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First Southwest Bank Awarded the Bank Enterprise Award & Granted Over \$233,000

First Southwest Bank is excited to be recognized for creating greater economic opportunity and impact for Southern Colorado communities.

ALAMOSA, COLO., (January 8, 2019) – [First Southwest Bank](#) is proud to announce the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund (CDFI Fund) recently granted First Southwest Bank more than \$233,000 through the Bank Enterprise Award (BEA), the maximum amount presented for this award.

"We're thrilled that we can play a role in investing where most banks rarely seek to lend to rural Colorado entrepreneurs," says Kent Curtis, First Southwest Bank CEO. "We are proud of the hard work that sets us apart. This award continues to show our progress in aiding our underserved rural Colorado communities."

With the momentum of creating an app – [HelloBello.biz](#) – that connects new avenues for small businesses to find financing, especially in underserved communities, First Southwest Bank is eager to invest these funds back into the Doers of rural Colorado.

About First Southwest Bank

Serving the San Luis Valley and rural Colorado for more than 100 years, First Southwest Bank offers personal and business banking at their six branches, with an emphasis on businesses supporting rural communities. First Southwest Bank and their employees actively live-in and give back to our communities, volunteering with more than 40 local organizations, and donating to 115. As a CDFI bank, First Southwest Bank is focused on cultivating valuable relationships, investing in economic and social doers, and fostering a well-lived rural culture. More information about First Southwest Bank is available at [fswb.com](#). *Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender*

About the BEA Program

The Bank Enterprise Award Program (BEA Program) rewards FDIC-insured depository institutions for making investments in certified CDFIs as well as in the most distressed communities in the country. In order to receive an award, these banks and thrifts must demonstrate an increase in their investments with at least 30% of their residents having incomes less than the national poverty level and 1.5 times the unemployment rate. The BEA awards help offset some of the risk associated with investing in these distressed communities and provide an incentive to invest. The greater the loan increase, the greater the award. Since its inception in 1994, the BEA Program has awarded grants totaling over \$447 million. For more information about the BEA Program, please view the [Fact Sheet](#) or visit the CDFI Fund's website at www.cdfifund.gov/bea.

About the CDFI Fund

Since its creation in 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded more than \$2.3 billion to CDFIs, community development organizations, and financial institutions through the Community Development Financial Institutions Program, the Native American CDFI Assistance Program, and the BEA Program. In addition, the CDFI Fund has allocated \$50.5 billion in tax credit allocation authority to Community Development Entities through the New Markets Tax Credit Program, closed guaranteed bonds in the amount of \$1.1 billion through the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program, and awarded more than \$171 million through the Capital Magnet Fund. To learn more about the CDFI Fund and its programs, please view the [Fact Sheet](#) or visit the CDFI Fund's website at www.cdfifund.gov.

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