

October 20, 2021



***NDFC Congratulates Vice Chair Susan Tachau on Receiving
Ned Gramlich Lifetime Achievement Award from Opportunity Finance Network***



The [National Disability Finance Coalition](#) (NDFC) congratulates Susan Tachau for receiving the Ned Gramlich Lifetime Achievement Award for Responsible Finance from [Opportunity Finance Network](#) (OFN), a leading network of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). Susan currently serves as Vice Chair of NDFC and was formerly Chair from 2016-2018.

Tachau, who received the award at OFN's Annual Conference on October 20, 2021, is CEO of [Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation](#) (PATF), a nonprofit CDFI that helps people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians acquire vital assistive technology devices and services. PATF was certified as a CDFI in 2012, and since its founding in 1998 the organization has extended more than \$43 million to more than 4,200 Pennsylvanians with disabilities and helped more than 15,000 people access assistive technology with information and education.

NDFC Chair Charles Hammerman, president and CEO of the Disability Opportunity Fund said, "This recognition of Susan's work marks the first time that an advocate for people with disabilities has been recognized on a national level within the CDFI industry. As the mother of a son with a disability, Susan quickly learned the barriers faced by 60 million financially vulnerable people with disabilities in America and has devoted her career to empowering them to work, participate in their communities, and live in their homes."

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean congratulated Tachau saying, "As a leading national advocate for alternative financing, Susan is an inspiring and trusted source for federal and state policymakers, colleagues in nonprofit assistance, and families across Pennsylvania."

In 2015, in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Tachau helped found the NDFC to bridge the CDFI and Disabilities Community. Tachau has been instrumental in realizing important NDFC successes such as the creation and expansion of the annual Disability Funds-Financial Assistance awards by the CDFI Fund and recognition of people with disabilities as a historically underserved population.

"Susan is known across the country for her passionate advocacy of increased access and resources for people with disabilities, and her generous sharing of information, expertise, and experience to help other organizations. She truly embodies the mission of the NDFC," said NDFC Executive Director Pam Porter.

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As an expert in financing and policy related to people with disabilities, Tachau reaches far beyond Pennsylvania. In addition to being awarded the Ned Gramlich Award, Tachau has been recognized for work with people with disabilities being awarded an *AARP Purpose Prize* in 2021, and the *Excellence in Advocacy Award* by ACHIEVA in 2016. She sits on numerous boards and advisory committees in addition to NDFC, including the National Disability Institute (NDI) and the Technology Committee of the National Council on Independent Living. She has advised the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Federal Reserve Bank on financial access and education for people with disabilities.

The Ned Gramlich Award is named after the former Federal Reserve Bank director who was the Board of Governors' primary liaison to the Federal Reserve's Consumer Advisory Council, advising on community development and consumer financial policy matters. Tachau joins 15 other CDFI leaders across the country who have been recognized in previous years for their leadership and passionate work for responsible finance reaching underserved communities and people.

About [NDFC](#):

The mission of NDFC is to bridge the CDFI industry and the disability community, to ensure that CDFIs can respond effectively to address the needs of individuals with disabilities, and to offer technical assistance and support to CDFIs developing financing products and services.

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