



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aley Desiderio Awarded Caren S. Franzini Fellowship *Fellowship Recognizes Outstanding Women in Development Finance*

DENVER, CO – Colorado Lending Source is pleased to announce that Development Officer, Aley Desiderio, was awarded a spot in the first-ever class of the Caren S. Franzini Fellowship program. The program is an initiative of the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), of which Colorado Lending Source 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 significant 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 Aley to meet with other successful women in the development finance industry and to enhance her leadership skills,” said Colorado Lending Source’s Executive Director, Mike O’Donnell. “Aley’s enthusiasm for economic development is apparent in her work at Colorado Lending Source and I wish her the best of luck in the program.”

Aley plans to use this opportunity as a way to engage and collaborate with communities and leaders to help further Colorado Lending Source’s mission to foster the economic growth of diverse small businesses. “I am excited to be able to support the growth of the statewide Colorado Main Street Loan program along with the launch of the national effort, the Character Based Loan Fund with my participation in the Franzini Fellowship,” Aley expresses. “I am confident that

working to solve development finance obstacles alongside these powerful, knowledgeable, and driven women for the next year will make a difference for the communities we collectively serve.”

Aley joined Colorado Lending Source’s team in 2017. As an entrepreneur herself, she is committed to the vision and mission of the organization and looks forward to the opportunities the Franzini Fellowship program offers.

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About Colorado Lending Source: Celebrating 30 years of lending, Colorado Lending Source cares about small business, creating long-term alliances with our lending partners and borrowers, being a resource to empower entrepreneurs, and making Colorado the best state in the nation to start and grow a business. We partner with local lenders, government agencies, and other small business resources to make access to capital more attainable. As a mission-based lender and small business-financing expert, we are committed to fostering the economic growth of diverse small businesses within our communities. Since 1990, we’ve funded over 3,800 loans helping to create nearly 29,000 jobs injecting over \$4.7 billion into the economy. Visit Colorado Lending Source for more information: www.coloradolendingsource.org

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.