



Michelle Lujan Grisham • Governor
Alicia J. Keyes • Cabinet Secretary

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Johanna Nelson Awarded Caren S. Franzini Fellowship

Fellowship Recognizes Outstanding Women in Development Finance

Santa Fe, N.M. – Today, Economic Development Department (EDD) Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced that EDD Financial Development Specialist, Johanna Nelson, was awarded a spot in the first class of the Caren S. Franzini Fellowship program. The program is an initiative of the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), of which EDD is a member. The Franzini Fellowship was established in 2017 to build leadership positions for women in the field of development finance. In the one-year program, fellows will collaborate on a project of significance to the development finance industry and present the project at a national conference.

“CDFA’s Caren S. Franzini Fellowship program is a fantastic opportunity for Johanna to meet with other successful women in the development finance industry and collaborate on a project that will help New Mexico,” said Economic Development Secretary Alicia J. Keyes. “Johanna’s enthusiasm for development finance is apparent in her work at EDD and I wish her the best of luck in the program.”

Johanna Nelson plans to use this opportunity to continue to develop her knowledge within the field of development finance.

“I’m thrilled to be accepted into the first class of the Caren S. Franzini Fellowship program,” said EDD Financial Development Specialist Johanna Nelson. “Being able to help New Mexican communities navigate financing challenges is my passion and mission. I want to be able to apply everything I learn during this experience to assist New Mexican communities thrive and prosper.”

Johanna Nelson has been with EDD’s Finance Development Team since 2015 and obtained her Economic Development Certification from the International Economic Development Council in 2018. She has spearheaded the FUNDIT program, Rural Efficient Business Program, Credit Enhancement Program, and the Finance Development Webinar Series.

To learn more about EDD’s Finance Development programs, please visit: www.gonm.biz.

About CDFA:

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.

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