



# Impact Investing Nonprofits

Impact investing exemplifies the idea that one can “do well while doing good” with one’s investments. In other words, one can purposefully make investments that help achieve certain social and environmental benefits and also generate financial returns. It’s a broad term that refers to everything from investing in organizations with an explicit social mission aligned with one’s values to avoiding investing in companies with practices that one believes have a negative impact. It can also be more expansively defined to include recommending grants to organizations and projects that can blend these grant funds with investment capital in order to support larger or higher-risk projects that may not otherwise be financially viable.

There are a number of impact investing nonprofits that raise charitable dollars to support their investments in socially minded organizations and projects. Returns generated by the organizations they invest in are recycled by the nonprofit to enable new investments in the future. These nonprofits may focus on a particular region or social or environmental cause. Recommending grants to such a nonprofit can provide a donor with a straightforward and efficient way to support social enterprises and nonprofits working in an area or region they care about. Some examples of such nonprofits are provided below. Please note that this does not represent a full list of impact investing nonprofits. Fidelity Charitable does not endorse these organizations and provides this list for reference purposes only. All grant recommendations are subject to review and approval by the Fidelity Charitable Trustees.

## Nonprofits that Invest in Social Enterprises (Globally and in the United States)

A social enterprise is an organization that uses business methods to advance a social cause or mission. Social enterprises can be nonprofit or for-profit entities and operate around the world, working to address social problems ranging from affordable housing to education. The below organizations are some examples of firms that invest in social enterprises internationally.

- [Acumen](#) makes long-term debt or equity investments in early-stage companies providing reliable and affordable access to agricultural inputs, quality education, clean energy, healthcare services, formal housing, and safe drinking water to low-income customers.
- [Echoing Green](#) provides fellowships and innovative leadership programs to support a global community of next-generation talent working to solve the world’s biggest problems. Echoing Green seeks to track down the best and the brightest leaders, bring them together, and launch them on a path to success.
- [Endeavor](#) is a nonprofit that supports high-impact entrepreneurs by providing mentorship and access to networks to help them grow their ventures, driving job creation and economic development worldwide. [Endeavor Catalyst](#) is the organization’s innovative co-investment fund designed to support these entrepreneurs with their equity financing rounds and to contribute to the long-term sustainability of Endeavor.
- [Global Partnerships](#) uses grant capital to explore how new types of products and services can make a difference in the lives of people living in poverty and investment capital to sustain and expand proven solutions focused on rural livelihoods, health services, green energy, and economic resilience.
- [Root Capital](#) seeks to increase incomes and stabilize employment for farmers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The organization provides support for agricultural businesses that collect and market the crops of thousands of these farmers. Through a unique combination of capital, training, and access to global markets, Root Capital helps agricultural businesses increase farmer incomes, which in turn improves food security, empowers women, conserves ecosystems, and encourages the next generation of farmers.

## Nonprofits that Invest in Financial Inclusion and Microfinance (Globally and in the United States)

Organizations focused on financial inclusion and microfinance work to provide financial services (e.g., loans, savings, etc.) to individuals and small businesses that are otherwise unable to obtain these services via traditional channels. These types of organizations also explore ways technology—such as social media, cell phones, and cloud computing—can provide greater access to these services. There are many organizations focused on financial inclusion, including the few highlighted below.

- [Accion](#) has created nearly 100 social enterprises that work across four continents and serve millions. Its pursuit of financial technology (fintech) and its work with microfinance partners helps businesses and families build capital, develop credit, save, and participate in the world's economy. Accion works in the United States (Accion U.S. Network) and internationally.
- [FINCA](#) provides small loans, saving accounts, and other financial services to low-income individuals who are unable to fund their small-scale businesses adequately through conventional channels. By helping these businesses start, grow, and diversify, FINCA seeks to improve family income, nutrition, employment, and well-being, enabling low-income families to create their own solutions for progress. FINCA is currently present in 23 developing countries.
- [Grameen Foundation](#) approaches poverty alleviation through mobile technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The organization manages impact investments in microfinance and agriculture. [Grameen America](#)—a separate, sister organization to Grameen Foundation—directly provides microloans in communities across the US.

## Nonprofits that Finance Community Development in the United States

There are numerous organizations working across the United States that finance businesses in underserved communities—providing credit, capital, and banking services to local childcare centers, homeless shelters, and other organizations that deliver essential services in their communities. Community development finance institutions (CDFIs) are one such type of organization. Many CDFIs are structured as nonprofits, and the below organizations are examples of nonprofit CDFIs with a national focus.

- [Calvert Foundation](#) invests in affordable housing, environmental sustainability, quality job creation, and other infrastructure for low-income communities across the United States and around the world. Their mission is to demonstrate how private capital can be used to create a more equitable, sustainable, and productive society.
- [Capital Impact Partners \(Capital Impact\)](#) strives to address key social and economic justice issues as a means to create equity, build healthy communities, promote inclusive growth, and address systemic poverty. Capital Impact provides strategic lending, investments in social enterprises, and innovative program incubation primarily focused on increasing access to high-quality health care, education, healthy foods, and affordable housing. Capital Impact supports rural and urban communities nationwide with focused efforts in key cities and regions including Cleveland, Detroit, Memphis, New Orleans, Oakland, Washington, D.C., Texas, and the Pacific Northwest.
- [Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.](#) is a national social enterprise that delivers the capital, solutions, and policy advocacy to create healthy, sustainable communities that connect people to opportunity. Their subsidiary, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, is a social financier that aggregates social capital to invest in real assets—such as affordable homes, schools, and health centers—that are intended to serve as a platform for vulnerable families and individuals to succeed.
- [Non-Profit Finance Fund \(NFF\)](#) supports nonprofits across the United States with loans and financial consulting services that enable these organizations to expand their services in the community, improve their financial sustainability, and more effectively turn donor money into mission results. Since 1980, NFF has provided these services to thousands of organizations, including local homeless shelters, health clinics, food banks, schools, theaters, and museums. NFF also helps private donors understand how to get the results their generosity deserves.

For more information about impact investing nonprofits, please contact your charitable planner, financial advisor, or the Private Donor Group service team at **800-874-7940**.