



November 6, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Council of Development Finance Agencies
100 East Broad Street, Suite 1200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-705-1300
www.cdfa.net

CONTACT:

Toby Rittner
President & CEO
trittner@cdfa.net

Chris Burnham Presented Prestigious CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award

— Distinguished Development Finance Career Recognized —

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the recipient of the **2024 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award**, Chris Burnham, President of the Development Finance Authority of Summit County (DFA). This year's winners will be formally awarded during a special ceremony at the 2024 CDFA National Development Finance Summit in Baltimore, MD, on November 14.

The CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the development finance industry throughout their professional careers. This award honors those individuals and their dedication to advancing new development finance tools, strategies, and approaches.

"Chris Burnham is a veteran leader in the development finance industry whose expertise is evident in the success of DFA under his presidency. He has more than earned this award," states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA.

As President of the **Development Finance Authority of Summit County (DFA)** since 2000, Mr. Burnham has been instrumental in building DFA into one of the highest-performing development finance agencies in the nation. During his tenure, he oversaw key projects and the creation of two private nonprofits that successfully provided access to capital and jobs for communities, small businesses, and nonprofits throughout Northeastern Ohio.

With its bond programs, DFA has leveraged over \$1.7 billion to support the region's community and economic development activity. Through the Development Fund of the Western Reserve (DFWR), DFA has allocated over \$131 million in NMTCs, enabling DFA and DFWR to directly or indirectly be associated with the creation and retention of over 32,981 jobs.

More recently, Mr. Burnham led the effort to create and capitalize several mission-driven lending programs through the Western Reserve Community Fund, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) staffed and supported by DFA focused on providing capital in economically distressed and disadvantaged areas in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Burnham continues to be a champion for his region by offering guidance to numerous local community organizations.

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.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

###