

The Illinois Valued Advisor Fund

Community Assessment Questionnaire: Enclosed is a Community Assessment Questionnaire. The Illinois Valued Advisor Fund (IVAF) would appreciate any time you can take to complete it. Your input is greatly valued and will be used by IVAF and its Advisory Board to develop guidance for policies and practices to enable an effective NMTC program in your area and in similar areas throughout Illinois.

Background: The Illinois Valued Advisor Fund (VAF) is an affiliate of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, a CPA and business consulting firm with a nationwide service area, which has been extensively involved with New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) since the inception of the program. Always striving to innovate, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause's community development staff was quick to recognize the groundbreaking nature of the NMTC program and develop a practice to help its clients utilize the resource and facilitate investment in communities underserved by the marketplace.

Mission: IVAF is a statewide CDE whose mission is to serve highly distressed LICs having been impacted by loss of jobs, high foreclosure rates and/or recent flooding. Its focus is on working with projects that are aligned with existing community plans that provide opportunities for significant employment opportunities for LIC residents/LIPs and/or needed goods and services and the provision of FCOS to QALICBs and non-profits that will support the sustainable growth of the LIC served

Products and Services: First and foremost, VAF can bring NMTC to bear in spurring the development of important projects in the service area of severely distressed communities. IVAF will utilize its NMTC allocation to provide loans and investments to, and to invest in, local and regional CDEs that provide loans and investments into businesses and projects that align with community interests and produce significant value to those communities. The primary goal of IVAF is to create the potential for sustainable economic growth in the communities it serves by aligning its funding with the development plans and supporting this growth with the provision of financial counseling and other services as may be needed.

IVAF may provide funding directly to projects/businesses or may work with partner CDEs/CDFIs to complete this mission. The financing offered will reflect our mission through its flexible terms and lower interest rates seeking to provide the most viable means of supporting this long term growth through the development of financially viable projects and the support of financially viable businesses.

Projects: IVAF will use its NMTC authority to invest in projects of various sizes and types. However, in general projects will be relatively large-scale (e.g. with NMTC-facilitated financing of roughly \$5 to \$10 million) real estate development, businesses expansion or industrial projects that produce very high impact. IVAF seeks projects that meet at least 3 of the CDFI Fund's distress criteria for NMTC and which are expected to result in increased economic stability, job creation, and economic multiplier effects. In addition, IVAF's NMTC funding will be reserved for projects that might otherwise not proceed due to lack of access to appropriate capital and that have definable connections to community plans and needs.

Contact Information: For more information, contact Terri Preston, Executive Director of the Illinois Valued Advisor Fund at (312) 307-9550 tpreston@illinoisvaluedadvisorfund.com.



Community Needs Assessment Survey

Respondent Information:

Please check the reference that most applies to you:

Resident of a low-income community: _____ # of years in community _____

Business Owner in a low-income community: _____ # of years in community _____

Government Official serving a low-income community: _____ State: _____ Local: _____

Community Development Representative: _____ Regional _____ State: _____ Local: _____

Other (please describe): _____

Zip Code: _____ or Census Tract: _____

Survey:

1) Please rank the following items in importance for your community or your constituency on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is a top priority and 5 is a lower priority:

- Development of affordable healthcare facilities: _____
- Development of affordable childcare businesses: _____
- Development of other community facilities: _____
(Libraries, charter schools, etcetera)

If ranking this as a 2 or above please describe the types of community facilities you feel are needed in your community or by your constituency:

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- l shops: _____
- Development of grocery stores: _____
- Development of pharmacies: _____
- Development of office or professional space: _____
- Development or renovation of for-sale housing _____
- _____ Affordable 80% of median income or lower
- _____ Mixed-income (60%-120% or median income)
- Business Retention: _____



Community Needs Assessment Survey

New Business Growth: _____
_____ Manufacturing
_____ Industrial
_____ Professional
_____ Re-use of Municipally Owned Real Estate
Job Training: _____
Brownfields Remediation _____
Neighborhood stabilization _____
Other (please describe): _____

2) Please rank the following items in importance for your community on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is a top priority and 5 is a lower priority:

Access to public resources for development/business growth and retention: _____
Basic infrastructure (water, sewer, utilities, communications, roadways): _____
Connections to Active Economic Development Groups: _____
Access to private capital (regional banks, insurance companies, etcetera): _____
Access to industry professionals to expedite community planning, growth and specific project funding: _____
Other (please describe): _____

3) Please list your contact information if you would like to do so:

Name: _____
Company (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Your comments will be correlated by the staff of the Illinois Valued Advisor Fund for use by its Advisory Board in developing guidance for policies and practices to enable a positive and effective program in your area and in similar areas throughout the State.