



NEW YORK STATE CDFI COALITION

Innovative Financing for NY Communities

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Roots & Reckoning: A Candid Conversation on the Past, Present, and Future of Community Finance

Two Pioneers of the CDFI Movement in Conversation

*Cliff Rosenthal and Mark Pinsky will reflect on decades of
impact — and the road ahead — at NYS CDFI Coalition Conference*

ALBANY, N.Y. — March 10, 2026— The NYS CDFI Coalition will bring together two of the most consequential figures in the history of community development finance for a rare and candid public conversation. Clifford Rosenthal and Mark Pinsky — whose careers helped define, build, and advance the CDFI movement in America — will appear together on **Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y.**

The event is part of the Coalition’s annual conference but is open to the public. Tickets for “Roots & Reckoning” are **\$40 per person** and include admission to the talk, cocktail reception and book signing.

“This event offers a valuable opportunity to hear directly from two individuals who have been closely involved in the development of the CDFI movement,” said Aisha Benson, Chair of the Coalition’s Board and CEO of the Nonprofit Finance Foundation (NFF). “Their perspectives on where the field has been, and where it may be heading, come at an incredibly important moment.”

Cliff Rosenthal founded the NYS CDFI Coalition in 1995. He has worked in the cooperative movement for more than forty years, beginning with organizing food co-ops for Native American and migrant farmworker organizations and culminating in leadership of National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (now Inclusiv). In 2012, he established the Office of Financial Empowerment at the newly created federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is widely recognized as a leading voice for credit unions and financial inclusion, and will discuss and launch his latest book, **Community Development Finance: COVID, George Floyd, and the Fight for Equity, 2016-2025** (Friesen Press, February 26, 2026) at the conference.

Mark Pinsky is the President and Founder of CDFI Friendly America (CFA). Previously, Mark served as the President & CEO of Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) for 21 years. Under his leadership, OFN grew dramatically in reach and influence, helping to cement CDFIs as a recognized and essential force in American finance. He has worked for more than three decades to develop, promote, scale, and bring resources to the CDFI industry. Pinsky will also give the plenary address to open the conference.

Together, Rosenthal and Pinsky bring a combined view of the grassroots origins of commu-

nity development finance through its evolution into a multibillion-dollar industry — and its ongoing struggle to reach those left behind by mainstream capital markets.

The conversation will span the arc of their careers, the pivotal moments that shaped the CDFI field, and the challenges and opportunities facing the movement today, from the growing demand for economic equity to an uncertain federal policy environment.

Event Details

- **What:** Roots & Reckoning: A Candid Conversation on the Past, Present, and Future of Community Finance
- **When:** Monday, March 23, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12205
- **Tickets:** \$40 per person (includes talk and cocktail reception)
- **Books:** Available for purchase and signing at the event
- **Registration:** nyscdfi.org/2026-conference

On March 23-24, Community Development leaders from across New York State will gather in Albany for the NYS CDFI Coalition Conference titled **CDFIs at Work: Bridging the Gap**. Conference panels and workshops will explore how mission-driven lenders are bridging financial and skills gaps to help build community, as well as examine strategies that can strengthen their institutions.

The Coalition represents community development financial institutions across New York State that collectively provide billions of dollars in financing to small businesses, affordable housing, nonprofits, and individuals who lack access to traditional credit.

Tickets for the Keynote, Reception and Book Signing are available online at nyscdfi.org/2026-conference . Books will be available for purchase at the event. For more information contact Colleen Ryan at colleen@nyscdfi.org .

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