

# CDFI Financial Assistance (FA) Grant Readiness Checklist

The Financial Assistance (FA) Grant is designed for certified CDFIs with a proven track record of lending and community impact. FA awards provide capital to expand lending, launch new products or serve new markets - but they require strong organizational and financial readiness.

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## ✓ Basic Requirements

- Must be a Certified CDFI at the time of application.
  - In good standing with the CDFI Fund (no unresolved compliance issues).
  - Registered in SAM.gov and have a valid UEI.
  - Active AMIS account with the CDFI Fund.
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## ✓ Organizational Readiness

- Strategic plan aligned with community development mission.
  - Board and leadership accountable to your target market.
  - Policies for fair lending and member protection.
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## ✓ Financial Readiness

- At least 3 years of audited financial statements.
- Completed Applicant Financial Data Inputs Workbook.
- Capitalization strategy showing sources and uses of funds.

**Performance Track Record**

- Demonstrated history of originating eligible loans and financial products in your target market.
  - Ability to report loan-level data through the Transaction Level Report (TLR).
  - Documented impact metrics (e.g., loans made to low-income or minority borrowers, affordable housing financed, small businesses supported).
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**FA Objectives (must select at least one)**

- Increase lending or financial services.
  - Serve a new target population or geography.
  - Launch a new financial product.
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**Narrative Preparation**

- A compelling story of your community development impact.
  - Evidence of member and market demand for your products.
  - A clear explanation of how FA funding will expand your mission.
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**If you can check these boxes, you're ready to pursue an FA Grant.**

CUwise can help strengthen your application and showcase your impact to maximize funding opportunities.