

CARS™

...the rating system for CDFIs.

Mountain Association for Community Economic Development Inc. (MACED)			
CARS™ Rating			
Release Date	Impact Performance Rating	Policy Plus	Financial Strength and Performance Rating
05/09	AA	Yes	2

Impact Performance Rating

AA. A CDFI in this group has clear alignment of mission, strategies, activities and data that guides its programs and planning. It accurately tracks appropriate output data that indicate that it is using its resources effectively to benefit its target populations or communities in line with its mission. The CDFI uses its data on an ongoing basis to adjust strategies and activities in accordance with its desired impact. It may track a limited number of impact indicators as well, but impact data tracking may not be rigorous or consistent.

Policy Plus

Policy change is an integral part of this CDFI's strategies. The CDFI leads initiatives to change government policy to benefit the community development finance industry or disadvantaged people and communities. The CDFI can provide evidence of its leadership role in recent policy changes that produced benefits beyond additional resources for the CDFI itself, and management can clearly articulate the CDFI's leadership role in current policy activities.

Financial Strength and Performance Rating

2. A CDFI in this group is fundamentally sound. It exhibits solid financial strength, performance, and risk management practices relative to its size, complexity, and risk profile. Challenges are well within the board of directors' and management's capabilities and willingness to strengthen. The CDFI is stable and is capable of withstanding fluctuations in its operating environment. Generally, most FSP scores for this CDFI are 2 or above, although it may have received a 3.

For More Information

To receive a complementary ratings analysis or additional information about CARS™, the CDFI Assessment and Rating System, e-mail jschwartz@opportunityfinance.net.