

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (CDFI) FUND

Highlights of the FY 2004 Native Initiatives

The Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund made 41 awards totaling \$8.5 million through the FY 2004 round of its Native Initiatives. The Native Initiatives are designed to encourage the creation of CDFIs primarily serving Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities (collectively referred to as “Native Communities”). The Native Initiatives are also aimed at building the capacity of existing Native CDFIs to better serve their communities.

Organizations funded under the Native Initiatives serve a wide range of markets, 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 with existing lending programs that are ready to be certified as a CDFI, to established CDFIs in need of further capacity building assistance.

Fiscal year 2004 represents the first time the Fund has specifically focused on providing financial assistance awards to Native CDFIs. Awardees (which must be certified CDFIs) may use financial assistance awards for financing capital as well as general operating support. The Native Initiatives also offer technical assistance grants, which awardees may use to acquire prescribed types of products or services including technology (usually computer hardware and software), staff training, consulting services to acquire needed skills or services (such as a market analysis or lending policies and procedures), or staff time to conduct discrete, capacity-building activities (such as website development).

Summary of Native Initiatives Program - In fiscal year 2004, the Fund received 76 applications requesting \$23.5 million to its three funding programs under the Native Initiatives: Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program is a new program that provides financial assistance for existing Native CDFIs as well as technical assistance grants for existing Native CDFIs and Native organizations seeking to become or create a CDFI. Technical assistance under the NACA Program expanded traditional capacity building uses (described above) to include operating grants for start-up Native CDFIs and Native organizations seeking to create a CDFI to serve a Native Community.

- 15 Awards totaling \$6,713,983
- All 15 Awardees received technical assistance awards totaling \$1.5 million
- 10 Awardees received financial assistance awards totaling \$5.2 million.

Native American Technical Assistance (NATA) Program provides technical assistance grants to existing and emerging Native CDFIs. The Fund made 11 NATA awards totaling \$675,330 in all of FY 2004.

Native American CDFI Development (NACD) Program provides technical assistance grants to Native organizations seeking to create a CDFI that will serve a Native Community. The Fund made 15 NACD Awards totaling \$1,104,770 in all of FY 2004.

Awardee Characteristics - Awardees are located in 19 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Awardees include a variety of types -

- 19 are “Sponsoring Entities” that will use the technical assistance to create a Native CDFI.
- 5 are “Emerging Native CDFIs” that will use the technical assistance to become certified as a Native CDFI.
- 15 are certified Native CDFIs that will use the award to build their capacity to serve their communities.