIF's 15 years of impact and most recent accomplishments by [downloading the PDF of our 2015 Impact Report here](#). Stay tuned for the Impact Report website, coming soon!

www.ncifund.org
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On the Trail to New Jobs in Southern West Virginia



NCIF has teamed up with the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority to use a total of \$2.6 million in grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to help diversify the economy in coal-impacted communities in southern West Virginia. NCIF will use its \$1.25 million grant to help tourism-related businesses access capital and business advisory services.

NCIF's grant and Hatfield-McCoy's \$1.3 million grant were provided through President Obama's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. The unique partnership is expected to create more than 400 jobs and 70 new businesses in the region. [READ MORE »](#)

Small Businesses REAP Big Savings with Energy Efficiency



NCIF helps small businesses and farms save energy and operating costs by installing renewable energy, replacing inefficient lighting and equipment, and switching to energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. Here's how: NCIF's Energy Initiative obtains Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants from the USDA to fund the critical first step in this process—an energy audit that analyzes current usage and calculates potential savings. The energy audit serves as a road map for the next step, in which we help rural small businesses and farms obtain REAP grants that offset 25% of their energy efficiency upgrades. Here are a few of NCIF's stellar REAP grantees:

- [Inter-State Hardwoods Company](#) (Bartow, West Virginia), received \$270,000 in REAP grants to update its dryer kilns and install LED lighting. The lighting alone reduces their energy consumption by 40%, providing an estimated lifetime savings of \$3 million.

- [River Riders](#) (Harpers Ferry, West Virginia) used a \$74,000 grant to install a 82kW solar array—the third largest in the state—that will offset 25% of the electricity used by its recently-purchased lodge for rafting guests.
- [Caperton Furniture Works](#) (Berkeley Springs, West Virginia) received \$85,000 in REAP grants to install a 64.4 kW solar array and complete an LED lighting retrofit that reduced their lighting costs by \$18,000 per year.

Learn more about our Energy Initiative services at ncifenergyinitiative.org.

One Slice at a Time: Women Transform the Meat Business



NCIF's involvement in building robust local food systems was evident at NC Choices' third annual [Women Working in the Meat Business](#) conference in North Carolina.

Entrepreneurs from two NCIF portfolio companies—Tootie Jones of [Swift Level Farms](#) (Lewisburg, West Virginia) and Jennifer Curtis from [Firsthand Foods](#) (Durham, North Carolina)—were featured on

the *Redefining Small Pastured Meat* panel. NCIF's Rick Larson joined a panel of lenders for the *Money for Meat* panel to share tips on obtaining financing. Seventy women representing all facets of the meat industry, from farmers to butchers to processors, attended from around the country. NCIF was a proud sponsor of this event. Read more about it in this [Huffington Post article](#).

Annie's: Baking in Benefits in Asheville



[Annie's Bakery](#) is an economic engine for western North Carolina—sourcing wheat and other ingredients locally and employing 21 quality jobs, while using solar energy to generate hot water for its operations. Check out this recent [blog post](#) and [video](#) from Annie's partner and customer Tupelo Honey Cafe, to learn more about what makes Annie's Bakery a success!

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Hurricane Matthew Emergency Loans

Eastern North Carolina small business owners affected by Hurricane Matthew are encouraged to apply for loans of up to \$15,000 through the [North Carolina Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program](#).

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We'd love to hear from you about companies or projects that need funding, or opportunities to collaborate with your bank or organization. Feel free to call **Marten Jenkins** at [304-870-2207](tel:304-870-2207) or **Anna Tefft**, NCIF's Director of Lending, at [336-734-6902](tel:336-734-6902).

[APPLY FOR A LOAN](#)



Natural Capital Investment Fund supports entrepreneurs who are creating jobs and triple-bottom-line businesses in underserved communities in Central Appalachia and the Southeast. We are a business loan fund with expertise in farm-to-table, alternative energy, forest products, and eco-tourism. Founded in 2001, NCIF is a U.S. Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) affiliated with The Conservation Fund.

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