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Finance Fund Awards \$7 Million in NMTC to The 9
Downtown Revitalization Creates Access to Healthy Foods, Office, Retail

CLEVELAND, OH – Finance Fund has awarded \$7 million in New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing to The Geis Companies for the acquisition and renovation of the 36,000 sq. ft. Cleveland Trust Company Rotunda in the historic Tower Complex. Jobs, housing and a grocery store will bring economic revitalization to a key downtown Cleveland neighborhood at the intersection of East Ninth Street and Euclid Avenue.

This project will create 350 permanent full-time jobs within two years of project completion and create 1,100 construction jobs. The former Tower Complex was vacant for nearly 20 years. As a result, the area was in desperate need of revitalization. Statistics show that 36 percent of residents are living in poverty and the area had an unemployment rate of nearly 18 percent which is 2.5 times the national rate.

“The 9 is an exemplary project for the New Markets Tax Credit program. It arose out of a public-private partnership. This combination of critical funding sources made this mixed-use project possible,” said Finance Fund President and CEO James R. Klein. “The 9 has the potential to completely redevelop a key neighborhood in downtown Cleveland.”

The Rotunda building offers over 36,000 sq. ft. of office and retail space including 16,000 sq. ft. of market space. Heinen’s, a Cleveland-based grocery chain, will lease and manage a full-service grocery featuring fresh produce, dry goods and prepared food such as meats, seafood, coffee, deli and bakery. Currently, there are no other grocery stores in central Cleveland other than a smaller specialty market. Bringing a grocery store to the downtown area will attract residents.

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The Rotunda is part of a much larger \$250 million revitalization project in the area that will drive sustainable economic development and jobs for local residents. This project is positioned to completely change the look and feel of downtown Cleveland.

About Finance Fund (www.FinanceFund.org)

Since 1987, Finance Fund and its affiliates have invested more than \$296.4 million in housing, economic development, and community facility projects leveraging over \$1.2 billion. This investment was accomplished through 2,950 awards to community-based organizations throughout the state. Finance Fund provides debt and equity to its clients through the management of 22 entities totaling \$220 million. Partnerships have enabled low-income people access to 15,750 units of affordable housing, 21,417 direct jobs, and 3,036 early care and education spaces (classrooms) for 69,497 children.

About New Markets Tax Credits (www.cdfifund.gov)

The NMTC program, established by Congress in December 2000, permits individual and corporate taxpayers to receive a credit against federal income taxes for making equity investments in investment vehicles known as Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit provided to the investor totals 39% of the cost of the investment and is claimed over a seven-year period. CDEs must apply to the Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) to compete for this allocation authority.

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