

CDFI Loan Funds and Consumer Lending: Challenges & Opportunities

Vikki Frank is founding director of Credit Builders Alliance - an innovative social enterprise nonprofit creating new solutions for financially underserved families in the U.S. to build credit and assets. She has 15 years experience creating wealth building and anti-poverty solutions for international, national and community-based organizations throughout the Americas and Africa. Vikki comes from the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund where she helped certify and underwrite federal funding for CDFIs as well as strengthen Native CDFIs. Vikki also worked nationally with US Department of Health and Human Services to help nonprofits build their capacity to offer effective financial education, IDAs, and asset building in underserved communities. Prior, Vikki was business program manager and IDA coordinator at the Latino Economic Development Corporation in DC. Vikki has worked with over 600 community-based organizations to build capacity through phone/email technical assistance, site visits, training, and consulting. She is recognized for her expertise in adapting mainstream asset-building strategies to diverse population. Vikki was also co-investigator with the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis at USC to expand university participation in asset building. Vikki holds an undergraduate degree from McGill University and a policy degree from Columbia University.

Sarah Chenven joined IHI as its Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Program Manager in November 2008. Sarah has spent over a decade working for nonprofit and public sector organizations whose missions are to help disadvantaged groups create systemic change. She has managed a number of programs with sizeable budgets and staff and has experience working in diverse and challenging contexts. Prior to her job with IHI, Sarah worked with Mercy Corps advising low-income entrepreneurs in the Portland Metropolitan area on the development of their small businesses and directing its Hurricane Katrina program in New Orleans. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration and is a member of the Oregon State Bar.

Justin Maxson first came to MACED in 1995 as director of community development for the Letcher County Action Team, a grassroots sustainable development organization in eastern Kentucky. Justin's work focused on leadership development, program development and community-based problem solving. From 1998 to early 2002, Justin was executive director of the Progressive Technology Project, a national grant making and technical assistance organization working to strengthen grassroots social change efforts through the strategic use of technology. Justin returned to MACED in February of 2002 as vice-president and was named president in November 2002. Justin brings 10 years of nonprofit experience focused on capacity building, program development, organizational development and social change. He has a master's in anthropology from Boston University.