



U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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US TREASURY AWARDS \$4.3 MILLION TO ORGANIZATIONS SERVING ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Denver, Colo.- The U.S. Treasury Department's director of the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, Arthur A. Garcia, visited Denver's Colorado History Museum today to announce awards totaling \$4,299,683 to 21 organizations serving Native communities in 12 states. The awards were made through the CDFI Fund's Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program.

"Today we are awarding organizations that are on the front lines of creating needed jobs and helping foster economic growth in our nation's rural and urban low-income communities, and in our Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities," said CDFI Fund Director Garcia. "The awards will provide these community-based lenders the resources to do more - for example, the capital to finance more mortgages for first-time homebuyers and to provide the needed investment capital to start or expand small businesses, or the ability to conduct more financial education classes for those individuals trying to understand and improve their credit history."

Treasury chose the city as the site for the national award announcement to highlight Denver-based award recipient Native American Bancorporation, an example and leader in serving the community development needs of Native communities. The awardees were selected after a competitive review of 41 applications received by the CDFI Fund from organizations across the nation that requested over \$13.8 million in funding under the 2006 round of the NACA Program.

The CDFI Fund invests in and builds the capacity of community-based, private, for-profit and non-profit financial institutions with a primary mission of community development in economically distressed communities. 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 2004, the CDFI Fund introduced the NACA Program, which was specifically designed to encourage the creation and strengthening of CDFIs that primarily serve Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. Organizations funded serve a wide range of Native communities, and reflect a diversity of institutions in various stages of development – from organizations in the early planning stages of creating a CDFI, to tribal entities working to certify an existing lending program, to

established CDFIs in need of further capacity building assistance. Two types of funding are available: financial assistance awards, available only to certified CDFIs and primarily used for financing capital; and technical assistance grants used to acquire products or services such as computer hardware and software, staff training, etc.

Since 2002, the CDFI Fund has made 129 awards totaling \$19.5 million through its various funding programs aimed at benefiting Native communities. Currently, there are 38 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> .