

Background Image 1: Powwow ceremony, Cheyenne River Reservation

Background Image 2: Leonard Smith (Assiniboine Sioux), Executive Director, Native American Development Corporation

Background Image 3: Oweesta 2018 Native CDFI Capital Access Convening, Pacific Grove, CA. First Nations Oweesta Corporation is the only intermediary for Native CDFIs and a major leader of growth, technical assistance, and asset building within the field.

Speaker 1: Chrystel Cornelius (Ojibwe; Oneida), Executive Director, First Nations Oweesta Corporation

“A CDFI is a Community Development Financial Institution. The specific purpose is to provide capital in training to underbanked and underserved communities. This is not a handout. It’s a hand up, and they have to work for it. When armed with the appropriate resources, Native people have the ingenuity and the capability to make their own decisions to let their communities flourish in what’s deemed appropriate for them.”

Background Image 4: Clarissa Cawston (Colville Confederate Tribes), Native entrepreneur who started a daycare through support from Northwest Native Development Fund

Background Image 5: Theresa Desautel (Colville Confederate Tribes), Native entrepreneur who started a cafe through support from Northwest Native Development Fund

Speaker 2: Kevin Walker, President and CEO, Northwest Area Foundation

“Native CDFIs, because of the work they’re doing to build locally-rooted economies in Indian country, Indian-led and owned business enterprises to help people grow their financial capability, to move into home ownership, etc. The whole suite of supports Native CDFIs are able to make, for us, it’s a pretty obvious space that ought to be invested in by philanthropy, but also by impact investors and others who want to help communities lift themselves up.”

Background Image 6: Angie Main (Fort Belknap Gros Ventre Tribe), Executive Director, NACDC Financial Services

Speaker 3: Ted Piccolo (Colville Confederated Tribes), Executive Director, Northwest Native Development Fund, Serving Native communities in eastern Washington

“With us as a Native CDFI, we understand the community, I mean, we’re culturally based. We understand the length of time—our existence over this length of time—we understand the history that goes with it, and we understand the thinking seven generations out that goes with it.”

Background Image 7: Three individuals at an event

Speaker 4: Deanna Poling, Assistant Vice President and Down Payment Products Manager, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines

“Those funders that do have the capital, that are wishing to invest, they should really take the opportunity to get to know these incredible CDFIs that are here.”

Background Image 8: Richard Underwood (Quinault Indian Nation), Native pro fishing guide who was able to expand his business with support from Taala Fund

Background Image 9: Ted Piccolo (Colville Confederated Tribes), Executive Director

Background Image 10: Cheryl Dupris (Cheyenne River Sioux), Native entrepreneur who started a food truck through support from Four Bands Community Fund

Background Image 11: Asha Rao, Wells Fargo, who worked with Northwest Native Development Fund

Speaker 5: Megan Teare, Senior Vice President, Community Lending and Investment, Wells Fargo

“The mainstream financial institutions are doing work in communities, but they can’t always reach all of the potential borrowers that they’d like to. And so, the CDFI industry is really a sister or a cousin, I would say, of mainstream financial institutions and helps extend that reach. And so, it makes a lot of sense for those larger financial institutions to support the Native CDFI sector because of the immense need in the communities that they serve. If you’re investing in them, you’re investing in the communities and the people that they are lending to. The goal is to build the strength and capacity of those borrowers, and ultimately create more wealth and more opportunity in communities.”

Background Image 12: Gerald Gray, Tribal Chairman, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, a landless tribe that gained access to capital to purchase land through Native American Development Corporation

Background Image 13: Pope Family (Quinault Indian Nation) whose daughter, Ruby, received financial management classes through Taala Fund

Background Image 14: Natalie Charley (Quinault Indian Nation), Executive Director, Taala Fund

Background Image 15: D.D. and Stu Dolphus (Cheyenne River Sioux) who received support for Dolphus Racing from Four Bands Community Fund

Background Image 16: Warren “Gus” Yellowhair (Lakota), Native artist and spiritual leader whose business received support through Lakota Funds

Speaker 6: Jodi Neuman, Investment Manager, Trillium Asset Management

“Working with Native CDFIs is so important because it allows access to capital so that Native communities create a change in their community. The communities do a lot of good work with it and have really low loan defaults as well. Investors are having a better sense of the impact that they want to have with their investments working with Native CDFIs, but also meeting fiduciary requirements for loans. And so, from our perspective, having both parties agreed on that this is patient capital and it’s here to have a positive impact.”

Background Image 17: Native woman standing in front of her hair salon

Background Image 18: Oweesta logo

Speaker 7: Eileen Briggs (Cheyenne River Sioux), Native Building and Government Redesign Portfolio Director, Bush Foundation

“The assets of families, it goes beyond just home ownership or businesses. I really see the benefits in Native CDFI is really building the financial health of a community that has a very different worldview and paradigm, and it can match that paradigm really well because it’s a Native-led CDFI.”

To learn more about Native CDFIs visit Northwest Area Foundation’s website at nwaf.org, or phone (651) 225-3885.