

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

United States Department of the Treasury



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\$3.5 MILLION AWARDED TO ORGANIZATIONS SERVING ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund announced a total of \$3,453,280 in awards to 22 organizations serving Native Communities in 13 states across the country. These awards were made through the fiscal year 2005 round of the CDFI Fund's Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program. The announcement was made at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Native Housing Summit, which is being held in Reno, Nevada.

Created by Congress in September 1994, the CDFI Fund uses federal resources to invest in and build the capacity of private, for- and non-profit financial institutions with a primary mission of community development. These institutions – certified by the CDFI Fund as community development financial institutions, or CDFIs – are able to respond to gaps in local markets that traditional financial institutions are not adequately serving. CDFIs provide critically needed capital, credit and other financial products in addition to technical assistance to community residents and businesses, service providers, and developers working to meet community needs.

In fiscal year 2004, the CDFI Fund introduced the NACA Program, through which eligible Native CDFIs may receive financial assistance awards (such as loans or grants) to support their financing activities. Like the Fund's other programs, the awards to Native CDFIs are made through a competitive application process.

The CDFI Fund has a number of other initiatives designed to overcome barriers preventing access to capital, credit, and financial services specifically in Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. These initiatives are designed to encourage the creation of CDFIs primarily serving Native Communities, to build the capacity of existing Native CDFIs to improve their ability to serve their communities and to set up and operate asset-building programs, primarily through Individual Development Accounts. As of September 2005, there are 36 Native CDFIs, up from 6 in 1998 when the Fund first implemented its special focus on Native CDFIs.

The CDFI Fund's vision is an America in which all people have adequate access to affordable capital, credit and financial services.

For more information about these awards, or about the CDFI Fund and its programs, please visit the Fund's website at: <http://www.cdfifund.gov>.