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What is The Reinvestment Fund?

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At 25 years old, The Reinvestment Fund is one of the largest community-based financial institutions in the nation, said Catherine Califano, TRF's associate director of policy solutions.

Primarily, it's a lender that has funded charter schools, housing developers and businesses such as supermarkets.

It makes grants and loans, takes equity investments in some projects, and its Development Partners affiliate helps build affordable homes with local partners in the mid-Atlantic region.

Califano said her department is a smaller group that helps municipalities make more effective decisions in the public sector.

Some of that help is through compiling market value analyses, such as the one TRF completed for greater Reading as well as for 10 larger cities from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Reading officials learned of its work when they visited Pittsburgh for three days to study its successful economic development effort and found it was driven by TRF's analysis for that city, said Adam Mukerji, executive director of the Reading Redevelopment Authority.

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