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PRESS RELEASE

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**CDFA Announces Winners of CDFA Illinois Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards
—Winner to receive awards at annual Illinois Conference in May—**

The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 CDFA Illinois Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards.

“Each year CDFA is proud to honor excellence in development finance. The work of our award winners is cutting-edge, innovative, and an example of best practices in our industry,” said Toby Rittner, CDFA President & CEO.

The CDFA Illinois Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards recognize outstanding development finance programs, agencies, projects, and success stories. These awards, presented at the CDFA Illinois Financing Roundtable Conference, honor excellence in the use of financing tools for economic development, as well as the individuals who champion those efforts. This year’s honorees are:

CDFA Excellence Award: Agency – Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

The **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency** has helped historic properties in Illinois receive more than \$2.3 billion dollars in reinvestment since 2000. In 2014, Illinois was first in the nation with more than \$726 million in certified rehabilitation expenditures. Programs administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency include: Federal tax credits for rehabilitation of historic, income-producing properties; a freeze on property taxes for owner-occupied historic residences; state income tax credits for rehabilitation of historic, income-producing properties in River Edge Redevelopment Zones.

CDFA Excellence Award: Leadership – Tom Henderson

CDFA is proud to award **Tom Henderson** with the CDFA Excellence Award. Mr. Henderson is Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Illinois Tax Increment Association (ITIA). He is responsible for planning and implementing the programs and activities of the ITIA, along with representing ITIA in the legislature and with the executive branch of state government. Prior to ITIA, Mr. Henderson worked with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) where he was the statewide administrator of the Enterprise Zone, High Impact Business, and River Edge Redevelopment Zone Programs. CDFA is proud to honor Tom for his service and leadership in the development finance industry.

CDFA Excellence Award: Project – Institute of Cultural Affairs; GreenRise Building Retrofit

The **GreenRise Building project**, a 50 kilowatt, nearly 500 panel solar array retrofit, is the second largest installation of solar panels on a commercial building in Greater Chicago. This addition of green technology will reduce the building’s dependency on an external supply of electricity by 23 percent and offer a yearly savings of over \$16,000. The Institute of Cultural Affairs received a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, as well as matching funds to finance the \$600,000 project.

CDFA Excellence Award: Program – Chicago Infrastructure Trust; Municipal Buildings Retrofit

The **Municipal Buildings Retrofit** initiative provides funding for energy efficiency projects, including lighting, windows, and HVAC units of City-owned and operated buildings without using taxpayer dollars or City bond capacity, leaving the City’s credit rating unaffected. Through an innovative, tax-exempt Energy Services Agreement (ESA) structure, 60 City buildings—including libraries, police stations, and health care facilities—across 36 Wards are undergoing 114 energy upgrades at no up-front cost, agreeing to share the realized electricity and natural gas savings.

The CDFA Texas Financing Roundtable Conference Excellence Awards will be formally presented at the **2015 CDFA Illinois Financing Roundtable**, in Chicago, IL on May 13.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.