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Our Guiding Principle
We believe that when armed with the appropriate resources, Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual and cultural well-being of their communities.

Our Mission
Our mission is to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities. First Nations Development Institute invests in and creates innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities.

Our Focus Areas
With the generous financial support of individuals, foundations, corporations and tribal donors, First Nations Development Institute improves economic conditions for Native Americans in five focus areas:

- Nourishing Native Foods & Health
- Investing in Native Youth
- Achieving Native Financial Empowerment
- Strengthening Tribal & Community Institutions
- Advancing Household & Community Asset-Building Strategies

Our Five Strategies
Across these focus areas, we utilize five strategies to achieve results:

- Grantmaking
- Technical Assistance and Training
- Coalition-Building
- Policy
- Advocacy

Sharing Our Research, Models and Publications
We believe in widely sharing best practices, key findings and successful or promising models with practitioners in Indian Country, government entities (federal, state, local and tribal), mainstream philanthropy, and the public at large. As such, First Nations Development Institute’s online Knowledge Center hosts a wide variety of research publications, reports and other resources that can be accessed through our website at www.firstnations.org.
Building Assets, Building Futures

Chairman’s Letter

Building Assets, Building Futures.

These four words – this simple phrase – clearly describe what First Nations Development Institute has been about since its founding in 1980. It’s also the theme of this 2014 Annual Report.

First Nations was the first Native-governed and led nonprofit social enterprise ever created that was exclusively committed to Native American control of tribal assets. It has been working to restore control and culturally-compatible stewardship of those assets – be they land, human potential, cultural heritage or natural resources – ever since.

Building Assets is the first part of the equation. The second – Building Futures – flows naturally. Assets equal Futures. Improved Native American futures can be assured from the growing, reclaiming and controlling of our assets. With First Nations helping, we can secure our long-term vitality and assert direct control over our own prospects as communities of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

All of this is in the spirit of Indian self-determination, which is a key precept behind the founding of First Nations. Further, if you believe as I do that “Mother Earth” is the essence of Native spirituality and life, then maintaining and controlling assets gains added meaning. As Indigenous peoples to this part of the world (which even the U.S. Constitution acknowledges in recognizing Indian sovereignty), we possess deeply ingrained tendencies to want to protect the land and our other assets, even when they are not yet under our direct control.

First Nations approaches asset-building like a construction project, which begins with a solid foundation. First Nations helps strong, grassroots Native organizations and tribal programs build from the ground up on a solid underpinning of identified need, community buy-in and cultural relevance. These grassroots-based solutions show great potential, so First Nations nurtures them with financial resources, technical assistance, professional training and lots of moral support. In many cases, the assistance of First Nations is that last little piece of the puzzle that these efforts need to get off the ground.

The positive impact of a successful local project can be multiplied many times, too, through adaptation and replication in other local Native communities (and even non-Native communities). First Nations often helps disseminate and promote these productive efforts by utilizing its national network of grantees, funders and other constituents and connections in Indian Country. Thus, like a stone thrown into the water, the ripples generated by a positive outcome in one community can expand ever outward on the pond.

First Nations views its ultimate work through the lens of Native economic development. Although funded projects effectively address specific and immediate needs, the net effect is always a contribution to the larger, long-term growth and development of a community. These initiatives most often translate into stronger organizations, improved or increased services, heightened knowledge, better health and nutrition, and even more jobs, higher incomes and brighter prospects.
Where does First Nations do its asset-building work?

Over the years, First Nations has diversified and refined its portfolio of focus or interest areas. The organization recently re-evaluated and redefined them, so this is the first time they have been used as such in a First Nations annual report. They are:

- **Nourishing Native Foods & Health**
  - Incorporating Native food systems, food security, health and nutrition and food sovereignty efforts.

- **Investing in Native Youth**
  - Combining all projects with a strong youth component, including the Native Youth and Culture Fund, college scholarship/internship programs, Advancing Positive Paths for Native American Boys and Young Men, and youth-oriented financial education.

- **Achieving Native Financial Empowerment**
  - Encompassing Native financial and investor education, consumer protection and financial fraud education, combating predatory lending, and financial capability research.

- **Advancing Household & Community Asset-Building Strategies**

- **Strengthening Tribal & Community Institutions**
  - Joining nonprofit and tribal capacity-building activities including the Urban Native Project, Native Arts Capacity Building Initiative (NACBI), Nurturing Native Givers and Giving, organizational mentoring and coalition-building work.

During 2014, First Nations turned 34 years old. It has survived – at times thrived – and made a significantly positive impact on children, families and communities in Native America over those three decades thanks to the vision and generosity of many foundations, tribal nations, corporate supporters and individual donors. From the entire board and staff of First Nations Development Institute, we sincerely thank you for investing in our work and success.

**B. Thomas Vigil** *(Jicarilla Apache/Jemez Pueblo)*

Chairman, Board of Directors
President’s Letter

First Nations Development Institute – which began as an idea sparked at Rebecca Adamson’s kitchen table almost 35 years ago – has grown up to be a real, national, Native American-led nonprofit organization that focuses on economic and community development in Native communities, mainly those based on reservations or in rural areas.

I returned to this work almost 10 years ago after spending time in finance. I felt then, and still do, that there is much work to be done, and I believe that there are many innovative models, ideas and tools from other sectors that can be brought to this work. And that many of those innovative models will come from the cultures, creativity and ingenuity of the Indian people who are solving their communities’ problems.

At First Nations, we take a much different approach to our work. Some of my nonprofit colleagues at other Indian organizations seem to engage in a “race to the bottom” – a demonstration to the public and to the philanthropy sector that we, as American Indians, are “the poorest of the poor” and that our social ills are more compounded and depraved than all others. Some have called this the “Susi Starving Bear” tactic. Others here have called it the “poor Indian kids with flies in their eyes” approach.

We take the opposite tack here. We are building our organizations, and the Indian-controlled philanthropic institutions with whom we work, in a way that demonstrates that Indians can and are operating from a culturally-based voice of strength, assuredness and accomplishment rather than exploiting the need for pity because we are helpless and need rescuing. For First Nations, our work is about building assets in Indian Country as a way of building better futures for Native communities. It’s us taking the high road versus the low. We accentuate the positive things that are happening in Native communities and which can be nurtured to lead us to a more prosperous future.

First Nations fills a unique niche in national Native programs by helping tribes and Native nonprofit organizations preserve their cultures and control their assets – creating positive effects that ripple significantly beyond what a single gift to a single organization could do. This approach has proven successful on a moderate scale for almost 35 years and has produced long-term, systemic benefits. As a result of much of this, First Nations has become one of the largest American Indian economic rights organizations in the United States (even though Native American charities in general face formidable underinvestment from the philanthropy sector).

First Nations, in conjunction with our community partners, has established a new field of culturally appropriate, values-driven development that supports our three-pronged strategy of educating grassroots practitioners, advocating for systemic change, and capitalizing reservation communities. At First Nations, we support comprehensive initiatives that translate assets into jobs, health, education and more.

First Nations’ programs and our three-pronged strategy relate directly to the “three-legged stool” that forms the stable underpinning of any healthy economy: the government sector, the for-profit sector and the nonprofit sector. Our programs, collectively, have a holistic effect in Indian Country, furthering such priorities as job creation (including small business development and access to capital), wealth creation (including homeownership), environmental protection, cultural preservation and education.

First, as a grantmaker, First Nations provides financial support to projects that encourage innovative development and reflect the cultural and social values of Native communities, especially the sustainable use of resources for subsequent
generations. As of this writing, First Nations has invested more than $20 million in more than 1,000 reservation community projects.

Second, First Nations builds tribal capacity so community organizations can utilize existing community assets and generate new ones. We do not believe that money is the sole solution to the problems facing Indian Country. Instead, we affirm the delivery of technical support as a necessary component to developing effective asset-building strategies. This support takes many forms: direct consultation with tribes and Native organizations, regional training workshops, ongoing dissemination of educational materials, and national grantee convenings to share experiences and lessons learned.

Third, First Nations evaluates the specific methods used within Native community initiatives and the larger trends shaping the course of Indian Country to uncover systemic barriers to asset control and retention in Native communities. We research ways to implement solutions at the grassroots level to help communities overcome these barriers, and we link grassroots efforts to national policy initiatives that promote broad systemic reform. Our research and policy work amplifies Native voices within relevant policy forums and facilitates greater opportunities for economic reform and tribal empowerment at the state and national level.

And finally, and perhaps what I am most proud of, First Nations continually disseminates information to tribes in order to share ideas gained from our research and other work in the field. We facilitate communication among tribal leaders, members of the nonprofit sector, fellow researchers, Native grassroots organizers, national policymakers and environmental advocacy groups. Our communication strategy helps promote Native issues and concerns within different sectors of society and provides a means to keep Indian Country abreast of pertinent trends, initiatives and findings affecting their lives and their communities.

At First Nations, we believe that first we must help Indian communities defend against repeated attack – from having their physical and financial assets systematically stripped from them. But more importantly, that when we work alongside communities and help them preserve and retain their cultural assets, we are ultimately insuring the sound investment in Indian Country for the long term. We, in fact, are investing in Indian Country’s greatest assets – its people, and their resilience, intelligence and ingenuity.

Michael E. Roberts (Tlingit)

President, First Nations Development Institute
Nourishing Native Foods & Health

In 2014 First Nations continued to expand its efforts to increase access to fresh and healthy foods in Native communities, support agricultural models to facilitate economic development in Native communities, and combat policies that prevent local food-system control in Native communities.

Through grantmaking, technical assistance and training, and policy and advocacy, First Nations made $412,606 in direct grants to Native communities to support grassroots efforts to increase access to local, fresh and healthy foods and increase entrepreneurship and market access. Though a substantial amount of grant funds have gone to Native communities, First Nations has only been able to meet roughly eight percent of all food-related grant requests.

Almost all reservations in the United States are located in what the USDA defines as food deserts. Moreover, recent data highlight that 22 percent of American Indians do not have sufficient food to maintain healthy lives. But there is tremendous work taking place in Native communities to improve health, improve access to local healthy foods, and generate economic development through agriculture and food-related businesses.

2014 Activities

- **Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative:** Supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, First Nations awarded 13 grants totaling $403,606. Grant programs were all aimed at increasing access to fresh and healthy foods to improve the lives of Native children and families.

- **Food Sovereignty Summit:** First Nations and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin hosted the Second Annual Food Sovereignty Summit in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This national event brought together best-of-class food and agricultural programs in Indian Country to share best practices and discuss lessons learned, while offering excellent networking opportunities for attendees. The event was attended by more than 300 people representing over 100 American Indian and Native Hawaiian communities. We were pleased to have USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden as the keynote speaker, and she also listened to tribal concerns about accessing USDA programs. The Oneida Nation also hosted attendees in its food-system venues for experiential learning, covering topics such as pest management, herd management and value-added goods.

- **The Business of Indian Agriculture:** First Nations released *The Business of Indian Agriculture*, a comprehensive curriculum for Native American farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers that can be downloaded for free from the First Nations website. The curriculum is designed to help farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers succeed in managing their agriculturally related businesses. It covers useful topics like how to develop a business plan, how to set up bookkeeping systems, and marketing. It also covers topics such as risk management, personal financial management and using credit wisely. The project was supported by the USDA-NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the CHS Foundation. Development of the curriculum was made possible through a partnership between First Nations and the First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON), which is a nonprofit professional association of administrators, faculty and staff of land-grant tribal colleges and universities.
Nutrition Education: First Nations released a series of 12 Fact Sheets dealing with Native food system topics such as food policy, food hubs, farm-to-school programs, farmers’ markets and others. The facts sheets are meant to serve as a tool and resource for Native communities as they look to expand local food-system control.

First Nations Knowledge: First Nations continued its monthly webinar series called First Nations Knowledge. During 2014, First Nations partnered with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law, and topical areas focused on food safety in Native communities. All webinars were free and are available in the First Nations Knowledge Center.

Policy and Advocacy: Ensuring that Native communities have a national policy focus continues to be a priority of First Nations. In 2014, First Nations partnered with a variety of Native organizations nationally and assisted in the development and submission of comments to federal agencies to ensure Native communities are included in national decision-making. First Nations has also supported Native communities directly as they develop and pass tribal policies aimed at local food-system control. This includes supporting anti-genetically-modified-food policy at the Muckleshoot Tribe and the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 on the Navajo Nation.

Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance: In 2014, First Nations continued to support the development of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA). The goal of NAFSA is to expand the policy voice of Native communities as well as provide networking and technical expertise across communities working in agriculture.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: With generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation), First Nations provided financial support and technical assistance to Dream of Wild Health, the American Indian Center of Chicago and the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center in order to expand conservation practices.

Conservation and Ecological Stewardship: Developing innovative range-management strategies that are aligned with traditional practices is an important aspect of farming and ranching in Native communities. With support from The Christensen Fund and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, First Nations worked to certify individuals in conservation planning on the Navajo Nation and worked to strengthen agricultural initiatives on the Colorado Plateau.
2014 Publications

During 2014, First Nations released a variety of reports, publications and program models in addition to the fact sheets and *The Business of Indian Agriculture* curriculum noted above. All of them are available for download on the First Nations website (look under “Knowledge Center,” then “Native American Foods & Health”). You can also listen to the recorded *First Nations Knowledge* webinars in the Knowledge Center.

- **Conducting Food Sovereignty Assessments in Native Communities: On-the-Ground Perspectives**: A collection of essays that facilitates the use and effectiveness of First Nations’ *Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool* (FSAT). It offers stories, experiences and tips from individuals who have successfully conducted food assessments in their communities.

- **The Power of the Tribal Dollar: Highlighting the Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project’s Food-Purchasing Program**: This report details how the Muckleshoot Tribe in Washington, through a collective purchasing program, has begun to realize significant savings in food costs while giving the tribe more leverage over vendors to provide healthier and culturally-appropriate foods.

- **Maneuvering Challenges: An Overview of Food Safety for Tribal Producers**: Food safety law greatly impacts localized food production and handling, including that of tribal nations. This guide provides a clear overview of safety laws and regulations.

- **Why a Model Food and Agriculture Code is Needed in Indian Country**: This report discusses the need for tribal governments to adopt model food and agriculture codes in order to encourage and support their food and agriculture sectors.

- **Grantmaking in Indian Country: Trends from the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative**: Since 2011, First Nations has become the largest grantmaker in Indian Country that supports programmatic efforts to reclaim Native food-system control. Due to this unique position, we have been able to glean valuable insights that are helpful for foundations and other funding entities seeking to invest critically needed capital into Native American food-system projects that can lead to improved health, diet and nutrition, as well as economic development and cultural preservation.

- **Diné Food Sovereignty: A Report on the Navajo Nation Food System and the Case to Rebuild a Self-Sufficient Food System for the Diné People**: This report, authored by the Diné Policy Institute and underwritten by First Nations, is based on extensive qualitative and quantitative data. It presents findings of the Diné Food Sovereignty Initiative and recommendations on how to move forward with revitalization of Indigenous foods and the rebuilding of a self-sufficient food system.
Mississippi Choctaw Put Fresh Farm Produce on Wheels

Geographic barriers prevent many tribes from accessing healthy and culturally-appropriate foods. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has developed an innovative solution to help them overcome these barriers and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables: a farmers’ market on wheels.

Nearly 10,000 tribal members reside on the Choctaw Indian Reservation, which is comprised of 35,000 acres of trust land scattered over eight communities in east-central Mississippi. Although most tribal members live near the tribe’s main headquarters, many more do not, making it difficult for them to access certain services such as the tribe’s new farmers’ market.

In 2012, the tribe established Choctaw Fresh Produce (CFP), a series of five farms that have built eight high tunnels capable of producing thousands of pounds of chemical-free fruits and vegetables. CFP distributes these fresh fruits and vegetables to tribal members through a unique community-supported agriculture program that offers organic goods to tribal members at a low seasonal cost at a central location.

Although this central location is convenient for tribal members living near the farmers’ market, it is more challenging for tribal members who do not live near or have transportation to the market. Some tribal members are located in communities as far as 90 miles away. CFP quickly realized they needed a new and innovative way to reach out to the entire community.

In 2013, First Nations awarded CFP $37,500 through the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI) to purchase a vehicle and equipment to launch a mobile farmers’ market. And the project really took off during 2014.

According to John Hendrix, the mobile farmers’ market ensures that “all tribal members have access to fresh fruits and vegetables regardless of their remote location or lack of transportation.” So far, tribal members have responded enthusiastically to the mobile market, which visits each of the tribe’s eight communities up to twice a month. In the summer of 2014, more than 1,000 customers visited the mobile farmers’ market, purchasing approximately 5,000 pounds of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables. Typically, CFP’s mobile farmers’ market visits tribal schools, businesses and other popular locations in the community. During that summer, they also visited the local fairgrounds to sell fresh watermelon and cucumber salads at the Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. Hendrix notes that this marked the first time that the tribe sold healthy food at the fair.

Without a doubt, CFP’s innovative mobile farmers’ market has helped increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by delivering food directly to the community. However, they have also had a positive impact on the tribe’s economy by keeping spending local.

Another way that CFP is having a positive impact on the tribe’s economy is by selling their surplus fruits and vegetables to communities off the reservation. They intend to sell even more fruits and vegetables to off-reservation communities next year once they’ve finished expanding their high-tunnel farms from eight to 15 – almost doubling their production output.

CFP’s innovative farmers’ market on wheels emphasizes the innovation, ingenuity and resiliency of tribes. With this grant, CFP has developed a sustainable solution to help increase healthy food access and also overcome some of the geographic and economic barriers facing their community.
Investing in Native Youth

First Nations believes that Native youth represent the future of Native communities, and that their health and well-being determines the future health and well-being of a community overall. By investing in youth and giving them a sense of place and tradition in the community, a community ensures that it will have bright and capable future leaders. First Nations invests in Native youth and their families through many programs, but the cornerstone of our youth efforts is the Native Youth and Culture Fund, which annually provides grant support to numerous youth-related projects. We also have a range of financial education programs that are geared toward Native youth, including the Crazy Cash City reality fair and the Spending Frenzy workshop. The goal is to provide programs that meet youth where they are, support them in accomplishing their goals and dreams, and prepare them for an empowered adulthood guided by their cultures, families and traditions.

2014 Activities

◆ The Native Youth and Culture Fund (NYCF) was launched in 2002 to provide support for culturally-based, Native American-led programs in rural and reservation areas that empower Native American youth. In 2014, $400,000 in funding as well as training and technical assistance was provided to 24 tribes, Native nonprofit organizations and Native community groups supporting youth projects in four priority areas:

1. Preserving, strengthening or renewing cultural and/or spiritual practices, beliefs and values.
2. Engaging both youth and elders in activities that demonstrate methods for documenting traditional knowledge, practices and/or beliefs, where culturally appropriate.
3. Increasing youth leadership and their capacity to lead through integrated educational or mentoring programs.
4. Increasing access to and sharing of cultural customs and beliefs through the use of appropriate technologies (traditional and/or modern), as a means of reviving or preserving tribal language, arts, history, or other culturally relevant topics.

The initiative is funded by the Kalliopeia Foundation and the Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation.
In 2014, First Nations piloted the **Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative Scholarship Program** to encourage more Native American college students to enter agriculture and agriculture-related fields. For the 2014-2015 academic year, First Nations awarded six $1,000 scholarships to Native American students who are assisting their communities in efforts to regain control of local and traditional food systems. The purpose of the scholarship program is to increase the number of Native American college students entering agriculture and agriculture-related fields. Many farmers, ranchers, herders and others are retiring without qualified replacements trained to take their place. According to the USDA, the number of farmers and ranchers nearing retirement age has grown by 22 percent in the past five years, while the number of young farmers and ranchers adequately trained to replace them has decreased by 14 percent. The lack of qualified replacements in these industries could have potentially dangerous effects on efforts to reclaim control of local Native food systems. These scholarships are one way to turn the tide and increase the number of Native youth interested in careers related to agriculture and food.

**Advancing Positive Paths for Native American Boys and Young Men:**
First Nations established the Advancing Positive Paths project in 2014 to support efforts taking place in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas aimed at improving education and employment outcomes for middle school and high school Native boys and young men, using strategies including early intervention to increase both middle school and high school retention rates and high school graduation rates, as well as elevating the importance of caring adults to re-engage youth who may be disconnected from work, school or their communities. In 2014, First Nations awarded a total of $300,000 along with technical assistance and training support to three Native-controlled organizations and two tribes – Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute, the STAR School, Tewa Women United, Cocopah Indian Tribe, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo – to advance positive pathways and future success for Native boys and young men. This project is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with NEO Philanthropy (formally Public Interest Projects), as well as First Nations’ Native Youth and Culture Fund.

The **Crazy Cash City** workshop is a financial education program for Native youth that is designed to help them navigate through a series of simulated financial tasks and challenges. The main goal of **Crazy Cash City** is to give high school students the opportunity to practice good spending and budgeting habits prior to graduation, as well as to promote smart and informed decision-making skills that will last a lifetime. In 2014, First Nations conducted **Crazy Cash City** financial education simulations with three organizations: the Native American Youth and Family Center, Pima Leasing and Finance Corporation (a CDFI serving the Gila River Community), and Chief Dull Knife College.
The Spending Frenzy program is an interactive financial education workshop for Native youth. First Nations developed this experiential financial education model approximately three years ago to provide information for youth who are receiving minor’s trust payouts. Youth receive the amount of their minor’s trust payout in play money, and then get to make a series of spending and savings decisions. Youth are encouraged to save a portion of their money and invest in appreciating assets. In 2014, we conducted six Spending Frenzy workshops on four reservations, including the Seneca Nation, Gun Lake Tribe, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and Smith River Rancheria. Additionally, we conducted two more workshops at First Nations’ 19th Annual L.E.A.D. Conference in Tulalip, Washington, and the Northwest Native Asset-Building Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The My Green Campaign, originally funded by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, is a social marketing campaign aimed at Native youth who receive a minor’s trust fund payout. The campaign uses multiple media channels to send an empowering message to young people who are getting ready to receive their money. The main feature of the campaign is the My Green website at www.mybigmoney.org. It features four spokespeople – Native youth ages 17-23 – who present their stories about how they managed their “Big Money.” They share their lessons learned in several videos, and serve as guides throughout the different sections of the website. The site contains several money tools that Native youth can use to better manage their payments, including a Big Money simulation game that mirrors real-life spending decisions. The campaign also includes a Facebook page, a YouTube Channel, and posters of each of the My Green spokespeople.
Revitalizing the Threatened Euchee (Yuchi) Language

First Nations’ Native Youth and Culture Fund supports language preservation.

Today, only four speakers of the Euchee language remain. The Euchee language is an isolate and is not related to any other language in the world. The Euchee community, based in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, is in a race against time to preserve and revive their language.

In an attempt to revitalize the language, tribal leaders established the Euchee (Yuchi) Language Project, Inc. (ELP). The ELP is a community, grassroots organization that has operated for 15 years with the mission of keeping alive the rich heritage of the Euchee people. The goal of the ELP is to create new fluent speakers through immersion teaching between fluent elders, adults and children.

First Nations awarded a grant to the ELP to support the Euchee language-immersion after-school program. The purpose of this program is to teach Euchee youth – especially those who are considered “high-risk” – the importance and value of their unique language with the goal of building their confidence and self-esteem.

Euchee youth participate in an after-school program two hours a day, four days a week. Tribal elders lead traditional learning sessions that focus on language, storytelling and leadership. They teach students functional verbs and phrases so that they can carry on short conversations in the Euchee language. Tribal elders also teach students traditional and contemporary Euchee songs. Over a summer, students performed these songs and spoken language at the Tulsa State Fair and Euchee Heritage Festival.

Additionally, this afterschool program also seeks to teach students about agriculture and entrepreneurship. Tribal elders train students in traditional food systems, agricultural knowledge and growing heritage crops. The ground-preparation and planting process is guided by the knowledge and wisdom of tribal elders. For example, students learn how to enrich the soil using traditional techniques such as using ashes and charcoal. Boys till the soil and prepare the ground for planting, while girls physically plant the seeds. This year, students planted various corns, beans, squashes and pumpkins.

At the end of harvesting season, students organized the first annual Fall Indian Market, a farmers’ market they hosted at the Yuchi House. Students marketed the event with flyers and posters. Their marketing slogan read: “Yuchi Foods Make My Body Healthy.” This activity helped students learn about advertising, customer service and fund management. Students raised more than $100 to help support the language-immersion after-school program.

Many Native American languages are rapidly becoming extinct. This innovative project demonstrates that youth language-immersion programs have the potential to reverse this trend by revitalizing these languages and increasing cultural pride.
Achieving Native Financial Empowerment

Economically healthy Native families contribute to vibrant economic, cultural and social systems in Native communities. Our work promotes increased financial knowledge, enhances financial capability, and ultimately leads to financial empowerment for Native peoples. First Nations Development Institute and its subsidiary, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, work in partnership with American Indian tribal governments and community leaders throughout North America to assist them in designing and administering financial and investor education programs. Our projects range from helping individuals and families understand the basics of financial management – opening and maintaining a bank account and using credit wisely – to helping individuals understand financial markets and a variety of financial instruments for borrowing and saving.

2014 Activities

- **Fighting Investment Fraud in Indian Country:** First Nations has been working in partnership with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation to conduct trainings and workshops in Indian Country to raise awareness of financial and investment fraud and help educate consumers on how to protect themselves from fraud. We conducted six workshops in 2014, including assisting with the Land Buy-Back Program in Montana and working in partnership with tribes that have large minors’ trust programs. First Nations also helped produce a pamphlet titled *Fighting Fraud 101* that has been distributed to more than 1,000 people.

- **The Youth Savings Account Program (YSA),** funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, was a part of a school-based financial education project piloted with two high schools in McKinley County, New Mexico. A total of 42 Youth Savings Accounts were opened for Native youth who were enrolled in a financial education program based on the *Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families* curriculum. According to our evaluation of the program, the program objectives to encourage students to open a bank savings account and to develop positive saving habits were met, and students reported increased knowledge, positive attitudes and positive behavior change related to savings and financial management as a result of the YSA program. The combination of a school-based financial education program and experiential learning has demonstrated positive outcomes and represents a promising model for Native communities.
Pathways to Financial Empowerment Project: Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and the Bank of America Foundation, this project has supported work with the Early College Academy of the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland, Oregon. Working with high school teachers at the Early College Academy, we piloted a school-based financial education program and provided train-the-trainer workshops on the Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families curriculum with faculty and staff at NAYA. Youth at the Early College Academy also attended experiential events such as the Crazy Cash City and Spending Frenzy workshops, and were given the opportunity to open Youth Savings Accounts. This program provides culturally-appropriate financial education that combines classroom and experiential learning to result in behavioral changes positively affecting management of financial assets.

In 2014 we convened an advisory committee of leaders in the field of financial education to help guide the production of a paper published in partnership with the Northwest Area Foundation. Titled Building Assets and Building Lives: Financial Capability Programs in Native Communities, this report provides an overview of several different types of financial capability programs serving Native communities in the northwest region.

Dr. Per Cap, our favorite financial education expert, appeared on several programs offered on Native America Calling to share his financial wisdom. In April for Financial Literacy Month, he also highlighted four “Financial Literacy All Stars” who embody the spirit of Native financial empowerment through selfless dedication, action over words and an inclusive community vision.

In partnership with First Nations Oweesta Corporation, we provided three train-the-trainer workshops on our culturally sensitive Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families curriculum. Workshops were conducted in Minneapolis, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, and served more than 40 practitioners who will use the curriculum in their home communities. First Nations staff and consultants delivered a total of more than 60 financial education workshops and programs in 2014, including several conference and webinar presentations.
- **Tribal College-CDFI Collaboration Project**, funded by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation, is designed to help develop entrepreneurship curricula in two targeted Native communities with the goal of piloting the curricula with college students and reservation residents who plan to launch small businesses. We partnered with Northwest Indian College and College of Menominee Nation and other economic development programs in each community in 2014.

### 2014 Publications

- **Fighting Fraud 101 – Smart Tips for Investors**: This pamphlet, published in partnership with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, provides information about how to spot investment fraud and how to avoid being a victim of fraud.

- **Building Assets and Building Lives: Financial Capability Programs in Native Communities**: This report, published in partnership with the Northwest Area Foundation, provides an overview of several different types of financial capability programs serving Native communities in the Northwest Area Foundation eight-state region. Drawing upon a pre-conference session on financial capability programs from our 2013 L.E.A.D. Conference and the input of our seven-person advisory committee, this report provides a literature review on financial capability programs and highlights successful programs and promising practices serving Native communities across the region.
Protecting Native Money: How to Avoid Financial Fraud

Financial fraud is far too common in Native American communities, and is a growing problem with the recent increase in tribal lawsuit settlements with the federal government. In 2014, First Nations partnered with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation to produce a pamphlet that can help people protect themselves from common financial fraud techniques.

Over the past five years tribal trust settlements worth more than $1 billion have been reached, including the Keepseagle and Cobell class-action legal settlements. Many of these settlements have resulted in payments to individual tribal members, which makes them targets for fraudsters who follow a simple strategy: They go where the money is. The FINRA Investor Education Foundation is collaborating with First Nations to help reach the recipients of these trust fund settlements, as well as other tribal members who may be targeted for their wealth.

The pamphlet, titled Fighting Fraud 101 – Smart Tips for Investors, is designed to appeal to individuals, members of tribal investment committees, and retirees. It lists some common fraud tactics such as the “Social Consensus” tactic that leads you to believe that your savvy friends and neighbors may have already invested in a product. With the “Source Credibility” tactic, a fraudster may falsely suggest he or she has worked with other tribal investment committees or helped people manage lump-sum payouts from tribal lawsuits to try to gain trust. The pamphlet also teaches several techniques to avoid being taken advantage of and how to report suspicious behavior.

“We are honored to be able to collaborate with several national partners, including the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, to provide financial education for tribal members,” said First Nations President Michael Roberts.

First Nations representatives Sarah Dewees and Shawn Spruce spoke at an October 2014 Federal Trade Commission event titled “Fraud Affects All Communities.” The purpose of this meeting was to highlight the range of consumer, financial and investor fraud techniques that affect diverse communities.

“A lot of people aren’t aware that financial fraud is a big problem on many Indian reservations,” said Sarah Dewees, Senior Director of Research, Policy and Asset-Building Programs. “I am happy we have been able to continue our work with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the Office of the Special Trustee to help community members protect themselves against financial fraud.”

A copy of the pamphlet can be viewed in First Nations’ online Knowledge Center at http://www.firstnations.org/knowledge-center/predatory-lending/research. To order printed copies, you can email info@firstnations.org.
Strengthening Tribal & Community Institutions

Through grant support, technical assistance and training, First Nations provides tribes and Native communities with the tools and resources necessary to create new community-based nonprofit organizations and to strengthen the capacity of existing nonprofits and tribal agencies or departments. For 34 years, First Nations has supported hundreds of model projects that help revitalize Native communities, while integrating social empowerment and economic strategies. First Nations believes that by bolstering tribal and community institutions, we are helping to build economically stronger and healthier Native communities for the long term.

2014 Activities

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development OneCPD and ONAP Technical Assistance Capacity Building**: The purpose of this grant is to increase the ability of HUD’s Tribal or Tribally-Designated Housing Entity grantees to successfully administer HUD programs in their local communities through the development, implementation and evaluation of housing services. Our capacity building activities are based on impact-focused training to tribal program managers, directors, board members and housing staff in strengthening their skills, competencies, abilities, resources and technical expertise to carry out housing programs. It may require managing economic or demographic changes, learning new laws and rules in self-monitoring, reviewing and implementing state and federal housing regulations, or updating or amending Indian Housing Plan/Annual Performance Reports.

- **National Urban Indian Project**: Together, The Kresge Foundation and the Comcast Foundation grants benefit urban Indian human service nonprofits in addressing the key issues affecting urban Native populations. Our project partner, the National Urban Indian Family Coalition, is a national network of urban Indian organizations that looks for opportunities to collaborate and share information about urban American Indian and Alaska Native issues. We are able to provide a high-volume, peer-learning environment where executive leaders meet several times annually to discuss political strategy, social policy, economics, technology and culture. The grants are applied in different ways ranging from program innovation to evaluation methods, board development to staff recruitment, and organizational design to business strategy. Peer networking, best practices, inter-city collaboration and solutions-building is happening. By strengthening urban Native human service nonprofits and creating pathways for dialogue among leaders, adequate and appropriate human services change and impact can be achieved.
Native Arts Capacity Building Initiative (NACBI): First Nations established the Native Arts Capacity Building Initiative (NACBI) in 2014 with the goal of increasing the organizational, managerial and programmatic capacity of Native-controlled organizations and tribal government programs that directly serve Native artists and the field of Native arts in Native communities. Under NACBI, First Nations is committed to providing these organizations and programs with financial assistance, technical assistance, and training resources so that they can continue to serve Native artists working to stimulate cultural preservation, have a stake in diverse markets, and attain economic self-sufficiency and prosperity. In 2014, under NACBI, First Nations awarded a total of $180,000 to five Native-controlled nonprofit organizations and one tribal program, all of which directly serve Native artists: Four Bands Community Fund, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Sitting Bull College Visitor Center, The Lakota Fund, Inc., Woodland Indian Art, Inc., and the White Earth Nation. This initiative is supported in part with a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Nurturing Native Givers and Giving: In 2014 First Nations launched a new project called Nurturing Native Givers and Giving, which is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Catalyzing Community Giving Initiative. It is designed to further democratize philanthropy and direct more philanthropic resources to Native communities. This is being achieved, in part, by raising awareness of programs funded by First Nations though the development of the first-of-its-kind crowdfunding site called NativeGiving.org. A pilot project, NativeGiving.org promotes a group of our current and past grantees who are focused on promoting the health and well-being of our most valuable resource – our youth. Dedicated to strengthening and improving the lives of Native children and families, NativeGiving.org also raises awareness of the critical needs in the communities we serve. In addition to NativeGiving.org, the project also provides grantees web-based training while offering other resources to grantees such as one-on-one coaching. Nurturing Native Givers and Giving also includes strengthening workplace-giving programs, conducting several convenings of groups like Native grantmakers, and the publication of reports highlighting philanthropy in Native communities as well as identifying strategies to direct more funding to Native communities.

Native Ways Federation: Established in 2006 by seven of the country’s leading national American Indian nonprofits, including First Nations Development Institute, the Native Ways Federation is the only federation in the U.S. to directly serve Native nonprofits that assist Native peoples and communities in Indian Country through workplace-giving campaigns at Native nonprofits and tribal governments. Native Ways’ mission is to strengthen the circle of giving by uniting Native organizations to raise awareness and needed funds for Native communities, better serve Native communities by becoming more effective Native nonprofit organizations, and ensure that nonprofit organizations working on behalf of Native communities observe the highest levels of ethical standards and fiscal responsibility. In 2014, Native Ways continued to operate seven workplace-giving sites and began exploring additional opportunities to conduct large-scale workplace-giving campaigns for employees of tribal governments.
- **Northern Great Plains Mapping Ecological Stewardship Opportunities Project:** First Nations launched a Northern Great Plains tribal ecological stewardship project in late 2014. In 2015, the project will collaborate with several tribes in South Dakota and Montana – including the Standing Rock Sioux, Cheyenne River Sioux, Lower Brule Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, Oglala Lakota Nation, Rosebud Sioux, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux, and Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes – to explore and inform tribal ecological stewardship practices in the Great Plains of South Dakota and Montana as well as provide a forum to consider the relationship between responsible ecological stewardship practices and economic development strategies for tribally controlled areas of the northern Great Plains region. This project is supported in part with a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

- **Office on Violence Against Women Tailored Capacity Building for Targeted Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions:** This grant reflects a strong mutual interest between OVW and First Nations in providing comprehensive skills training, resources and information in the development and operation of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions that are funded under OVW’s Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program. Capacity training is provided to tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions on topics of governance, technology, strategic planning, program management, and more. Training and technical assistance approaches and formats include webinars, instructor-led trainings, teleconferences, emails and on-site visits.

- **Office on Violence Against Women Native American Coalition Development:** Tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions raise awareness, advance policy and build community-wide support for American Indian and Alaska Native women affected by domestic violence, thereby requiring a broad network of supporters of which First Nations is a part. In our role as an OVW Technical Assistance provider we work with established and emerging tribal coalitions to provide specialized training and technical assistance to coalitions located in 16 states. Group trainings and technical assistance services include on-site visits, travel scholarships, webinars and facilitating mentor-mentee interactions between new and established coalitions.
Little Earth of United Tribes: Promoting Self-Determination and Community Advancement in an Urban Setting

Little Earth of United Tribes is regarded as the “heart and soul” of the American Indian community in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded in 1973, Little Earth is the only federally subsidized housing complex in the United States for American Indians.

The complex, located in south Minneapolis, is comprised of 212 townhomes and apartments, a community center and early learning center. The complex is home to nearly 1,000 residents representing more than 30 different tribes and tribal nations.

Seventy percent of the residents at Little Earth are under the age of 30. Approximately, 94 percent live below the poverty line and experience high rates of unemployment.

Robert Lilligren, President and CEO of Little Earth, does not believe that these statistics are an accurate representation of the community’s potential. He says, “Little Earth residents are smart, energetic and enterprising, but lack the skills and tools to engage in the economy more fully.”

Over the past year, Little Earth has restructured its governance system and improved its management practices, with the goal of engaging and empowering its residents. To this end, Little Earth established several new programs that emphasize financial literacy, self-sufficiency and access to homeownership.

In 2014, First Nations, with generous support from The Kresge Foundation, awarded Little Earth $40,000 to assist with efforts to grow and improve these new programs. With this grant, Little Earth launched the Community Wealth Creation and Employment Program.

The Community Wealth Creation and Employment Program is a three-year effort that assists residents with personal and business financial planning. Recently, 20 residents completed the first year of the program, which focused upon basic financial skills, job search skills and professional development.

The second and third year of the program will introduce residents to the key steps and tools required to start a small business. Little Earth leaders will work with residents to establish Little Earth’s Food Truck and Catering and Little Earth’s Online Market. Little Earth’s Food Truck and Catering was expected to launch in 2015, and Little Earth’s Online Market is tentatively scheduled for early 2016.

The Community Wealth Creation and Employment Program is intended to increase employment rates and decrease poverty rates in the community. Lilligren says, “We expect program participants to gain the experience, motivation and wherewithal to achieve their employment and entrepreneurial goals, and to inspire others in the community.”

Additionally, completion of this program will allow residents to take advantage of Little Earth’s other programs, such as the new homeownership initiative. The Little Earth Homeownership Initiative provides support services to help Little Earth residents purchase their first home. To qualify for this program, residents must have a reliable and steady source of income.

The Community Wealth Creation and Employment Program functions as a pipeline that helps ensure that potential applicants are prepared to meet this criteria and achieve their long-term goals. Through these innovative programs, Little Earth is able to promote self-determination and community advancement. Little Earth reiterates that American Indians have the knowledge, power and resilience to strengthen their own tribes and tribal communities.
Advancing Household & Community Asset-Building Strategies

First Nations Development Institute works with our national and local partners to identify, develop and implement household and community asset-building strategies that empower Native people. Working with our community partners in tribal colleges and community development financial institutions (CDFIs), we share ideas through peer learning and we finance program development through our grantmaking program. Working with our national and regional partners, we have helped share information about household asset-building programs such as Individual Development Accounts, Children’s Savings Accounts, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites. First Nations’ programs help move families and communities toward financial security.

2014 Activities

- Our Native Family Empowerment Program is helping two tribal colleges, Chief Dull Knife College and Northwest Indian College, to provide services to support Native students who are also parents. The two tribal colleges will provide “bundled services” to their Native students who are parents, including social supports (e.g. child care, assistance accessing benefits, counseling) and financial empowerment supports (e.g. financial education, asset-building, workforce readiness, financial coaching). By supporting parents and their young children, this program will help families achieve financial empowerment. Chief Dull Knife College and Northwest Indian College have each received $90,000 grants for 2.5 years. First Nations is also offering technical assistance to the People’s Partners for Community Development and Lummi Community Development Financial Institution, two CDFIs that work in partnership with the colleges.
A two-day **Native IDA Training Workshop**, sponsored by First Nations Development Institute, First Nations Oweesta Corporation and Christina Finsel Consulting, was conducted in November 2014 in Denver, Colorado. The event was designed to assist Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs), tribes and other Native organizations hoping to establish or build their Individual Development Accounts (IDA) programs. More than 25 participants representing numerous tribes or reservation-based organizations attended the event, which provided information on designing a new program, growing an existing program, and how to capitalize an IDA program.

The **Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime** initiative continued in 2014, with funding from the Ford Foundation. In 2014, First Nations continued to work with key partners in Oklahoma to build and nurture two coalitions dedicated to inclusive asset-building. First Nations coordinated this work with the goal of elevating an asset-building agenda at the state, local and tribal levels that will provide inclusive income and program strategies to ensure family economic security. Working closely with partners on the ground, First Nations helped the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC) reach out to tribes and Native nonprofits in the state and share ideas, information and innovative models with policymakers and practitioners. In 2014, ONAC began piloting its Native Children’s Savings Account Campaign with two mini-grants to the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. First Nations also worked closely with Oklahoma Policy Institute to support the Oklahoma Assets Network (OAN) as it reached out to underserved communities in Oklahoma, identified key policy and program issues, and educated community members and policy leaders about innovative asset-building programs. In 2014, OAN initiated a partnership with Restore Hope Ministries to offer an emergency savings program to Restore Hope clients. OAN also collaborated with Howard University Center on Race and Wealth to profile payday lending in Oklahoma. Dr. Haydar Kurban, a professor from Howard University, published *Demographics of Payday Lending in Oklahoma*. OAN and Dr. Kurban presented the findings from this research in April 2015 at *Who Pays More: A Town Hall Forum on Predatory Lending in Oklahoma*. 

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**Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition**

Creating and Sharing Strategies for Asset Building in Native Communities
First Nations continues to work with our sister organization, **First Nations Oweesta Corporation**, to promote asset-building strategies through IDA development, financial empowerment, and capitalization of communities through effective deployment of Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs).

### 2014 Publications

- *Demographics of Payday Lending in Oklahoma*: Written by Dr. Haydar Kurban and Dr. Adji Fatou Diagne of the Howard University Center on Race and Wealth. This paper explores the location of payday lending stores in relation to low-income neighborhoods in Tulsa and Oklahoma.

### Tribes Convene for Native Asset-Building Workshop on IDA Programs

Native American tribal representatives from many parts of the U.S. converged on Denver, Colorado, in November 2014 to attend a state-of-the-art, two-day “Native IDA Training Workshop” sponsored by First Nations Oweesta Corporation (an independent subsidiary of First Nations Development Institute), Christina Finsel Consulting, and First Nations Development Institute. Attendance at the workshop demonstrated the broad and fast-growing interest in an effort that is helping Native Americans build their assets.

IDAs, or Individual Development Accounts, are matched-savings accounts that help people learn the savings habit. The training was designed to assist Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), tribes and other Native organizations that are hoping to establish or build their IDA programs. Nationally, there are more than 30 Native IDA programs serving their respective communities.
The more than 25 participants represented numerous tribes or reservation-based organizations, including Gila River, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Seminole, Seneca, Sisseton Wahpeton, Chickasaw and others. They attended sessions that covered designing a new program, growing an existing program, and how to capitalize an IDA program.

Because the programs represented were at different levels of evolution, the workshop modules were customized for different working groups. Topics were as broad as designing or modifying policies and procedures, data management and reporting, and program sustainability. All of the participants were interested in discussing marketing and recruitment strategies, and peer learning was supported as the more mature IDA programs were able to mentor young or start-up IDA programs.

Participants responded positively to the training, with one sharing that “facilitators took the time to listen and answer our questions … they were very knowledgeable.” All attendees agreed that the content presented was useful to them. Most participants (95%) also agreed they would recommend this training to others.

“We were honored to work with people to help them design IDA programs to meet the needs in their communities,” observed Krystal Langholz, Director of Programs at First Nations Oweesta Corporation. “New groups left with real plans for moving their IDA programs forward and existing IDA programs networked and received one-on-one technical assistance from the best in the industry.”

“I am so impressed with all the enthusiasm I have seen for the IDA program model,” noted Christy Finsel, a co-trainer for the workshop. “Tribes and Native nonprofits are finding their own paths forward, with programs that are reflective of local cultures and designed to help build assets.”
Grants, Grantmaking and Philanthropic Services

In 1993, First Nations Development Institute launched its first grant program, the Eagle Staff Fund, to bring critically needed funding to projects and organizations in Indian Country. Since then, First Nations has managed multiple grant programs with numerous foundations, corporate partners, government agencies and individual donors. Through the end of 2014, we have successfully managed 974 grants totaling $22.2 million to Native American projects and organizations in 37 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territory American Samoa.

In addition to providing financial support, First Nations also offers specialized training and technical assistance workshops, convenings and conferences to Native nonprofit and tribal entities.

First Nations works closely with each partner to ensure that we connect the appropriate strategies, issues and resources in order to develop and expand effective programming. For more information, see the “Philanthropic Services” tab of our website at www.firstnations.org.

Together with investor partners, First Nations’ resources support asset-based development efforts that fit within the culture and are sustainable. First Nations offers grant support through the Eagle Staff Fund, including special initiatives within it, as well as through other donor-advised and donor-designated funds.

**First Nations is currently managing the following grant funds:**

- Eagle Staff Fund
- Native Youth and Culture Fund
- Little Eagle Staff Fund
- Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative
- Native American Asset Watch Initiative
- Raymond James Native American Development Fund

Grant opportunities are listed through the “Grantmaking” section of our website at [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org).

To receive updates, sign up for email notifications through links on the website.

**2014 Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickaloon Native Village</td>
<td>Chickaloon</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Retain traditional language and Ahtna Athabascan lifeways using both classroom and online learning methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Village of Kotzebue IRA</td>
<td>Kotzebue</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
<td>Retain knowledge of Inupiaq culture and language through an immersion program that pairs tribal youth with tribal elders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocopah Indian Tribe</td>
<td>Somerton</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Create a new program for high-risk youth that emphasizes leadership and participation. Through this project, youth have the opportunity to make up missed credits and graduate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diné Be Iina, Inc.</td>
<td>Window Rock</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Increase organizational capacity of nonprofit organization that supports sheep, goat and fiber producers on the Navajo Nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Leupp Family Farms</td>
<td>Leupp</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Increase farming operations by upgrading 55 acres of irrigation pipes. This project also has the potential to create more jobs on the Navajo Nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Desert Demonstration Project DBA The STAR School</td>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Create mentorship program for Native American youth that pairs them with Native men and elders. This program emphasizes the traditional Navajo practice of K’e.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Desert Demonstration Project DBA The STAR School</td>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Leverage existing farm to school program to teach youth about greenhouse growing and harvesting and effective composting. Additionally, produce an instructional DVD for other tribally-controlled schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Mountain Apache Water Resource Department</td>
<td>Fort Apache</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Increase sales of fresh, local foods to community residents, restaurants and programs by obtaining Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, becoming a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized retailer and establishing a cold storage facility to clean and store produce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native, Inc.</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
<td>Create Native assets by supporting scholarship opportunities for Native American students in Colorado.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Programs Department</td>
<td>Towac</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Create three new farmers’ markets and expand the local garden serving the tribe’s head start program. The long-term goal of this project is to establish a farm-to-school program for Native youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hui Malama O Ke Kai Foundation</td>
<td>Waimanalo</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create a youth program that teaches tribal youth how to carve surfboards with natural resources. This program is intended to connect youth with their kupuna (or ancestors).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kipuka Lana’i Farms</td>
<td>Lana’i City</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>$12,539</td>
<td>Increase capacity of natural pig farm and launch youth program that emphasizes the integral role that pigs play in Hawaiian culture, traditions and life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sust’ainable Molokai</td>
<td>Kaunakai</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Create a food distribution center for Native Hawaiian Homestead Farmers to market and sell their produce on the mainland. Additionally, this distribution center also helps increase access to fresh, healthy food thereby improving the health and well-being of local consumers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders’ Association, Inc.</td>
<td>Kamuela</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>$32,825</td>
<td>Increase the number of Native Hawaiian homestead families actively farming their fallow land through hands-on farm training, paired with classroom-based learning and business training by expanding upon an existing project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa</td>
<td>Tama</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Increase capacity and productivity of the tribe’s food co-operative by building a new greenhouse for more families to plant and harvest their own food, specifically Meskwaki corn and beans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian Center of Chicago</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>Create a new youth project that integrates both culture- and food-related activities into existing STEM curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabanaki Women’s Coalition</td>
<td>Lincolnville</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Increase the coalition’s visibility and fundraising efforts to expand the existing domestic violence and/or sexual assault programs serving the five Wabanaki Tribes in Maine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Mills Community College</td>
<td>Brimley</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Create a new tribal-youth entrepreneurship project. Youth manage a farm stand to learn about agriculture, business and money management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians</td>
<td>Harbor Springs</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>$18,325</td>
<td>Utilize existing after-school program for tribal youth to include new workshops and activities that increase cultural awareness and emphasize healthy self-esteem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi</td>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create program for tribal youth that increases knowledge of Woodland Indian culture and customs. This program focuses on seven specific lifeways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dream of Wild Health</td>
<td>Hugo</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>Increase seed growing capacity with a new tribal youth program that emphasizes the importance of Native plants and pollinators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Earth of United Tribes</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>Increase capacity of urban Indian housing complex. Also, offer financial literacy training sessions and professional development workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis American Indian Center</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Increase capacity of existing gallery for Native American artists and provide a larger venue for artists to exhibit and sell their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Earth Reservation Tribal Council</td>
<td>White Earth</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Increase the number of local artists and entrepreneurs on the White Earth Reservation by providing six fellows with workspace, internet access and professional development workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choctaw Fresh Produce</td>
<td>Choctaw</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Control local food system by expanding community farm and launching a mobile farmers’ market. This project is intended to help create jobs and stimulate economic development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Dull Knife College</td>
<td>Lame Deer</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>Increase financial assets for parents and students through financial education workshops and matched saving accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Peck Community College</td>
<td>Poplar</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>$15,520</td>
<td>Create a language learning environment that also promotes the cultural value of generosity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center, Inc.</td>
<td>Red Springs</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create a tribal youth-elder mentorship program that emphasizes cultural values and the use of natural resources to increase the health and well-being of Native children and seniors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting Bull College</td>
<td>Fort Yates</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Create a community infrastructure that will more effectively market and coordinate the artists’ relevant programs and services and increase the quality of the programs and services offered to community artists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Rock Sioux Tribe</td>
<td>Fort Yates</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Create two new programs for Native seniors. The first program is a community garden that will provide healthy, fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs for meals. The second program is a nutrition education course that will help expand knowledge of healthy food preparation and eating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pueblo of Nambe</td>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Utilize and expand existing farm through the following activities: composting and seed saving, revitalizing indigenous crops, harvesting wild plants and raising healthy, chemical-free meats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pueblo of San Felipe</td>
<td>San Felipe Pueblo</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create tribal youth-elder mentorship program that increases knowledge of Keres culture, language and traditional lifeways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pueblo of Tesuque</td>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Increase food access and eliminate food insecurity among Native seniors through tribal youth elder project. Elders and youth will work together to prepare and store seeds, cultivate traditional gardens, and harvest in traditional ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe Indian School</td>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>Utilize community mentors to reduce male high school dropout rates and teach them about core traditional values such as respect and reciprocity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taos County Economic Development Corporation</td>
<td>Taos</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Increase capacity and leadership of the Native American Food Security and Food Systems Alliance by achieving 501(c)3 status and developing a three-year strategic plan. The purpose of the alliance is to build a national Native movement and voice on Native food security and food-system control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tewa Women United</td>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>Create program for male youth that emphasizes leadership and career building skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, The</td>
<td>Zuni</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Increase knowledge of Zuni culture and language through a leadership program for tribal youth that focuses on the Zuni migration story as well as Zuni customs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc.</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Increase capacity of existing employment program by hiring management supervisor to track data and study the results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>Create an information conduit for tribes on financial education, CSAs, IDAs, EITC and CDFIs to support expansion of asset-building opportunities for Natives in Oklahoma; increase local leadership, expand coalition membership and increase sustainability of the coalition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Create an information conduit for tribes on financial education, CSAs, IDAs, EITC and CDFIs to support expansion of asset-building opportunities for Natives in Oklahoma; increase local leadership, expand coalition membership and increase sustainability of the coalition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Durant</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$18,150</td>
<td>Create summer youth project that centers on a traditional tribal game: stickball. This project is intended to increase knowledge of Choctaw culture, language and history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Wewoka</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>Increase the number of Native homeowners through financial literacy trainings and homeownership workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscogee (Creek) Nation</td>
<td>Okumggee</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>Create foreclosure prevention program that provides homeowners with the tools and resources needed to save their homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Policy Institute</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Increase awareness about and elevate Oklahoma Asset Network’s progressive family economic security policy agenda by educating policymakers and constituents about asset-building models, progressive family economic security policies and problems associated with racial wealth gap; disseminate research and relevant information on these topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Ponca City</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Create program that will double garden and greenhouse food production for community wellness. Increase production by improving weed control and drip irrigation and adding a new hoop house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma</td>
<td>Tahlequah</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>Increase tribal youth financial literacy with workshops on financial planning and career readiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita and Affiliated Tribes</td>
<td>Anadarko</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>Create summer program for Native youth that teaches tribal pride through lessons in Wichita culture and history as well as good health and sound financial responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Increase the number of Native fishers through a food handling training program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Create a tribal youth program that emphasizes cultural and natural resource management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Youth &amp; Family Center</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Increase Native youth financial literacy through culturally-appropriate financial education classes and experiential learning opportunities such as the Crazy Cash financial reality fair and youth savings accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Youth &amp; Family Center</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create a sustainable volunteer program that will increase and strengthen the community’s relationship with local volunteers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota Indian Foundation</td>
<td>Chamberlain</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$7,075</td>
<td>Increase knowledge of Dakota language and literature by creating an online database preserving the work of Dakota linguist Ella Deloria. Interns will help create this database by scanning and uploading documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enemy Swim Day School Center</td>
<td>Waubay</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Create a program for tribal youth that focuses on the daily and ceremonial practices governing Dakota life. Participants will learn the skills they need to help establish a healthy tribal identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Bands Community Fund, Inc.</td>
<td>Eagle Butte</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Increase awareness of Lakota art through a marketing campaign that leverages partnerships with community organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakota Funds</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Create new art program that stimulates economic activity on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by supporting local artists and helping them market their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakota Ranch Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>Create a garden club for tribal youth that will produce fruits and vegetables for the tribe’s existing farmers’ market and new mobile farmers’ market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Advocacy Program</td>
<td>Herrick</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>$19,480</td>
<td>Increase understanding of Lakota culture, language and values. Youth work with tribal elders to learn more about the horse nation so that they can retain this knowledge for their everyday lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Commons, Inc</td>
<td>Nazareth</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>$8,600</td>
<td>Utilize existing internship program to build a diverse range of skills for interns in community development projects such as agriculture, healthcare, nonprofit outreach, renewable energy, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ysleta del Sur Pueblo</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Create program for male youth that links them with positive roles models and teaches them to navigate their traditional culture in the modern world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoring Ancestral Winds</td>
<td>Tremonton</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Leverage the existing domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalition to implement a statewide effort to provide training and technical support to address the effects of domestic, dating, family and sexual violence and stalking affecting primary and secondary survivors of these types of violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Seattle Club</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Increase capacity to create and retain housing opportunities and services for urban Natives in Seattle, WA. This project is intended to help prevent and reduce homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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