**CDFI Fund Releases Applicant Demand for 2015 NMTC Round**

Today, the CDFI Fund released statistics on demand for its latest NMTC allocation application. Two-hundred thirty-eight applicants from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam requested a total of $17.6 billion in NMTC allocation authority. The 2015 NOAA provided up to $5 billion in annual allocation authority, and the NMTC Coalition wrote to the CDFI Fund in December urging the Fund to consider awarding the full $5 billion, rather than $3.5 billion.

* [Read the Coalition's letter](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5172/images/Letter%20to%20ADoonvan%20Dec29.pdf)

Each year, the Fund rejects allocation requests from several dozen CDEs categorized as "highly qualified". More allocation would allow the Fund to award more highly qualified CDEs. The Fund tells us that they have not yet decided whether to award $3.5 billion or $5 billion in 2015, and the Coalition's proposal is under consideration.

While demand for NMTC allocation remained strong this year, far outpacing available authority, it did decrease from 2014. Demand for allocation tends to dip in years when the applicants’ must apply and Congress has yet to take action on an extension. In fact, the last three times applicants applied while the program was expired, in 2012, 2014, and 2015, applicant demand dipped by 18%, 23%, and 12%, respectively. NMTC applications take a good deal time and planning, and when the program's fate is uncertain, some CDEs may have chosen not to risk wasting organizational resources, chasing an allocation that has yet to be authorized by Congress.

The good news is that after the dip in demand in 2012, and Congress passed a two-year extension of the program, demand rebounded in 2013. We expect a similar rebound after the long-term extension enacted last year provides CDEs with more certainty to plan loans and investments for future applications.