

April 25, 2022

ONAC Announces National Grant Awards in Support of Native Asset Building Efforts

The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC), a Native-led nonprofit, announces that it awarded \$161,500 in invitation-only subgrants to sixteen Native Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites during this recently-concluded tax season to assist them in providing child tax credit outreach and their other Native-led tax preparation services for their tribal communities. The sixteen grant awards represent the largest number of grant awards made during the 2022 tax season, in the country, by one grantor in support of Native VITA sites. **ONAC was able to make these awards with generous support from the Wells Fargo Foundation, Share Our Strength, and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.** ONAC believes that support of Native VITA programs is a crucial piece of our efforts to provide integrated asset building services in Native communities.

These grant awards are part of ONAC's coordination of the only nationally-focused Native Earned Income Tax Assistance (EITC)/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Network. This Network was created to provide resources and peer learning exchanges among Native VITA practitioners and related supporters throughout the country. As part of ONAC's coordination of the Network, ONAC serves on the national Taxpayer Opportunity Network (TON) Steering Committee and is in regular communication with IRS staff and other national entities working on EITC and Child Tax Credit outreach. For those interested in joining the ONAC Native EITC/VITA Network, coordinated by Patsy Schramm (Cherokee) of ONAC, please complete the following online registration form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ONACVITA>.

ONAC congratulates the following ONAC 2022 tax season VITA awardees on another successful tax season:

- Cherokee Nation Commerce Services (Tahlequah, Oklahoma)
- Community Development Financial Institution of the Tohono O'odham Nation (Sells, Arizona)
- Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (Fallon, Nevada)
- Four Bands Community Fund, Inc. (Eagle Butte, South Dakota)
- Four Directions Development Corporation (Orono, Maine)
- Lakota Funds (Kyle, South Dakota)
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe (Tucson, Arizona)
- People's Partner for Community Development (Lame Deer, Montana)
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians (Bowler, Wisconsin)
- Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (Juneau, Alaska)
- The Chickasaw Nation (Ada, Oklahoma)
- The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (Keshena, Wisconsin)
- Walker River Paiute Tribe (Schurz, Nevada)
- White Earth Investment Initiative (Ogema, Minnesota)
- White Mountain Apache Tribe Housing Authority (Whiteriver, Arizona)
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (El Paso, Texas)

As an intermediary funder (one of the hats ONAC wears in addition to directly providing asset building services), with support from the Wells Fargo Foundation and individual donors, ONAC also recently awarded \$13,000 in additional funding to the following grantees in support of their Native asset building program administration and other program expenses:

- Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (Miami, Oklahoma)
- Osage Financial Resources, Inc. (Pawhuska, Oklahoma)
- People's Partner for Community Development (support of Children's Savings Accounts) (Lame Deer, Montana)

Since 2014, ONAC has awarded a total of sixty-two grants (\$437,900 total) to tribes and Native nonprofits in support of their asset building programs. Grant awards have been made in Alaska, Arizona, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. As additional resources are secured, ONAC will continue to expand grant support in other states. ONAC appreciates the partnership with these grantees and their work to build assets in Native communities.

About the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc.

The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC), started in 2001, is a national Native-led nonprofit that works with tribes and partners interested in establishing asset-building initiatives and programs in Native communities, for the purpose of creating greater opportunities for economic self-sufficiency of tribal citizens. ONAC is an intermediary funder, grassroots network coordinator, and also a direct service provider that works with Native families to build their assets through ONAC's provision of Native-specific financial education and financial coaching, as well as funding of Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs), Emergency Savings Accounts (ESAs), down payment assistance, incentivized Bank On accounts, and emergency cash assistance.

The mission of ONAC is to build and support a network of Native people who are dedicated to increasing self-sufficiency and prosperity in their communities through the establishment of integrated culturally relevant financial education and financial coaching initiatives, as well as seed funded account programs, down payment assistance, free tax preparation, expanded banking access, and other asset-building strategies.

Asset building programs often simultaneously address family economic security, food sovereignty, financial literacy, and preservation of Native language and arts. ONAC believes strongly in the importance of creating programming that incorporates tribal customs, traditions, and language into asset building efforts.

For Further Information:

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