

Highlights

2002 Native American CDFI Technical Assistance Program

The Native American CDFI Technical Assistance (NACTA) Program, is a new program introduced by the CDFI Fund in 2002. NACTA is designed to meet the needs of Native American and Alaska Native communities that are critically underserved in their access to financial services and capital. The NACTA program addresses those needs through building the capacity of existing CDFIs serving Native American and Alaska Native communities, as well as providing assistance to Tribes, Tribal entities, and a range of other organizations for the purposes of creating a CDFI to serve an underserved Native American or Alaska Native market.

Funding under this program is in the form of grants which are used to acquire prescribed types of technical assistance, including technology (usually computer hardware and software), staff training, consulting services to acquire needed capacity (such as conducting a market analysis or developing lending policies and procedures), and in some cases use of staff time to conduct capacity-building activities (such as website development).

The entities funded under the NACTA program serve a wide range of markets, and reflect a diversity of institutions in various stages of development, from organizations in the early planning stages, to tribal entities with existing lending arms, to established CDFIs in need of further capacity building assistance.

In this initial round of NACTA the Fund made 38 awards. Among these,

- Awards to CDFIs/emerging CDFIs: **11 awards totaling \$721, 500**
- Awards to create CDFIs : **27 awards totaling \$197, 7359**

Average award size: **approximately \$75,000**

Awardees serve 18 states: 12 in the Fund's Western Region, 4 in Central/Southern Region, and 2 in the North/Eastern Region.

Institution types:

- 15 are Non-profits primarily serving a Native American or Alaska Native communities
- 9 are Tribal governments
- 4 are Tribal Enterprises
- 2 are Alaska Native Regional Corporations
- 7 are other entities

Selected profiles:

Navajo Partnership for Housing, Inc., located in St. Michaels, AZ, was created in 1996 through the joint efforts of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and the Navajo Nation and began operations in 1997. NPH will use the Fund's \$96,000 technical assistance grant to develop a capitalization strategy, to increase staff knowledge of the technical aspects of mortgage lending and to purchase technology to improve organizational efficiency. The grant will also support the development of a curriculum to educate other professionals involved in the lending process about facilitating mortgage lending on and near the Navajo Nation.

Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC), of Shoreline, Washington is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1997 to assist its 54 member tribes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, California and Montana, in developing healthy economies. ATNI-EDC will use a \$79,000 technical assistance grant to support the establishment of a loan fund to provide business financing and technical assistance to Tribally-owned and operated businesses and businesses owned by members of the 54 affiliated tribes.

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, based in Pembroke proposes to form a community development credit union to provide basic savings and share draft (checking) accounts as well as signature loans and mortgages to Native Americans living in Robeson, Scotland, Hoke and Cumberland counties. There are an estimated 55,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe living in the region. Tribal members who are not sufficiently served by traditional financial institutions, believe they can be more effectively served through a community-controlled credit union. The Fund's \$70,200 will be used to assist in developing the policies and procedures needed for the credit union, along with a marketing plan, and training for the board members in management of a credit union.