Kudumbashree team is extending wholehearted support to all those who are interested in self-employment by formation of micro enterprises. Various services/supports such as providing skill training to all interested to start enterprises, facilitating to avail bank loans with subsidy, support for the marketing of the products and handholding assistance through MEC s are all provided by Kudumbashree. There are 42,195 micro enterprises (individual and group enterprises) registered with Kudumbashree CDS. Enterprises are set up in both production, service sectors.

Sometimes people who approach banks for enterprise loans may experience delays because of procedures and processes. Also, for those who need relatively small capital for starting enterprises, its better to make it available to the community level for easy processing. Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) was conceived as a solution. CEF given to CDS will further strengthen the community network and will enhance their ability to support and sustain enterprises. Previously, it was known
as Community Investment Fund (CIF). CEF is the community fund which is given to the CDSs as a loan capital for giving loans with lower interest rates to the needy for starting enterprises.

A total of Rs 46.37 crores is given as Community Enterprise Fund for all the CDSs in Kerala from 2017-18 to 2020-21 as part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Every CDS was provided with an average amount of Rs 5 lakhs as CEF. The CDSs use this amount for giving loans to start enterprises and thereby the CDSs are able to provide quick support in the formation of enterprises and could simplify the whole process. Also, the CDS team is able to ensure the repayment by promptly reviewing the programme. Also, this fund helps the CDS to earn a small income when the loan is repaid, as a nominal interest is charged by CDS.

Rs 32 crores is provided as CEF during the financial year of 2020-21, for providing as loan to the enterprises. This was provided from the fund provided by Rebuild Kerala Initiative. Based on the requirement, each CDS is provided with Rs 3 lakhs to Rs 10 lakhs. 580 CDSs have already received this amount from RKI fund. Using this amount, 5199 enterprises were given loans until now. On the basis of repayment, CDSs would be able to give loans to more enterprises. This year, Rs 24.28 crores is allotted for the CDSs as CEF from the NRLM fund. In short, by giving CEF, we are capacitating every CDS to extend support to all those who are interested in starting new enterprises by giving loans. Hope those who are interested in commencing new enterprises will make use of this opportunity.

The guidelines regarding issuing the CEF to the enterprises is available in this link under the 'Guidelines' section in 'Marketing' tab: www.kudumbashree.org/pages/476. Those starting individual enterprises will be provided with a maximum loan of Rs 50,000/- and those starting Group Enterprises will be provided with a maximum of Rs 2 lakhs as CEF. All CDSs in Kerala now have Rs 3 lakhs to Rs 10 lakhs as CEF. If the CDSs need more amount, that could also be given.