



11th Annual Native CDFI Awards

Call for Nominations due: 09/01/2016

Native Community Financial Institutions (CDFIs) provide access to capital and create economic opportunity for Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. The Native CDFI Awards recognize excellence in the Native CDFI industry. For the Circle of Honor Award, one Native CDFI will be selected to win a \$10,000 cash award to help strengthen and advance the important work they do. For the Visionary Leader Award, one individual whom has impacted the Native CDFI industry through integral leadership will be selected and honored before the Native CDFI industry at the Native CDFI Awards Ceremony.

The Native CDFI Awards are sponsored and presented by First Nations Oweesta Corporation and Opportunity Finance Network. The awards and eligibility criteria are described below, followed by the Nomination Form. You may nominate any Native CDFI or individual that meets the eligibility criteria, including your CDFI or yourself. You may nominate as many CDFIs and individuals as you wish.

The two award winners will be announced at the Native CDFI Awards Ceremony hosted by Oweesta and OFN on the evening of Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at the 2016 OFN Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The winners will be invited to speak and highlight their achievements at this ceremony.

About Native CDFIs

Native CDFIs are dedicated to providing development services (training and technical assistance) and various types of financial services (consumer loans, business loans, housing loans, checking accounts, savings accounts, etc.) to Native communities, thereby helping them to become strong and self-sufficient. Native CDFIs include loan funds, banks, credit unions/associations and venture capital funds. Native CDFIs build local capacity and provide powerful tools to advance the economic development of the communities they serve. Native CDFIs can be located anywhere there is a significant Native population, whether it is on a reservation (federally-recognized and non), in an Alaska Native village, across the Hawaiian Islands or in a metropolitan area anywhere in the fifty states or beyond — as long as the institution is truly serving a Native population.

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Native CDFI Awards

Circle of Honor Award for Outstanding Leadership

This award recognizes a Native CDFI that is successfully increasing access to capital and financial resources in Native communities. Nominees for the Circle of Honor Award should demonstrate leadership as a Native CDFI in one or more of the following ways:

- Designing and/or managing innovative financial products or technical assistance services which are replicable in other communities.
- Developing community partnerships and collaborations that increase organizational capacity and promote community wellness and nation building.
- Demonstrating the ability to diversify sources of operating funds and loan capital.

To be eligible, a CDFI must be a Native financial entity, with at least 50 percent of its activities directed towards Native Americans, Alaska Natives and/or Native Hawaiians, and:

- Have two years of lending experience,
- Demonstrate solid financial performance,
- Have a primary mission of community development,
- Not be tribally controlled (must be a separate legal entity),
- Demonstrate a commitment to supporting economic development and asset building activities,
- Attend and be present at the Native Awards Ceremony at the Opportunity Finance Network Conference,
- Provide organization information upon request, and
- Previous winners are ineligible.

Visionary Leader Award for Outstanding Achievement

This award recognizes a person who has made a long-term contribution to the Native CDFI industry and whose local financing and asset building efforts make them an inspiration for others. Nominees for the Visionary Leader Award should demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Has a commitment to Native opportunity finance, community development, and asset building activities.
- Is continually an advocate for Native CDFIs and Native asset building efforts at the local, regional, and/or national level.
- Has worked with Native CDFIs throughout much of his/her professional career.
- Is recognized by peers as a contributor in Native communities.

To be eligible, an individual must:

- Attend and be present at the Native Awards Ceremony at the Opportunity Finance Network Conference,
- Provide individual and/or organization information upon request, and
- Previous winners are ineligible.



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Native Award Nomination Form

Instructions:

- For the Circle of Honor Award, you may nominate any Native CDFI that meets the eligibility criteria. This may be your Native CDFI or another CDFI.
- For the Visionary Leader Award, you may nominate yourself or another individual that meets the eligibility criteria.

Native Award Nomination Form

CDFI: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please choose which award you are nominating this organization/person for:

- Circle of Honor Award _____
- Visionary Leader Award _____

Nomination Statement

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in one or more of the following ways:

- Designing and/or managing innovative financial products or technical assistance services which are replicable in other communities.
- Developing community partnerships and collaborations that increase organizational capacity and promote community wellness and nation building.
- Demonstrating the ability to diversify sources of operating funds and loan capital.
- Is an advocate for Native CDFIs and Native asset building efforts at the local, regional, and/or national level.
- Is recognized by peers as a contributor in Native communities.
- Use the space below. Attach a separate page if necessary.

Your Information (if nominating another organization and/or individual)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

If you have questions or comments, please contact Stephanie Cote (303.774.8838 or stephanie@oweesta.org).

To submit your nomination form, email this page to Stephanie Cote (stephanie@oweesta.org).

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