colorado enterprise fund
Lending with Impact

50 YEARS OF IMPACT

Celebrating 50 YEARS

COLORADO ENTERPRISE FUND

Since 1976, we've created a legacy of impact for small businesses and local communities through equitable lending and unwavering support.

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Lending with Impact

OUR JOURNEY

50 Years of Lending with Impact

Fifty years ago, it started with a yogurt business and a simple idea: help fund a business expansion in Denver. Decades later, Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF) is a trusted CDFI throughout the state of Colorado providing small businesses loans for those who do not qualify for traditional funding. CEF is creating impact every day by building small businesses, driving economic development, and creating/retaining jobs.

Guided by our mission - to accelerate community prosperity by financing and supporting entrepreneurs and small business - we envision a future where Colorado communities are healthy, diverse and prosperous with robust economic mobility and paths to generational wealth.

CEF Borrowers Through the Years







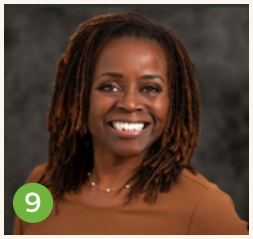
















1. Convivio Cafe | Denver
2. The Roost | Longmont
3. Fitch Ranch Artisan Meats | Granby
4. Nude Foods Market | Boulder
5. FERAL | Denver
6. Pretty Cakes Bakery | Denver
7. Patterbar | Denver
8. Mountain Media Enterprises Northern Colorado
9. B&M Construction, Inc. Colorado Springs
10. OTM Skincare | Thornton
11. Wild Water Plumbing Colorado Springs

1976

The Beginning

Greater Denver Local Development Corporation was founded with a mission to expand access to capital and create opportunity for small businesses.



First Loan 1976
Mountain High Yogurt.

1987

Ceyl Prinster became first employee.



1992

GDLDC became an SBA Microloan Lender & expanded its lending footprint to 5 Denver-Metro counties.

1993

First SBA microloan was closed by CEF.


SMALL BUSINESS

Denver business gets first SBA microloan


SMALL BUSINESS

Small loans for small businesses

New program loans amounts conventional lenders won't consider

1994

Started business coaching/technical assistance for small business borrowers.

1995

Boulder Microloan Program launched, laying the groundwork for the Community Loan Fund established years later.



1996

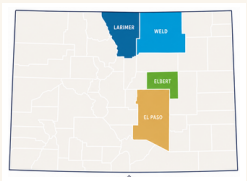
Name changed to Colorado Enterprise Fund and earned CDFI certification.

Expanded lending to 6 counties in CO.

1999

Expanded lending services to 4 additional counties:

- Larimer
- Weld
- Elbert
- El Paso



2000

Raised maximum loan amount to

$50,000

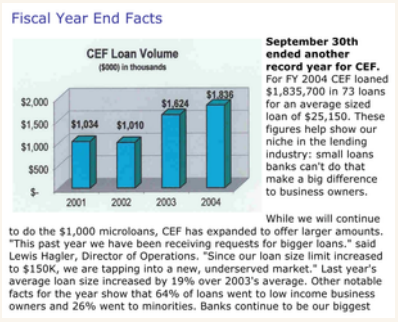
2002

CEF reached new heights with **59 loans** with an average loan size of **$17,112** in 2002. Staff grows to **7 employees.**



2004

Loan size limit increased to $150K & CEF loaned $1.83M in loans in FY04.


Fiscal Year End Facts

CEF Loan Volume
($000) in thousands

September 30th ended another record year for CEF. For FY 2004 CEF loaned $1,835,700 in 73 loans for an average sized loan of $25,150. These figures help show our niche in the lending industry: small loans banks can't do that make a big difference to business owners.

While we will continue to do the $1,000 microloans, CEF has expanded to offer larger amounts. "This past year we have been receiving requests for bigger loans," said Lewis Hagler, Director of Operations. "Since our loan size limit increased to $150K, we are tapping into a new, underserved market." Last year's average loan size increased by 19% over 2003's average. Other notable facts for the year show that 64% of loans went to low income business owners and 26% went to minorities. Banks continue to be our biggest

2007

CEF expanded lending services statewide across Colorado.



2009

First Community Loan Fund established with City of Boulder.

2016

Increased maximum **loan amount to $500K!**

OVER 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

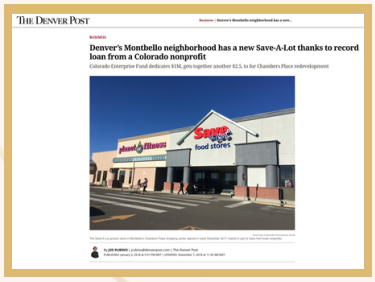
Celebrated 40th Anniversary.

CEF had deployed over $50M in total loans to over 1,800 small business owners as of 2016.

2017

CEF closed its first $1M loan - Save-A-Lot in Montbello.

Largest Loan Yet!



2018

CEF launched VALOR for Veterans Program.



2019

CEF was awarded first **New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) award** of **$20M.**



First NMTC closed 2020 to TruStile Doors.

2020

CEF has deployed **$100M** in Loan Capital as of 2020

DID YOU KNOW?

CEF administered $52M in PPP loans. CEF was CO's largest non-profit PPP lender. CEF also ventured into Grant Administration for the first time during COVID.

2021



Black Business Loan Fund was launched, and all loan proceeds were fully allocated & utilized.

2024

CEF has deployed **$200M** in **LOAN CAPITAL** as of 2024

2025

$18M in loan production for CEF's FY25.

LARGEST EVER!

2026

Childcare Loan Program Launched with community partners:

GARY COMMUNITY VENTURES

EXECUTIVES PARTNERING TO INVEST IN CHILDREN EPIC

2026

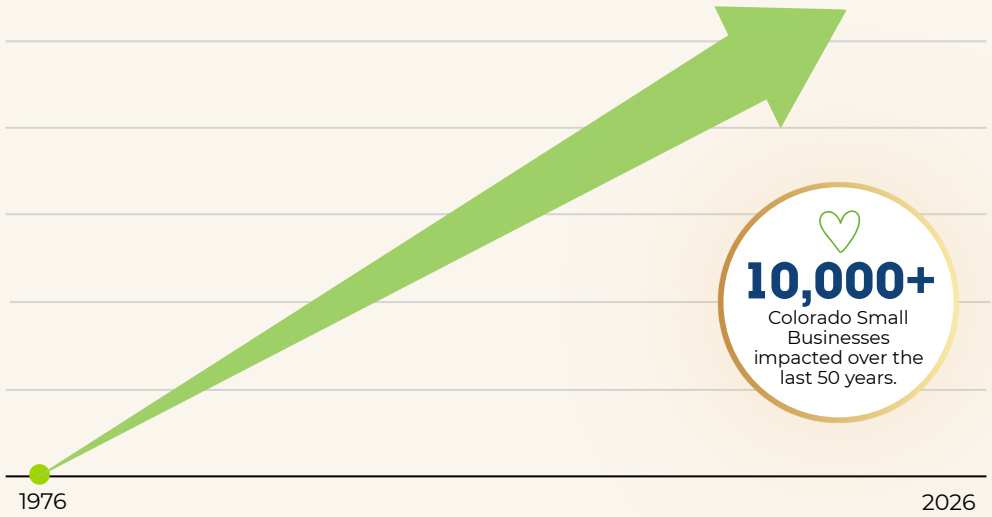
$295M in total NMTC allocations as of 2026.

50 YEARS OF IMPACT

GROWING *TOGETHER*

1976-2026

For 50 years, CEF has been on a mission to fuel small business growth and empower entrepreneuers across Colorado.



10,000+
Colorado Small Businesses impacted over the last 50 years.

"We value our partnership with CEF and the critical role they have played in developing and providing microloan and grant programs that have helped hundreds of small businesses in our community."

– JENNIFER PINSONNEAULT
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER OF ECONOMIC VITALITY, CITY OF BOULDER







Boppy, Maria Empanada, and Knotty Tie are among the many entrepreneurs CEF has proudly supported in building thriving businesses and stronger communities.

1987 | 1 EMPLOYEE

2026 | 43 EMPLOYEES



Loans in **13** out of **14 Colorado Regions**

93% statewide reach

50 Years of Impact

6,200+
LOANS

$482M+
CAPITAL DEPLOYED
(Loans, NMTCs, & Grants)

37,000+
JOBS CREATED & RETAINED

88,000+
BUSINESS NAVIGATION HOURS

91%
UNDERSERVED BORROWERS

AWARDS

SBA RECOGNITION

U.S. Small Business Administration

- **2015** Rural Lender of the Year
- **2017** Rural Lender of the Year
- **2018** Community Lender of the Year
- **2019** National Jody Raskind SBA Community Lender
- **2024** SBA Community Lender of the Year - Colorado
- **2025** SBA 7(a) Small Lender of the Year - Colorado

coloradobiz TOP Company Awards



- 2014 CO Biz Top Company Nonprofit Category
- 2023 CO Biz Top Company Award - Financial Services Category



- 2018 MLK Award

MISSION INVESTORS EXCHANGE

- 2017 CO Impact Days - Impact Catalyst Award

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

- 2018 Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce – Small Business Advocate of the Year

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

- 2026 Partners in Philanthropy DBJ

MILESTONES & MOMENTS



1. CEF Staff, 2026: The team behind the mission.



2. CEF's 2026 leadership team.



3. CEF hosted their first Small Business Success Summit, 2023.



4. CEF staff volunteered their time with Food Bank of the Rockies, one of CEF's NMTC partners.



5. FY24 marked a major milestone for CEF: $200 million in total loans to Colorado small businesses.

Thank you for being part of the journey

It takes a village to build a thriving community. For 50 years, our partners have stood alongside Colorado's entrepreneurs and small businesses—helping provide the capital, resources, and support they need to grow. Together, we're building businesses, creating jobs, and strengthening communities across Colorado.

Celebrating 50 YEARS

"We're filling Denver's gap that lacks access to affordable retail and studio space for local artists."

-Owner, Jevon Taylor Greenspaces

"Working with CEF was different because they understood the importance of the social impact we were making and took that into consideration. So many banks really just care about the risk, the history, and whether they can make money. CEF truly valued the social impact as much as we did."

-Liesl Perez, Owner
Axis Integrated Mental Health

"CEF's support relieved us from short-term, high-interest loans, enabling us to focus on gaining larger projects. CEF isn't solely about finances; it's about bolstering entrepreneurs and overcoming challenges."

-Barry Jennings, Owner
Jennings Smart Tech Environments

"I was blown away by how much CEF cared about me as a person and about my business. They really wanted to learn about the business they would be supporting."

-Owner, Sharon Scheminske
Fortissimo Dueling Pianos

"The process was so encouraging. In a time full of self doubt, it's great to have people who know what they are doing, ask the right questions, and still say that this is possible! You can do it!"

-Rachel Langley, Owner
Homestead Direct Primary Care

A special thank you to our sponsors for your generous support of our 50th Celebration.

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50 YEARS OF IMPACT

US bancorp Impact Finance
PNC
BMO
INNOVEST
TBK BANK
SouthState
canvas credit union
DENVER HEALTH est. 1860