# Rational FUNDING Conference

April 15-17, 2025 | Hilton Palmer House - Chicago, Illinois



36 Years Helping the Industry Meet Its Funding Needs

Register now online at: www.elfaonline.org/events/2025/NFC



# Why Participate as a Funding Source Exhibitor this Year?

As a funding source, you have the opportunity to drive growth by participating in the ELFA National Funding Conference. This event connects you with a wide range of industry players, offering a platform to network, explore diverse business opportunities, and focus on the deals that matter most to you. The structured format ensures valuable face-to-face time with key decision-makers, enabling meaningful discussions and partnerships.

#### **2025 Attendance Expected To Hold Strong**

Attendance at the ELFA National Funding Conference has been steadily increasing since 2010. In 2024, the event drew 679 participants, and ELFA expects this growth trend to continue in 2025, with a rise in both overall attendees and the number of Funding Sources exhibiting.

## 2025 Funding Exhibition Planning Committee

MICHAEL J. ASH (Committee Chair)

First Horizon Bank

**ROBERT BLEE** 

Healthcare Financial Services, GE Healthcare

DAVID R. CARDEW

Element Fleet Management

MICHAEL CLUNE

First American Equipment
Finance, an RBC/City National
Company

NICK COLVIN Fifth Third Bank

LEIF GRUNDAHL

Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

**BOB JOHNSON, CLFP**Summitt Funding Group

SERA OLIVER

Key Equipment Finance

**THOMAS PAGANO** 

Customers Commercial Finance, LLC

To help Funding Sources conduct business *your* way, and to allow you to make the most of your time during the conference, we offer several participation options:

- 1. Exhibit Booth in the Hall—where the action is. This is still the best place to be and be seen by all attendees. Booths are large for comfort and privacy with a 10x15 space.
- 2. Two Exhibit Booths in the Hall. The second booth is not required to use the ELFA Electronic Appointment Scheduler, giving you maximum flexibility in meeting the people you want to meet, and still be part of the action.
- 3. Suite or Meeting Room Only—greatest privacy\*. You schedule your own appointments, but you will still be listed as a Funding Source for the conference. Meeting Room Funding Sources will not be required to have a presence in the exhibit hall, but are encouraged to do so. Suites and meeting rooms will be available to those companies who only register for the conference. We ask you to update your company profile in the Funding Source Database. If your company chooses a meeting room as a space, the main company contact will receive hotel reservation information to make your meeting room reservation after your ELFA Funding registration has been processed.
- **4. Exhibit Booth and a Hotel Meeting or Suite Room\***—gives you the option to hold initial meetings in the exhibit hall and extensive meetings in more private surroundings of a hotel suite or meeting room. If your company chooses a suite as a meeting space, the main company contact will receive hotel reservation information to make your suite reservation after your ELFA Funding registration has been processed.

<sup>\*</sup>Please Note: Only companies that participate as Funding Sources will be able to reserve suites at the Hilton Palmer House. ELFA members who are not registered for the Funding Conference will not be allowed to reserve suites at the Hilton Palmer House.

## The National Funding Conference Offers You the Most Value

- An Up-To-Date Company Profile Helps Eliminate Mismatched Appointments: Your time is valuable. You don't want to waste it on meeting with customers that may not be a fit for your business. The first thing you need to do after you register as a Funding Source Exhibitor is update your Company Profile on the ELFA website. It's easy! ELFA will provide you with the information on how to do this.
- Know Who You Are Meeting With: All attendees must complete a detailed profile before scheduling appointments with Funding Source Exhibitors. This ensures better matching with potential customers. Exhibitors with an Exhibit Booth or Suite gain access to all attendee profiles—not just those who have scheduled appointments—allowing you to proactively target key prospects. Additionally, attendees are required to specify whether they are Buyers, Sellers, and/or Equity Providers, providing further clarity for your outreach.
- Decline Meetings With Companies That Don't Fit Your Funding Profile Now Unlimited: Funding Source Exhibitors are able to decline an unlimited number of appointments with companies that have scheduled with them online. However, Funding Source Exhibitors must do this within 5 days or 120 hours of the appointment being scheduled, otherwise the appointment is set.
- Flexibility in Scheduling Your Own Appointments: Funding Sources are able to block up to 50% of the appointment times to schedule their own appointments.
- On-Site Appointment Scheduling Optional this Year: Not all Funding Source Exhibitor appointments are filled up prior to the start of the conference. Traditionally, this has allowed potential customers to sign up for an appointment on-site. You now have the choice to Opt In or Opt Out of taking additional "walk-in" appointments. Simply indicate your preference on the registration form.

#### Who Are the Attendees?

The ELFA National Funding Conference attracts the principals in leasing and finance organizations responsible for funding the company and its transactions, and for participating in transactions. They come to the National Funding Conference to meet with current funding sources and to establish new relationships to fulfill their funding needs.

### Breakfast Meetings? Schedule Them for the Empire Room!

Join us for two full sit-down breakfasts on Wednesday and Thursday, April 16-17, from 7:00–8:30 am in the Empire Room. Skip the hassle of hotel reservations and lines—start your morning networking with ease.





#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 15**

2:30 - 7:00 pm

**Funding Conference Registration** 

2:30 - 4:30 pm

**Exhibitor Set Up** 

4:30 - 6:30 pm

**Opening Reception** 

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**

7:00 - 8:30 am

**Full Breakfast to Facilitate Networking** 

8:30 am – Noon

Individual Appointments with Funding Source Exhibitors

Noon - 2:00 pm

#### **Hosted Luncheon and Keynote**

Policy Perspectives: What's Next for Equipment Leasing and Finance in 2025 Andy Fishburn Senior VP, Federal Government Relations ELFA

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Individual Appointments with Funding Source Exhibitors

5:00 – 6:30 pm

**Hosted Reception** 

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

7:00 - 8:30 am

**Full Breakfast to Facilitate Networking** 

8:30 am – Noon

**Individual Appointments with Funding Source Exhibitors** 

Noon – 3:00 pm

**Exhibitor Tear Down** 





#### REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Funding Source Information**

There are four different options to participate as a Funding Source Exhibitor:

- 1. Exhibit Booth in Hall
- 2. Two Exhibit Booths (one funding source may purchase two exhibit booths, only one of which must use the electronic appointment scheduler)
- 3. Exhibit Booth and a Hotel Suite/Meeting Room\*
- 4. Hotel Suite/Meeting Room Only\* (Please note: electronic scheduling of appointments is now available to all funding source exhibitors. Suites/Meeting Rooms and Booths.)

\*Please Note: Only companies that participate as Funding Sources will be able to reserve suites at the Hilton Palmer House. ELFA members who are not registered for the Funding Conference will not be allowed to reserve suites or meeting rooms at the Hilton Palmer House.

#### **Fees**

#### Option No. 1: Exhibit Booth in the Hall

\$2,300 ELFA Member Funding Sources \$4,600 Non-Member Funding Sources

· This fee includes two registered attendees, plus a one year listing in the FundingSource™.

#### Option No. 2: Two Exhibit Booths in the Hall

\$4,600 ELFA Member Funding Sources \$9,200 Non-Member Funding Sources

· This fee includes four registered attendees, plus a one

year listing in the FundingSource™.

#### Option No. 3: Exhibit Booth in the Hall and a Hotel Suite/Meeting Room

\$3,300 plus cost of Suite; \$240 a night for a One Bed Suite or \$450 a night for a Parlor Suite

- · This fee includes two registered attendees, plus a one year listing in the FundingSource™.
- Once Funding Source registration is complete the key contact will receive emailed hotel information to reserve their meeting suite at a rate of \$240 or \$450. Meeting rooms can be reserved at a lower rate than the discounted hotel rate of \$269 per day.

#### Option No. 4: Hotel Suite/Meeting Room Only

\$2,800 plus cost of Suite, \$240 a night for a One Bed Suite or \$450 a night for a Parlor Suite

- · This fee includes two registered attendees, plus a one year listing in the FundingSource™.
- · Electronic appointment scheduling will not be available to those funding sources who select this option.
- · Once Funding Source registration is complete the key contact will receive emailed hotel information to reserve their meeting suite at a rate of \$240 or \$450. Meeting rooms can be reserved at a lower rate than the discounted hotel rate of \$269 per day.

Each additional Funding Source Exhibitor: \$825 (available to individuals whose companies have already purchased a booth or meeting room)

Planning Committee Exhibitor Attendee:

#### Requirements for Hotel Meeting Room and **Suite-Only Exhibitors**

To enhance the experience of the National Funding Conference for all, we ask that Hotel Suite-Only Funding Sources follow these requirements:

- · Arrange your appointments as closely as possible to the same schedule used in the Exhibit Hall
- · Allow ELFA to provide your suite number to individuals who have an appointment with you & need the information.

#### Cost Includes

- 1. Full conference registration for TWO people per funding source fee. If you decide to purchase two booths, the conference registration fee entitles you to FOUR attendees per funding source fee. (Additional individuals from registered funding source companies may register at \$825 each.)
- 2. Your company name in the online Attendee Bro-
- 3. A one-year listing in **FundingSource™**. The ELFA Funding Database contains the most comprehensive listing of funding sources in the equipment leasing and finance industry. Each listing allows you to detail your company's funding programs, desired credit criteria, the size of transactions you prefer and finally, to describe your company core business focus. The **FundingSource™** database is used daily by member leasing companies seeking funding partners.
- 4. 10 HOURS of scheduled appointment time for each Funding Source/Attendee (each appointment is scheduled for 20 minutes).
- 5. Identification sign for each booth purchased.
- 6. Piping, draping, table and chairs for each booth.

A processing fee of \$500 will be applied to all Funding Source Exhibitor cancellations. **Due to** the nature of the conference, no Funding Source registration fees will be refunded after Monday, March 24, 2025.

#### **Assignment of Space**

Booths will be assigned alphabetically, with the exception of the Hotel Suite/Meeting Room-Only Funding Sources.

Important Feature for Appointment Scheduling On-Site Appointment Scheduling Optional This Year: Not all Funding Source Exhibitor appointments are filled up prior to the start of the Conference. Traditionally, this has allowed potential customers to sign up for an appointment on-site. Funding Sources now have the choice to Opt In or Opt Out of taking additional "walk-in" appointments. Simply indicate your preference on the registration form.

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

In addition to the many benefits of exhibiting, sponsoring events and functions at the ELFA Funding Conference provides excellent exposure for your company. Contact Steve Wafalosky at *stevew@cvmpmedia.com* or 440-247-1060 if you are interested in sponsoring any of the events/items listed below:

| Elevator Clings on meeting floor (4 total)<br>Conference bags (eco-friendly)<br>Mobile App w/ printed Attendee Rosters<br>(100 copies)  | \$10,000<br>\$5,500<br>\$6,500   |
|---|--|
| Mobile Charging Station Customized Name Badges Pens Water Bottle Room Drop Lanyards with company logo Hotel Card Keys with logo Beverage Sleeves Cookie Break Wellness Break Napkins Elevator Doors WiFi in Meeting Rooms Mirror Cling on meeting floor Pillar Decal on meeting floor | \$7,500<br>\$7,500<br>\$3,500<br>\$3,000<br>\$6,000<br>\$6,000<br>\$4,000<br>\$4,000<br>\$3,500<br>\$3,500<br>\$10,500<br>TBD<br>TBD |
| <b>Breakfasts</b> Full Breakfast - Wednesday Full Breakfast - Thursday Luncheon   | \$5,000<br>\$5,000<br>\$6,000  |
| Receptions Opening Reception Closing Reception  | \$8,000<br>\$6,000   |

#### **Hotel Reservations**

A block of rooms is being held for attendees of the 36th Annual National Funding Conference at the Hilton Palmer House in Chicago, located at 17 E Monroe St, Chicago, IL in the popular theatre and financial district of Chicago and near Millennium Park. A special conference rate of \$240 plus tax, single/double occupancy, is offered to attendees. Check in time is 3:00pm, and check-out time is 11:00am. Please call Reservations at (312) 726-7500, provide your arrival and departure dates and mention ELFA Room Block in order to receive the ELFA group rate.

Make Hotel Reservations Online: We strongly encourage you to make your Funding Conference hotel reservations online. Please use this link: https://book.passkey.com/go/ELFA2025

#### Make Hotel Reservations by Friday, March 21, 2025!

Reservations after this date are based on availability and may be at a higher rate.

# Hotel Reservations for Funding Sources Suites at Hilton Palmer House

A block of suites has been reserved for this exhibition at the Hilton Palmer House in Chicago, located at 17 E Monroe St, Chicago, IL. A special group rate of \$240 a night for a One Bed Suite or \$450 a night for a Parlor Suite. Following your Funding Exhibitor registration completion, you will receive a separate email containing contact information with our assigned ELFA Reservation Coordinator at the Palmer House to reserve your Suite. Meeting rooms can be reserved at a lower rate than the discounted hotel rate of \$295 per day.

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#### **Getting There**

The Hilton Palmer House is located in the popular theatre and financial district of Chicagoland. Approximately 18 miles from Chicago-O'Hare International Airport, 11 miles from Chicago Midway Airport. If renting a car, the Hilton Palmer House has valet parking and self-parking from \$47 per day. Visiting by Metro - When taking public transportation from O'Hare International Airport, take the Blue Line train to Monroe/Dearborn stop. Take Monroe east to the hotel. The Palmer House is on the south side of the street. From Midway Airport, take the Orange Line from Midway to downtown. Get off at the Adams/Wabash stop. The Palmer House is located on the west side of Wabash Avenue.

For additional transportation information, please visit the hotel website at https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/illinois/palmer-house-a-hilton-hotel-CHIPHHH/maps-directions/index.html

#### Photographs Taken at the Conference

Photographs of speakers and attendees may be taken at this conference. These may appear in ELFA publications or on the ELFA website. By registering for this conference, you authorize ELFA the right to use any photographs taken of you during the course of the National Funding Conference.

#### **Attendee Contact Information**

Please Note the Following: By registering for this conference, attendees authorize ELFA to share your contact information, including but not limited to email address and telephone number with other registered attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors.

#### ELFA CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Thank you for choosing to enhance your professional development by participating in ELFA activities. Our goal is to ensure that we promote a safe, inclusive, and productive environment for all activity participants.

We ask that you help us make each ELFA-sponsored activity welcoming and respectful to all participants, regardless of their race, gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, national origin, ethnicity, political affiliation, or religion. We do not condone, nor will we tolerate harassment of our participants, including ELFA and facility staff, or the on-premise staff at host events in any form—in person or online.

Examples of harassment include offensive comments, verbal threats or demands, sexualized images in public spaces, intimidation, stalking, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of sessions or events, and unwelcome physical contact or sexual attention.

We expect all participants—attendees, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and staff—to follow the Code of Conduct during the conference. This includes conference-related social events at off-site locations and in related online communities and social media. Participants asked to stop any harassing and/or non-inclusive behavior are expected to comply immediately. Conference participants violating this Code of Conduct may be expelled from the conference without a refund, and/or prohibited from attending future ELFA events, at the discretion of ELFA.

Please bring any concerns to the immediate attention of the event staff, or contact Lisa Ramirez, ELFA Vice President of Business and Professional Development, at *Iramirez@elfaonline.org*. You may also report violations by calling +1 202-238-3414. Thank you for your help in keeping this and all ELFA events professional, welcoming, and respectful to all.