

Ford Foundation

Financing Community Development in Troubled Times



Troubled Times

- Neighborhood destabilization and desperation
- Capital is scarce and very hard to close
- Deal flow is a trickle
- Organizations struggling/vital functions lost

Organizational Impacts

- Smaller, weaker organizations struggling, merging, closing
- Losing some stronger organizations that got caught
- New partnerships

Response Frameworks

- Scarcity mentality: how do we compete with each other for fewer resources? vs
- Focus on increasing the size of the pie

- Fed, state and local budgets zero sum game so how to target and increase impact
- Is this a pause or a new market reality?

Critical moment for housing policy and community development finance

- ARRA, NSP, DOE funds still largely unspent
- Financial regulatory reform
- Federal agency cooperation
- How do we engage local voices and practitioners in change?

What does community
development need to do
now to prepare for the next
wave of capital?

*(as if managing cautiously and
thinking ambitiously weren't enough)*