

The Progress Fund

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The Progress Fund Becomes the Fourth Accredited CDFI in PA under the PCD Bank Program

The Progress Fund, a Hollidaysburg, PA-based nonprofit corporation, was named an Accredited Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the Pennsylvania Community Development (PCD) Bank. The Progress Fund is the fourth corporation in the state to receive this status. PCD Bank accreditation grants The Progress Fund access to a \$40 million pool of capital that can be borrowed at below-market interest rates. The Progress Fund will use the capital to make loans to small businesses in nine counties. PCD Bank money is specifically earmarked for community and economic development and is not available through existing public or private sector financial programs. PCD Bank established this pool of capital to support CDFIs, which are "Certified" by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and pass the State's examination of financial strength and capabilities.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury certified The Progress Fund in 1998 and also granted it \$535,000 in December 1999. Those funds along with the PCD Bank loan will

enable The Progress Fund to increase the number of loans it can provide to small businesses.

The Progress Fund has made successful loans to 64 businesses and community organizations, which have created over 150 new jobs. The Progress Fund, which began operations in 1997, has targeted travel and tourism businesses because it is Pennsylvania's second largest industry and growing. Recent borrowers include Lenora's Restaurant in Perryopolis and the Jean Bonnet Tavern in Bedford. Development assistance and technical support is currently being provided to the 1889 South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club Historical Preservation Society in St. Michael, PA.

PCD Bank is a cornerstone of the "Project for Community Building," which is an initiative of Governor Tom Ridge. The Project recognizes that government simply does not have all the solutions to community economic problems and recognizes that local, civic and community-minded corporations sometimes do. Giving organizations like The Progress Fund an opportunity to access and loan money empowers them to revitalize communities by fostering business creation and growth. The goal of the project is to create economic opportunity for area residents and to assist in building and maintaining strong communities.

"Many excellent businesses in the travel and tourism industry have a problem obtaining bank loans," said Progress Fund President, David Kahley. "We are a small business lender providing the development services and know-how these businesses need."

“Our primary mission is to create jobs,” said Kahley. “In order to create jobs, we lend money and provide expertise. We remove roadblocks for businesses. The most rewarding aspect of our job is knowing that our investments and advice, can help these business grow.”

More information about The Progress Fund is available online at www.progressfund.org

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**The Progress Fund is a nonprofit corporation working to create economic opportunity in southwestern and south-central Pennsylvania by lending needed capital and providing technical assistance to small businesses.
The Progress Fund is a “Westsylvania Partners” affiliate.**