**NACFB Commercial Lender Awards 2023**

Please use this form as a template to collate your submission information. To enter this category please submit all information [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submit).

**The deadline for all entries is 17.00 on Friday 8th September 2023**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submission category | **Community Lender of the Year** | | |
| NACFB Patron name |  | | |
| Primary contact first name |  | Surname |  |
| Primary contact email |  | | |
| Job title |  | | |
| Company website |  | | |
| Company LinkedIn |  | | |
| Company Twitter handle |  | | |
| Contact telephone |  | | |

**Award submission (max 300-words)**

Please draft your award submission below. Further guidance and overview of judging criteria can be found overleaf.

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| All entrants have a **maximum of 300-words** in which to convince the judges that they are worthy of winning this award  The NACFB have compiled ten top tips for an award-winning entry [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submission-tips)  Information regarding this year’s judging process can be found [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/process) |
| Secure a table for this year’s event on **Thursday 30th November 2023** online [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/book) |

**Submission guidance**

In the dynamic landscape of commercial lending, the demand for ethical and socially responsible finance has grown exponentially. SMEs seeking financial support are increasingly drawn to lenders whose values align with their own, aspiring to partner with institutions that contribute positively to society and the environment. The Community Lender of the Year award celebrates and recognises those exceptional lenders that have made ethical, social, and environmental responsibility a cornerstone of their operations. This prestigious accolade invites lenders whose core remit is to champion ethical, socially responsible lending practices, empowering SMEs to thrive while fostering positive social change.

This esteemed award category welcomes applications from lending organisations that prioritise people and the planet alongside financial prosperity. The judges seek community lenders that have demonstrated a deep commitment to sustainability, social impact, and giving back to the communities they serve.

Outstanding contenders will have integrated responsible lending practices into their core business strategy, offering financing solutions that not only empower businesses to grow but also align with principles of environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

The judges will be keenly interested in lenders that have tangible initiatives in place to support social change, whether through charitable partnerships, community investment programmes, or commitments to working towards a net-zero carbon footprint.

Moreover, the winning lender should demonstrate a genuine understanding of the unique needs and challenges faced by SMEs, particularly those emerging from the third sector and beyond. Evidence of successful support for start-ups and nurturing SMEs through broker partnerships will be instrumental in substantiating their positive impact on the business community.

In their award submission, lenders should showcase testimonials and case studies that highlight how their ethical and socially responsible financing solutions have contributed to SME growth and social betterment. They should also demonstrate how they actively engage with brokers to foster a nurturing environment for SMEs seeking financial support. Furthermore, the judges will value lenders that prioritise transparency and clear communication, ensuring that SMEs and brokers alike are fully informed about the social impact of their financing decisions.

**Entry criteria**

* Entry to the Commercial Lender Awards is only open to NACFB lender Patrons, supplier Partners, and any personnel therein.
* Winners are selected based on the combined insight and votes from the judging panel and NACFB Members. The judging panel is made up of representatives from recognised industry stakeholders and includes an NACFB representative. NACFB Members will be invited to vote on the shortlist to select final winners. Winners for each category will be awarded based on a combined view of both the submission and Member voting.
* Entries can be for any event, campaign or initiative which has taken place between September 2022 and present.
* The deadline for all entries is **17.00** on **Friday 8th September 2023.**
* Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email no later than **Monday 9th October 2023.**
* The winners will be announced at the NACFB’s Commercial Lender Awards ceremony on **Thursday 30th November 2023** at the **Westminster Park Plaza, London**.
* An activity may be entered in more than one category, but each entry must be accompanied by an entry form. There is no limit to the number of entries one organisation can make.
* Judges reserve the right, without prior consent of the entrant, to move entries to different categories if they feel it is more appropriate.
* The judges’ and Members’ decision are final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no reasons given for decisions.
* All information provided to judges will be used solely for the purposes of assessing the entries. Any potentially sensitive information will not be made public.
* Winners may state in advertising and promotional material that they have won, but they must state the year the award was won.