



AFI Webinar : Empowering the Latino Community: AFI Funding Opportunity

2 – 3pm ET

Good afternoon, there has been a slight miscommunication with the times, the webinar will start at 2pm



Introducing the Assets for Independence (AFI) Program

AFI Resource Center

2 – 3pm ET

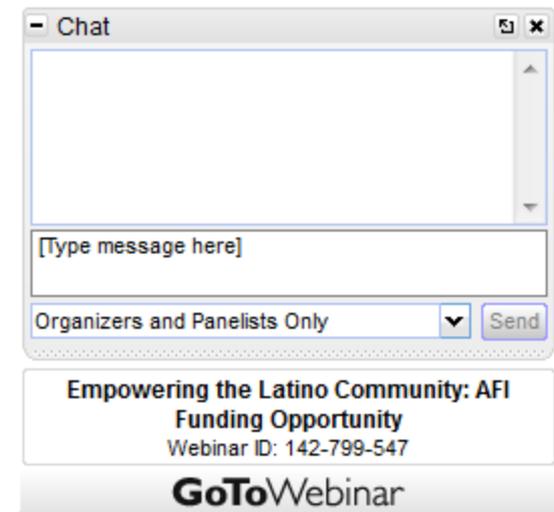
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During this Webinar

- ▶ For assistance accessing the materials, contact the AFI Resource Center: info@IDAresources.org or call 1-866-778-6037
- ▶ The webinar is being recorded and will be available on our website along with the presentation
- ▶ All participants have been muted to ensure sound quality
- ▶ If you have any questions before/ during Q&A:
 1. Go to the Q&A panel on the right-hand side
 2. Type in your question
 3. Click “Send”



Presenters

- ▶ Anamita Gall, AFI Resource Center
- ▶ Michael Elkins, Community Action Partnership of Riverside County, CA



AFI

Assets for Independence

Assets for Independence (AFI) Program

- ▶ Assets for Independence (AFI) is a discretionary grant program administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).
- ▶ Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
 - Part of the US Department of Health & Human Services.
 - One of the key *human services* agencies within HHS.
 - Promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities.
 - Responsible for funding many programs and services, including Head Start, child care, child welfare, child support, LIHEAP, family violence prevention, TANF, CSBG, and refugee services.

Assets for Independence (AFI) Program

- ▶ AFI was created by Congress in 1998 to demonstrate and support an assets-based approach for increasing the economic self-sufficiency of low-income individuals and families.
- ▶ What is asset building?
Supporting the acquisition of assets (both tangible, such as a home, and intangible, such as education) that can increase opportunities, build wealth, and increase economic stability.
 - Income-support strategies, such as cash assistance and SNAP (food stamps), act as a safety net.
 - Asset-building strategies act as a ladder.



Assets for Independence (AFI) Program

- ▶ AFI funds projects that provide Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and related services to low-income people.
 - IDAs are matched savings accounts with a specific goal: purchasing an asset.
 - AFI IDAs may be used for:
 - To purchase a first home,
 - To capitalize a business, or
 - To fund post-secondary education or training.

Which entities are eligible for AFI grants?

- ▶ AFI is authorized to award grants to the following entities:
 - Non-profit entities with 501(c)(3) status;
 - State or local government agencies, or tribal governments, applying jointly with a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status;
 - Financial institutions that are federally certified as either a Low-Income Credit Union or a Community Development Financial Institution and that demonstrate a collaborative relationship with a local community-based organization whose activities are designed to address poverty.
 - Entities deemed eligible under Section 405(g) of the AFI Act [the grandfather clause], specifically state agencies in Indiana and Pennsylvania.

AFI Award Information

- ▶ AFI is a discretionary grant program.
 - Competitively awarded; typically more than one competition per fiscal year.
 - Program is implemented by grantees.
 - Organizations can have more than one AFI grant at a time.
- ▶ In FY 2014, AFI was appropriated \$19 million.
 - Approximately \$10 million was awarded as grants.
 - Total of 44 grant awards were made.
- ▶ General grant information:
 - Maximum award: \$1,000,000.
 - Minimum award: \$10,000.
 - Grants have a 5 year period.
 - Full funding is available upon award.



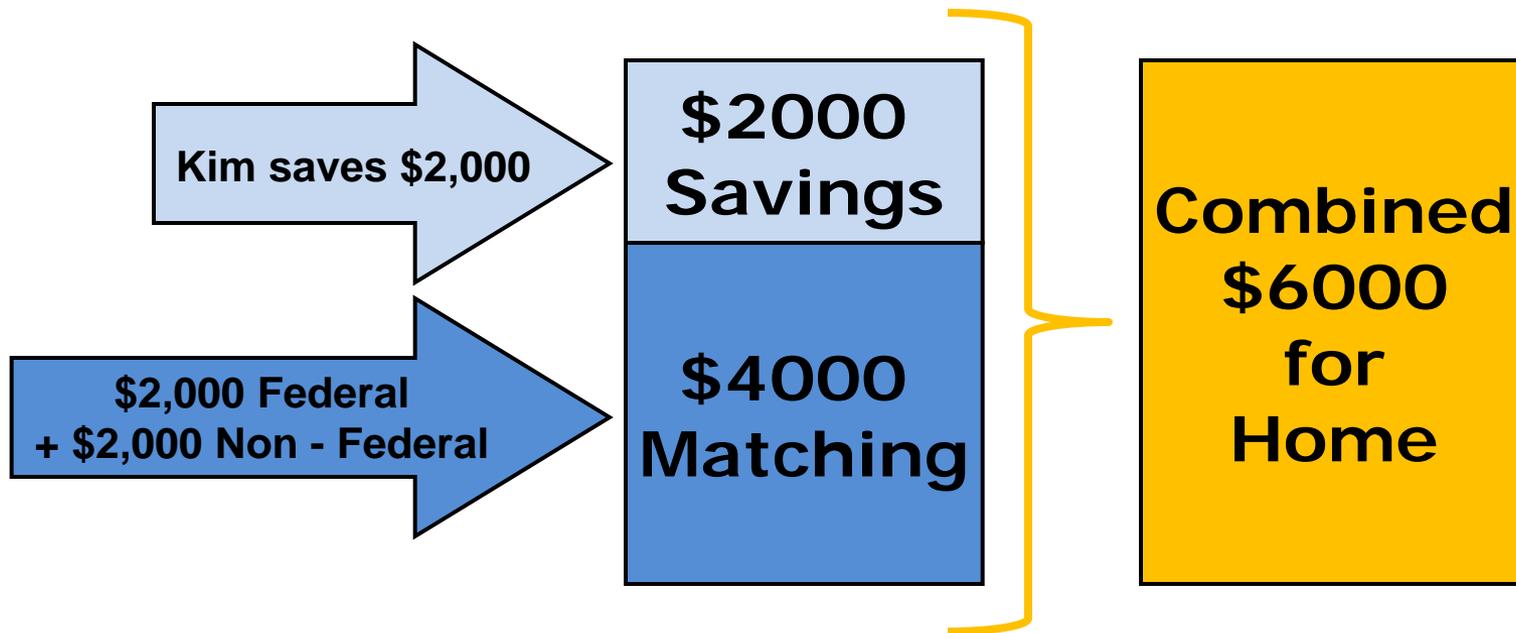
AFI

How AFI Works

How AFI Works: A Participant's Perspective

- ▶ Kim would like to purchase her first home.
- ▶ An AFI grantee in her community determines that she is eligible and Kim opens her IDA.
- ▶ The AFI grantee matches Kim's savings at a rate of \$2 for every \$1.
- ▶ For 3 years, Kim saves \$55 per month of her earned income, working towards a goal of \$2,000 in her IDA.
- ▶ During this time, she receives tax assistance, financial education, and homeownership preparation from the AFI grantee and its partners.
- ▶ Kim saves \$2,000 and purchases her home using her savings plus \$4,000 from the AFI grantee (\$2,000 federal/\$2,000 non-federal).

How AFI Works: Kim's IDA



Who can participate in an AFI project?

1. Any individual who is a member of a household that is eligible for assistance under their state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

OR

2. Any individual who is a member of a household that meets both of the following requirements:
 - Income Test - Adjusted gross income of the household is equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or the earned income tax credit limits.
 - Net Worth Test - Net worth of the household, as of the end of the calendar year preceding the determination of eligibility, does not exceed \$10,000 (excluding value of the primary residence and one vehicle).

How AFI Works: A Grantee's Perspective

▶ Project start-up:

- Activate partnership with financial institution(s) and other partners
- Establish project Reserve Fund, deposit non-federal cash contribution, and draw down federal AFI funds
- Develop program policies and procedures and train staff
- Develop program outreach and marketing materials
- Set up data management system and other record-keeping

▶ Engage and support savers:

- Perform outreach and recruitment
- **Determine eligibility of applicants and ability to participate**
- Establish savings plan agreements and **open IDAs**
- Support participant savings progress

How AFI Works: A Grantee's Perspective

▶ Engage and support savers:

- **Periodically match participant savings**
- Develop system for participant **business plan review and approval** (if offering business as an asset)
- **Assist participants in obtaining skills and information necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency**
- Offer activities and strategies for retaining participants
- **Approve and process qualified expenses and emergency withdrawals**

▶ Behind the scenes:

- Submit required reports
- Conduct periodic internal reviews
- Perform project close-out



AFI

**Community Action partnership OF Riverside county
Riverside, CA
Michael Elkins, Community Program Specialist II**

About CAP Riverside

- ▶ CAP Riverside was designated as Riverside County's official anti-poverty agency in July, 1979
- ▶ Riverside County – 7,303 Square miles, Pop. – 2,292,507; approx. 50% male/female ratio
- ▶ 45.5% Hispanic, largest ethnic group.
- ▶ 16.2% of total pop. fall below Federal Poverty Guideline, 1 of every 6 residents struggle to meet basic needs, 1 of every 5 children live in poverty stricken homes.

Why AFI?

- ▶ In a poverty stricken area the IDA program is essential.
- ▶ 371,386 fall below Federal Poverty Guideline
- ▶ 1 out of 6 fail to meet basic needs; 1 out of 9 families live in poverty
- ▶ High cost of living; High unemployment rates
- ▶ CAP Riverside's programs are designed to produce outcomes that result in changed lives, and residents becoming self-sufficient.

IDAs at CAP Riverside

▶ Demographics

- 75% Female, 25% Male (115 total)
- 46% Hispanic (37 F, 16 M), 26% African American (25 F, 5 M)
- 24% Single Mothers

▶ Current savers

- Current 115, Lifetime 1053

▶ Graduates

- 446 since program inception
- Dollars saved - \$512,000+, match earned – \$1.78 mil, outside funds leveraged - \$18 mil. (mortgages, education and small business loans)

IDAs at CAP Riverside (cont'd)

- ▶ Match rate, savings goal, savings period
 - 4:1
 - \$1000
 - Six months to Two years
- ▶ Program activities
 - Case Management, Financial Literacy Courses, Outreach, Partner Meetings
 - 1 on 1 coaching, mentoring, encouraging, motivating, inspiring
 - Life coaching and champion
- ▶ Time commitment
 - 2 full time personnel, 40+ hours per week

IDAs at CAP Riverside (cont'd)

▶ IDA partners

- Banks (Altura CU, Citibank)
- Non Profit Agencies
- Springboard
- Inland Empire Women's Business Center
- Coachella Valley Women's Business Center

▶ Funders

- Service Clubs – VFW, Rotary, Kiwanas
- Banking institutes
- Share funds
- Small business owners

Lessons Learned

▶ Benefits of AFI

- Relevant ways to assist clients in becoming self-sufficient
- Allows us to have an additional tool to move people from the initial and immediate need, into fully self-sufficient productive member of the community (example: Energy assistance – Small Business Owner)

▶ Challenges of managing AFI

- Many banks have stopped funding IDAs
- High rates of unsuccessful participants
 - Increased case management and keeping participants motivated

Lessons Learned (cont'd)

- ▶ How can an organization like yours know if it is in a good position to run an IDA program? What “screening questions” should organizations consider?
 - Is there a need in your particular area?
 - Is there a need for all 3 goals, or would a particular goal be a better fit?
 - Are there other organizations already doing this that you might be able to partner with and leverage resources?

Michael Elkins

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Applying for AFI

Key AFI Requirements

- ▶ Cost Sharing: Awards require 100% cash match from non-federal sources.
- ▶ Limitation on Uses of Funds: 85% of project funds must be used to match participant IDA savings.
- ▶ Qualified Expenses: AFI IDAs may be used to purchase a first home, capitalize a business, or fund post-secondary education or training.
- ▶ Matching Participant Savings: Specific requirements related to administration of the project (savings period, match cap, financial institutions).

Identifying Potential Funders

For each of your asset goals, determine:

- ▶ Aside from the IDA accountholders, who else shares these goals?
- ▶ Who else benefits from your success?
 - Private sector: lenders, education & training institutes, etc.
 - Public sector: local government, CDCs, etc.
- ▶ Who is already funding this work? What existing sources of funding can you leverage?
 - Examples: downpayment assistance, scholarships

Sources of Non-federal Funds

- ▶ Financial institutions and their foundations
- ▶ State and local governments, including tax credits
- ▶ Tribal governments
- ▶ United Way
- ▶ Foundations (local, regional)
- ▶ Applicant organization funds
- ▶ Funds directed to specific goals (i.e., scholarship funds, downpayment assistance funds)
- ▶ Special needs funding opportunities (mental health, youth programs, disability programs, and other nonfederal funding streams that target specific populations)
- ▶ Locally-based corporations/employers
- ▶ Places of worship
- ▶ Individuals/online donations
- ▶ Civic/fraternal organizations
- ▶ Local business associations or industry sectors (e.g. Realtor donations)

How's the Fit?

- ▶ For your organization:
 - Experience in administering AFI projects or similar programs helping low-income people pursue the goals of homeownership, post-secondary education, or business development?
 - Capacity to implement project (including partners)?
 - Resources available for project?
 - Accounting/financial records systems?

- ▶ For your service area and target population:
 - Eligibility and demand for allowable asset purchases?
 - Viability of the proposed project with regard to the asset purchases included in the design?

AFI Funding Opportunity

▶ Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

- Available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/index.cfm?switch=foa&fon=HHS-2015-ACF-OCS-EI-1005> or through the link at <http://www.IDAresources.acf.hhs.gov/Apply>
- Next application due date: **October 13, 2015**
 - Pending funding availability, there are also application due dates expected in April and October 2016, and April 2017.



Next Steps

1. Share AFI information with agency leadership, partners, and staff
2. Contact the AFI Resource Center for a copy of the AFI Application Kit and to join the mailing list
3. Learn from other Prospective Grantee Webinars:
 - Introduction to the 2015 FOA
 - Recording posted at www.IDAresources.acf.hhs.gov/Apply
 - Developing Resources and Partners
 - Look for it on our calendar
www.IDAresources.acf.hhs.gov/Calendar
 - Preparing & Submitting an AFI Application
 - Coming soon!

AFI Resource Center

- ▶ The AFI Resource Center is the access point for AFI program technical assistance.
- ▶ Website: idaresources.acf.hhs.gov
 - Includes information for potential applicants
 - Grantee Locator:
<http://idaresources.acf.hhs.gov/afigrantees>
- ▶ Help Desk:
 - **Phone:** 1-866-778-6037
 - **Email:** info@idaresources.org

Building Financial Capability: A Planning Guide for Integrated Services

■ What is it?

- An interactive guide to help organizations develop a comprehensive plan for **integrating financial capability services** into their existing programs (e.g. TANF, housing, job training)
- Prepared by CFED for the Administration for Children and Families

■ Who should use it?

- Any organization (public or private), whose mission includes serving low-income communities or providing social services
 - E.g. human services agencies, community colleges, faith-based organizations
- Program managers & directors at these organizations

■ Why integration?

- Integrated approach meets clients where they are and simultaneously addresses multiple interrelated challenges
- Adding financial capability services can help enhance the outcomes of an organization's core programs

Building Financial Capability:

Overview of Contents

13 field-tested, practical tools walk organizations step-by-step through the integration planning process including:

- Understanding clients' financial issues and identifying financial capability services to meet their needs
- Assessing the resources (in-house and in the community) available for integrating financial capability services
- Determining how to provide these services (refer, partner, or do-it-yourself)
- Developing in-house capacity to provide services, if appropriate
- Creating successful partnerships or referral systems with other service providers, if appropriate
- Making the case for integration to internal and external stakeholders

Building Financial Capability



BUILDING FINANCIAL CAPABILITY A Planning Guide for Integrated Services MENU

Table of Contents

- Foreword
- Executive Summary
- About Financial Capability Integration
- How to Use This Guide

Section 1: Envisioning Your Clients' Financial Capability	Tool 1: How Your Clients Manage Now Tool 2: Outcomes That Matter Tool 3: The Theory of Change (Section 1 Capstone Tool)
Section 2: Building the Team	Tool 4: In-House Capacity Tool 5: Inventory of Community Service Providers Tool 6: Assessment of Community Service Providers Tool 7: Deciding Who Will Deliver Services (Section 2 Capstone Tool)
Section 3: Moving Into Action	Tool 8: Current Program Workflow Tool 9: The Referral Plan Tool 10: The Partnership Plan Tool 11: The DIY Plan Tool 12: Putting it All Together – The Logic Model (Capstone Tool for Section 3 and for the Guide as a Whole)
Cross-Cutting Section: Making the Case	Tool: Key Stakeholder Support

- Frequently Asked Questions
- References & Resources
- Appendices
- One Stop Tool Shop
- Acknowledgements

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Available for download at: <http://1.usa.gov/1FxrLnE>

QUESTIONS?

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