



## Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
July 23, 2009

**Media Contact:**  
Yahaira García-Perea  
Office 559.263.1024

### **Fresno CDFI Gets Funding Boost: US Department of Treasury Awards \$600,000 for Low-Interest Loans**

**(Fresno, CA)** – The dreams of Fresno County residents and entrepreneurs are \$600,000 closer to becoming a reality. Fresno Community Development Financial Institution (Fresno CDFI), a subsidiary of the nonprofit Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), received an award from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's CDFI Fund made available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The monies are supporting small businesses that are starting or expanding operations thus providing economic opportunities to communities facing financial challenges.

"We are absolutely ecstatic about the opportunities these dollars are creating," says Fresno CDFI CEO Salam Nalia. "Small businessmen and women who have been overlooked by traditional banking institutions in recent months now have an alternative for their loaning needs."

Fresno CDFI, a private sector Loan Fund with community development at its core, is bridging the gap between the financial services available to the economic mainstream and economically disadvantaged communities by providing them access to capital to start and expand businesses, build assets, and develop needed community facilities. It is a comprehensive financial services, training, and asset development institution for low- and moderate-income residents and businesspersons. Since its inception in 2007, Fresno CDFI has helped hundreds of entrepreneurs realize their dreams and has assisted many Fresno County residents in becoming part of the economic mainstream by helping them establish credit.

To learn more about Fresno CDFI, please visit [www.fresnocdfi.com](http://www.fresnocdfi.com). For more information about the U.S. Treasury's CDFI Fund, please visit [www.cdfifund.gov](http://www.cdfifund.gov)

**Fresno CDFI loan recipients are available for interviews.**

#### **About Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC)**

For over four decades, Fresno County EOC – a private, nonprofit agency – has helped low-income Fresno County residents become self-sufficient. EOC offers approximately 40 comprehensive community-based programs that develop an individual's capabilities and places them on the path toward independence.

###