

CRA Partners Introduces The CRA Collaborative™, A Peer Group for CRA Professionals

Memphis, TN. (June 29, 2023)—CRA Partners announces the formation of a peer group dedicated to the Community Reinvestment Act. CRA Partners has been providing opportunities for banks to earn CRA credit by caring for local senior citizens for over 20 years. This means they have frequent contact with CRA professionals across the country on a regular basis. As CRA modernization began to take shape, they have encountered many questions and concerns about what the new rule will mean for banks and what changes community banks need to be prepared for as modifications are fine-tuned. They surveyed their colleagues and asked them what is on their minds in this environment, including whether they thought collaborating with their peers on CRA topics would benefit them. The overwhelming majority said yes, and thus, The CRA Collaborative™ was born.

The CRA Collaborative™ will hold quarterly online meetings so that colleagues can work together to share their expertise and knowledge, learn new skills and best practices from one another, while optimizing their CRA strategy. “Particularly with modernization on the horizon, The CRA Collaborative™ will help bankers be prepared for inevitable change.” —David Lenoir, President & CEO, CRA Partners.

This peer group will foster a team dynamic where everyone’s ideas and opinions are respected, encouraging all to speak up and share their insights regarding current CRA issues. Moderated by CRA Liaison Steffani Jenkins, peer group members will gain different perspectives on CRA subject matter and exchange and build upon each other’s ideas while staying focused on navigating the changes coming with CRA modernization.

The inaugural meeting of the Collaborative was held online on April 20th with nearly 80 participants. Among the topics that engendered lively discussion was Section 1071 of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regarding small business lending. New reporting requirements seemed to be on everyone’s mind. The next meeting date is scheduled for July 26, 2023. Among the topics on deck for discussion are Community Development activities and what member banks offer that is specific to their bank (affordable mortgage programs, small business finance programs, CD activities, etc.), as well as setting goals for all aspects of CRA (SB lending, HMDA, CD activities). Those with interest can visit <https://shcpfoundation.org/cra-collaborative/> to join. Membership is gratis for banks currently supporting CRA Partners programs, and is \$1000 annually for all others.

The CRA Collaborative Peer Group - Shared screen with speaker view



Pictured: Kevin Tweddle, S.E.V.P. Community Bank Solutions, ICBA, David Lenoir, President & CEO CRA Partners, Steffani Jenkins, CRA Liaison, CRA Partners

About CRA Partners

CRA Partners is a turnkey CRA compliance program powered by the Senior Housing Crime Prevention Foundation, an ICBA subsidiary. The Foundation operates Senior Crimestoppers, a nationwide crime prevention program educating and safeguarding against theft, abuse, and neglect. Senior Crimestoppers is funded exclusively by the banking industry.