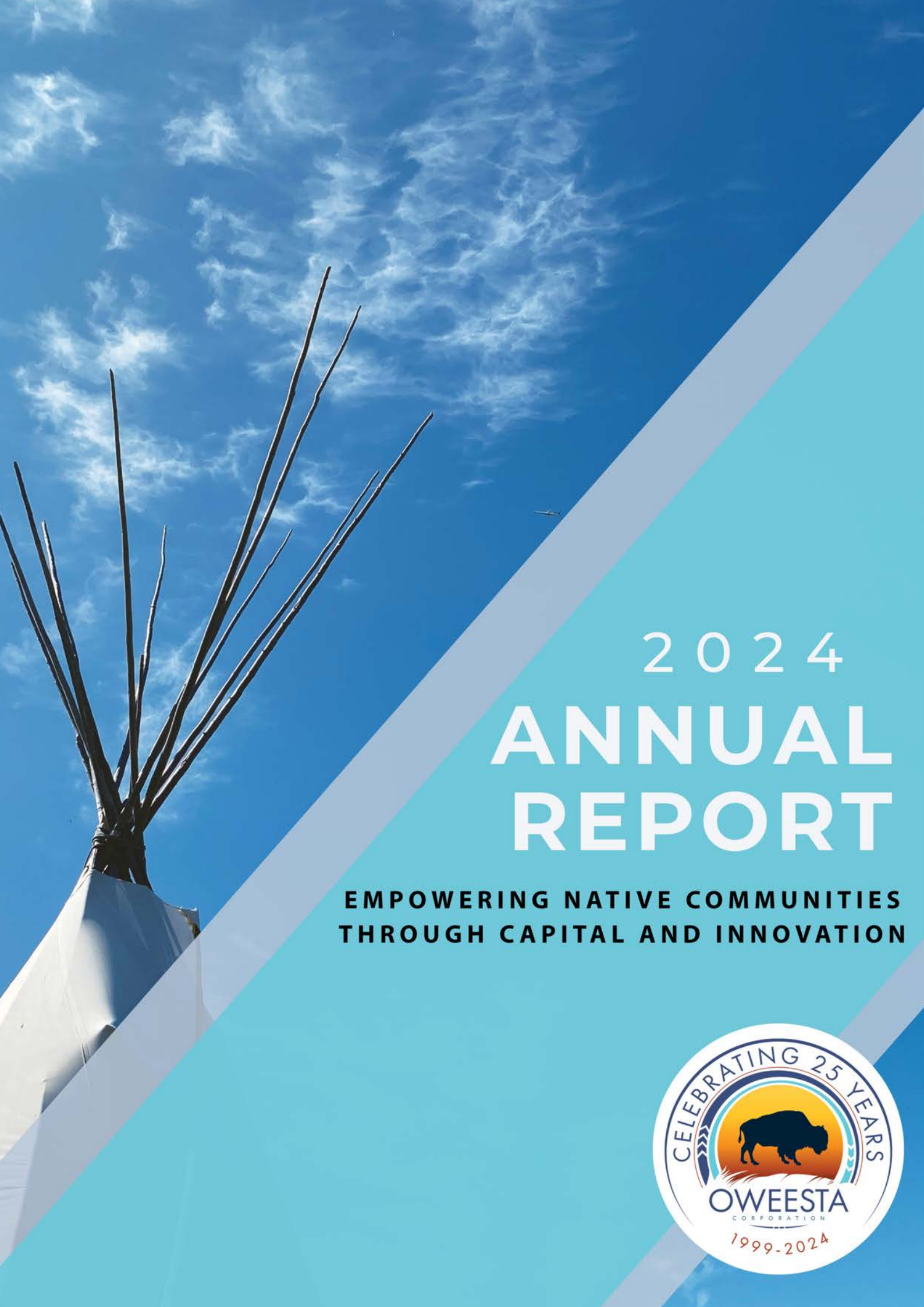


2024 ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING NATIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH CAPITAL AND INNOVATION

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OWEESTA CORPORATION
1999-2024



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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



President/CEO, Chrystel Cornelius speaking at the Goldman Sachs event in Minnesota.



> "True sovereignty is inseparable from economic sovereignty—and we are honored to be part of that reclamation, loan by loan, initiative by initiative, story by story.

Dear Relatives,

As we mark Oweesta's 25th year, I reflect with deep gratitude and humility on the sacred responsibility we hold- to walk alongside our Native communities in building thriving futures rooted in culture, sovereignty, and collective strength. For a quarter of a century, Oweesta has had the honor of partnering with Tribal Nations, Native CDFIs, and Indigenous changemakers to grow economies that reflect who we are- resilient, innovative, and guided by the values passed down through generations.

Our journey has never been just about capital—it has always been about relationships. The partnerships we hold are built on trust, shared vision, and a commitment to investment with purpose— investment that plants the seeds of generational change and evolution in our communities. These relationships are the heartbeat of our work, and they remind us that our success is not ours alone- it belongs to the people and places we serve.

As we close this year, I am once again inspired by the strength, brilliance, and unwavering commitment of the Native CDFI movement. In 2024, we deepened our impact—expanding access to capital, strengthening relationships with Tribal Nations, and providing essential capacity-building services that assist the role of Native CDFIs as economic engines in their communities. Through these efforts, we've supported Native-led solutions that are generating wealth, opportunity, and long-term stability—reflecting our inherent right to shape and sustain our own economies.

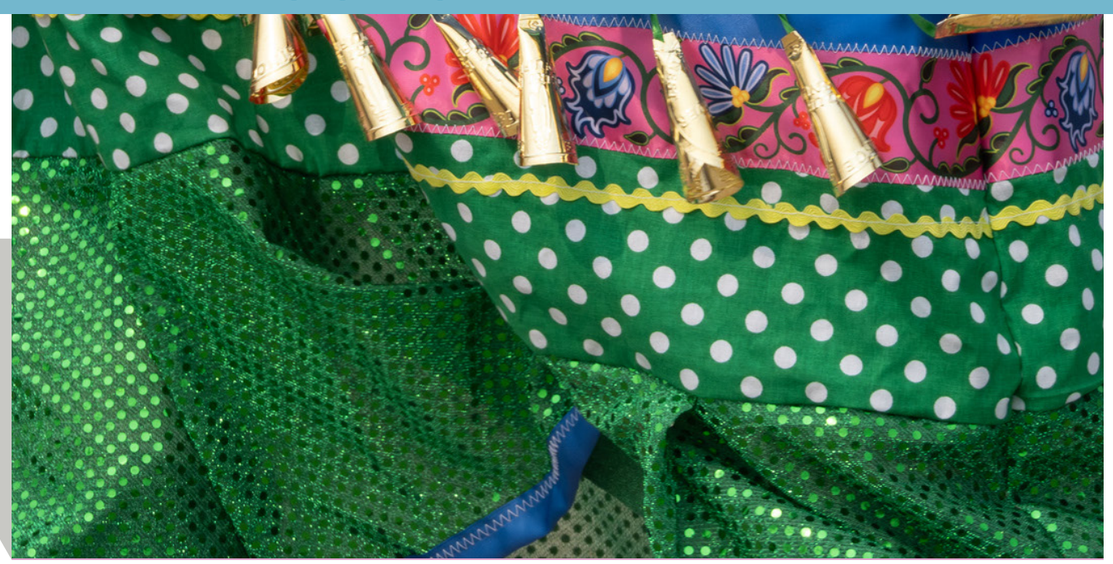
Native CDFIs are not only driving local financial access; they are central to the larger vision of thriving, Native-led Tribal economies. We are honored to support this critical work—partnering with Native CDFIs, funders, and aligned investors to bridge historical gaps, invest in infrastructure and innovation, and lay the groundwork for intergenerational prosperity across Indian Country.

At Oweesta, our work is rooted in the understanding that true sovereignty is inseparable from economic sovereignty—and we are honored to be part of that reclamation, loan by loan, initiative by initiative, story by story.

To our partners, funders, and most importantly, to the Native communities who trust us with this work: miigwetch (thank you). We are deeply honored to walk this path alongside the Native CDFIs and committed investors who place their trust in us. Your belief in our shared mission helps pave the way for continued prosperity and lasting opportunity- where our economic dreams and goals are not only envisioned, but fully realized, for ourselves, our families, and our communities. We look to the future with hope, gratitude, and a steadfast commitment to the work still ahead- together.

With deep respect and commitment,

Chrystel Cornelius



OUR EMPLOYEES

Chrystel Cornelius
Chief Executive Officer | President
Ojibwe | Oneida

Florence Ludka
Chief Financial Officer
Ojibwe

Heather Rademacher Taylor
Chief Operating Officer

Shannon Ward
Chief Lending Officer
Northern Arapaho

Penny Wynn
Chief Programs Officer
Chickahominy

Don Sampson
Executive Advisor
Umatilla

Peggy Harris
Program Coordinator/ CEO Executive Assistant

Louie Rios III
Director of Programs
Ojibwe

Sayre Savage
Senior Programs Officer

Monica Wigman
Senior Programs Officer
Dine

Vincent J. Grant
Programs Officer
Ojibwe

Marie Bonville
Programs Officer

Jamie Olson
Director of Lending
Nez Perce

Alexandra Shaughnessy
Lead Lending & Investment Officer

Mikeala Purvis
Investment Officer
Anishinaabe

Debbie Powers
Accountant

Michelle Carlson
Finance Assistant

Tawny Wilson
Director of Advancement and Impact
Sicangu/Ogala Lakota

Mary Deiter
Advancement and Impact Officer
Peepeekisis Cree Nation

Monique Behrens
Senior Communications Director
Kiowa

Sandy Thompson
Communications Director

Isaiah Cornelius
Software Developer
Ojibwe

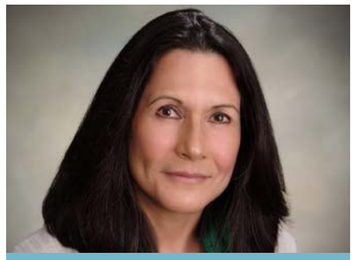
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ROBIN DANNER
Chair
Hawaiian, Kauai



DEREK VALDO
Vice Chair
Acoma



SUSAN HAMMOND
Secretary/Treasurer
Penobscot



ROGER BOYD
Member
Navajo

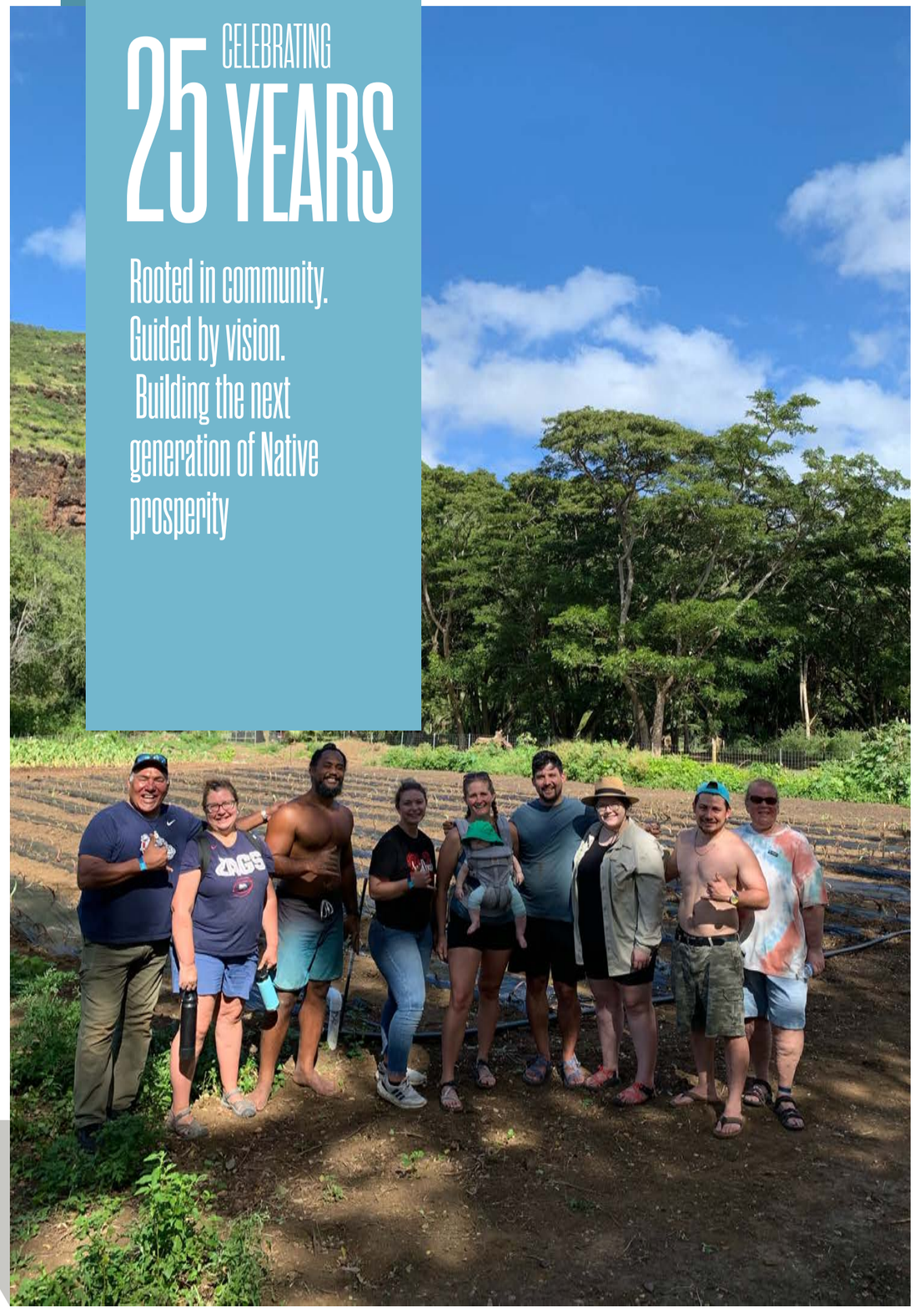


FRAN LUTZ
Member



JEFF BOWMAN
Member
Mohican

OWEESTA CORPORATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMPOSED OF SIX DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS REPRESENTING TRIBAL NATIONS AND REGIONS ACROSS THE U.S., INCLUDING HAWAI'I. EACH BOARD MEMBER BRINGS DEEP EXPERTISE IN NATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY. AS RESPECTED LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN THEIR FIELDS, THEY HELP DRIVE, SUPPORT, AND ADVISE THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF OWEESTA—ENSURING OUR WORK REMAINS ROOTED IN OUR MISSION AND RESPONSIVE TO THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF INDIAN COUNTRY. THEIR LEADERSHIP IS INSTRUMENTAL IN ADVANCING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIES AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NATIVE FINANCE, AS WELL AS THE BROADER PROMISE AND OPPORTUNITY OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.



ABOUT US

For more than 25 years, Oweesta Corporation has remained steadfast in its mission to support and uplift Native communities across Indian Country. Established to address the significant lack of access to capital and financial infrastructure that has long hindered economic development in tribal nations, Oweesta was created with the purpose of building sustainable, community-driven economies through culturally relevant financial systems and services.

We are the longest-standing Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) intermediary in the nation, and throughout our history, we have been entirely Native-led and governed. This structure ensures that our work remains grounded in the needs, voices, and visions of the communities we serve.

Oweesta plays a unique and essential role in advancing economic opportunity throughout Indian Country. We work exclusively with Native CDFIs, Tribal Nations, and Native communities to deliver a comprehensive range of financial products and development services tailored to the distinct needs, cultures, and goals of each community. Grounded in deep, trust-based relationships and a commitment to mutual respect, our work helps close capital gaps, unlock economic potential, and strengthen pathways to self-determined, sustainable development.

Oweesta partners with Native communities through a comprehensive suite of services—including training, technical assistance, investments, research, and policy advocacy—designed to support the development of sustainable, culturally grounded economic systems. In addition to these services, our strategic lending efforts play a vital role in financing critical infrastructure such as housing developments, community facilities, and commercial projects that drive economic growth and reinforce community foundations.

By aligning our work with the long-term visions and cultural values of Native communities, we help build integrated asset-building strategies that promote lasting financial resilience. Our initiatives support financial education, homeownership, small business development, youth empowerment, and educational advancement- all of which are essential pathways to building generational wealth. Through this holistic approach, Oweesta drives community-driven development and partners with Native communities to meet their needs and support thriving, empowered Native nations rooted in sovereignty and cultural strength.

At Oweesta, we believe that every Native community holds the wisdom, strength, and sovereignty to thrive. We are honored to walk alongside our partners in the journey toward economic justice, self-sufficiency, and long-term prosperity for Indian Country.



"There are no dreams too large, no innovation unimaginable and no frontiers beyond our reach."
- John S. Herrington

Investing in the Future:

Oweesta's Five Year Strategic Vision

Over the past five years, Oweesta has experienced tremendous growth— not just in scale, but in our impact, our partnerships, and our commitment to Indigenous communities. As the financing and capacity-building needs of Native communities and Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) have become more complex and sophisticated, we recognized that it was time for a bold shift in our approach.

For the first time in our history, Oweesta released a public Request for Proposals (RFP) and hired an external consultant to help guide our next phase of organizational strategy. Traditionally working within three-year plans, we're now laying the groundwork for a five-year strategic vision—one that will position us where we are most needed and most useful.

This plan isn't just about Oweesta's future—it's about being of deeper service to Indigenous communities. It's about evolving with the growing sophistication of our field, staying rooted in culture while adapting to change, and creating pathways to build long-term, sustainable Indigenous wealth.

Our strategic planning process began with clear intention: to listen, to learn, and to be led by the communities we serve. Over the course of 18 months, Oweesta worked in close collaboration with our Native CDFI partners, investors, board, and staff to shape a vision rooted in collective wisdom. With their guidance and insight, we are proud to have completed what is truly a community-driven plan. Read the full plan here, https://bit.ly/42M4Do6.

1

EXPAND LENDING AND CAPITAL

Five-Year Outcome Statement: Participate in and facilitate the lending of half a billion dollars ($500M) to Indian County by 2030.

2

EMPOWER CAPACITY FOR CLIENT ORGANIZATIONS

Five-Year Outcome Statement: Support expanded capacity within our Native CDFI partners, Native nonprofits, and tribes to empower them to successfully navigate existing and emerging opportunities through educational programming, training, and technical assistance.

3

ELEVATE STORYTELLING AND ADVOCACY

Five-Year Outcome Statement: Shift public perception to recognize the potency of investing in Native CDFIs, Native nonprofits, and tribes; drive increased interest; promote equitable and just investment; and ultimately, amplify opportunities for Native communities.

4

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS & CROSS-SECTOR RELATIONSHIPS

Five-Year Outcome Statement: Deepen and expand mutually beneficial, reciprocal partnerships within and across the CDFI and adjacent sectors to expand opportunities for Native people to develop financial assets and create wealth, enhance collective impact, and advance the Native CDFI industry.

5

NURTURE ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH, SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

Five-Year Outcome Statement: Holding our indigenous values, Oweesta will create effective systems that support holistic and regenerative growth; empowered, satisfied staff; and cohesive organizational structure.



Honoring Our National Partnerships: Advancing Equity, Data, Climate Justice, and Rural Prosperity in Indian Country.

At Oweesta, we deeply value the strength of our national partnerships— relationships rooted in mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to justice, economic empowerment of rural communities. While our direct work with Native CDFIs remains at the heart of our mission, our presence within broader national coalitions is essential to advancing long-term change across Indian Country.

These partnerships allow us to shift narratives, build stakeholder power, and create new opportunities for our people. Together, we work to transform systems—centering Indigenous voices in the national dialogue around rural prosperity, climate justice, equitable capital access, data sovereignty, and community ownership. These organizations do more than support our work—they co-create a shared vision for an equitable future and help bring it to life.

We are proud to stand alongside a growing network of mission-aligned partners who bring expertise, capital, advocacy, and grassroots power to our collective efforts. The impact we achieve together is a testament to what's possible when collaboration is rooted in trust and purpose.

Thank you to our partners for your ongoing dedication, support, and belief in the future we're building together.

Partners for Rural Transformation (PRT)
Partners for Rural Transformation is a bold coalition led by six CDFIs—Oweesta, cdcb, Communities Unlimited, Fahe, Hope Credit Union, and RCAC—serving three-quarters of the country's persistent poverty counties. With roots in regions such as the Mississippi Delta, Appalachia, Native lands, the Deep South, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Rural West, PRT brings a deeply grounded lens to the shared challenges rural communities face. Together, we amplify local leaders and advance systemic change where it's needed most.

PARTNERS FOR RURAL TRANSFORMATION

Justice Climate Fund (JCF)
The Justice Climate Fund is a mission-driven financial institution expanding access to climate-focused capital through CDFIs, credit unions, and MDIs. Founded by the Community Builders of Color Coalition, JCF empowers communities, especially those historically excluded from climate investments—to save money and build a safer, greener future. As a proud member of this growing national network, Oweesta helps bring Indigenous perspectives to the forefront of environmental finance and justice.

Justice Climate Fund

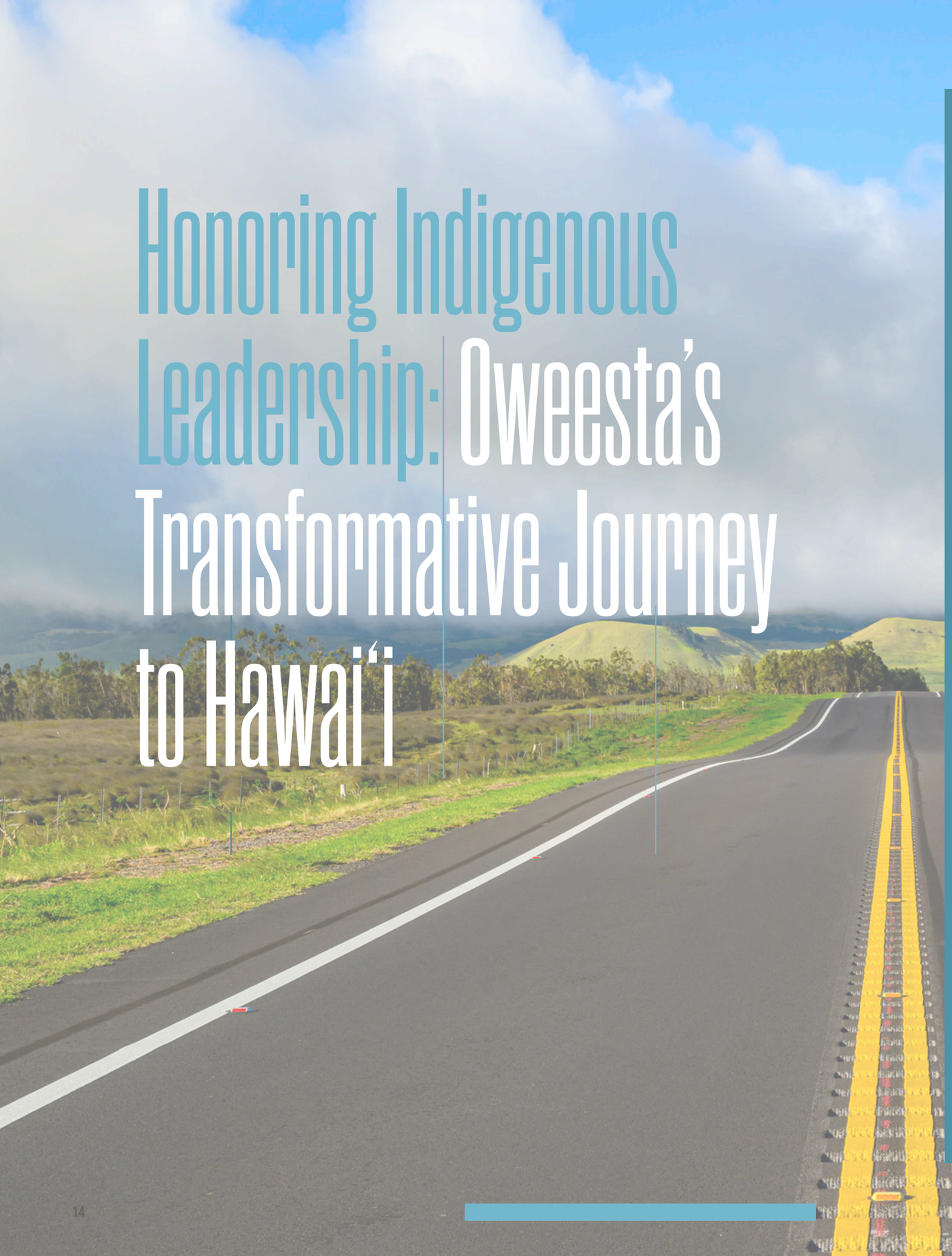
The Opportunity Project (TOP)
Led by the U.S. Census Bureau, TOP connects technologists with community advocates to create open-source digital tools for public good. Oweesta played a key role in developing a custom mapping tool that supports Native CDFIs and communities by simplifying access to grants and funding. These maps enhance transparency and support data sovereignty. They also help Native communities and investors better navigate capital ecosystems. Explore the maps at oweesta.org/oweesta-maps.

United States® Census Bureau

NeighborWorks America.
NeighborWorks creates pathways for individuals and families to access affordable housing and financial security. Through a growing partnership, Oweesta has co-led specialized trainings- including our "Financial Education & Coaching in Native Communities" course offered in NeighborWorks' Native American Track at their Winter Virtual Training Institute. In 2024, NeighborWorks will deepen this collaboration as a sponsor of Oweesta's Native CDFI Practitioner Certification Program, helping us expand our reach and impact in Native-led financial training.

NeighborWorks® AMERICA

Honoring Indigenous Leadership: Oweesta's Transformative Journey to Hawai'i



At the start of 2024, the Oweesta team gathered from across the country for a transformative journey to Hawai'i. This trip offered more than an opportunity for strategic planning and team building — it was a deeply humbling experience to stand alongside Native Hawaiian partners who are leading groundbreaking, community-driven work grounded in culture, resilience, and innovation.

We were honored to witness firsthand the brilliance and determination of Native Hawaiian organizations that are stewarding their communities and lands with deep intention and ancestral wisdom. These partners embody the perfect harmony of tradition and forward-thinking, showing the world how culture and innovation can coexist in the most beautiful and powerful ways.

One of the most impactful visits during our time in Hawai'i was our two-day experience with **Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae**, also known as the Village. Located on the leeward side of O'ahu, this self-organized community of nearly 200 people—predominantly Native Hawaiian—is a living example of collective strength and dignity in the face of adversity. Led by the remarkable Twinkle, the Village grew from one tent into one of the largest organized communities for people experiencing houselessness in Hawai'i.

With compassion and grit, Twinkle and her team provide wraparound services for residents — ranging from medical care and school supplies to food security and now, permanent housing solutions. The Village fosters a sense of belonging where everyone is welcomed as they are and plays a role in sustaining the community.

On our first day at the Village, the Oweesta team joined residents in clearing space and rebuilding their donation pantry. During the lunch break, we were honored to present a $250,000 check to Twinkle in support of their vital work. We also presented another $250,000 to Kolaiah "Fuzzy" Jardine, of HI Home Resolutions Inc., who traveled from the Big Island to be with us. In partnership with Hope Services, Fuzzy is creating affordable housing options for local families—further exemplifying Native Hawaiian leadership in action.

On the second day, we visited **Mauka Village** — a newly acquired 20-acre site in the Wai'anae Valley where the Village is building permanent, community-designed housing. Their vision is both practical and revolutionary: tiny homes for families with shared kitchens and bathrooms hubs; fruit trees like papaya, banana, and breadfruit planted near each home, and traditional foods such as poi cultivated on site. These elements reflect a deeply Indigenous approach to self-determination, sovereignty, and sustainability.

As we shared a meal at the building site, we heard from James Pakele, who shared his hope for every resident to contribute to the building of their new homes. "If you give them something," he said, "you rob them of being part of a movement." When completed, the new Village will house up to 250 people — about 12% of those currently unhoused on O'ahu — supported by essential infrastructure, including new bus stops, plumbing, and electricity.

Later in the trip, we visited **Hawaiian Lending & Investments (HLI)** at the Anahola Homestead, where Kipukai Kualii, President of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, hosted us. We learned how HLI leveraged Oweesta's DPA funding to secure an additional $250,000 from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, benefitting all Native CDFIs in Hawai'i. Under the leadership of Rolina Faagai, HLI continues to grow and adapt to community needs — especially in the wake of the devastating Maui fires.

As Kipukai shared, "You either pack up and leave — or you stay and make your community the place you want your kids to grow up in." Their work is about so much more than housing — it's about identity, belonging, and future generations.

At **Aloha 'Āina Poi Company**, we saw cultural and agricultural revitalization in action. A farmer-owned enterprise focused on 'āina-based community enrichment, they are reinvigorating kalo (taro) farming in West Kaua'i with a mission rooted in tradition and youth empowerment. During our visit, the Oweesta team split into three groups —one planting seeds, one harvesting leaves, and one working in the processing facility. In just one day, we helped plant 2,000 kalo seeds, harvest 157 kalo leaves, and process several hundred pounds into poi.

We were grateful to be joined by Davis Price from NDN Collective, a longtime advocate for Native Hawaiian land and rights. Oweesta proudly presented Aloha 'Āina Poi Company with a $250,000 investment to support their continued work and to help grow the next generation of kalo farmers.

Throughout this journey, we were humbled by the generosity, wisdom, and partnership of the Native Hawaiian communities who welcomed us. We listened, learned, and labored alongside them. We left with a deeper appreciation for the power of Indigenous-led solutions — grounded in place, people, and purpose.

This trip also marked a turning point for Oweesta as an organization, inspiring us as we launch our five-year strategic plan — one rooted in shared values and long-term vision. We are committed to standing in true partnership with Indigenous communities, uplifting their visions, and walking beside them in shared purpose.

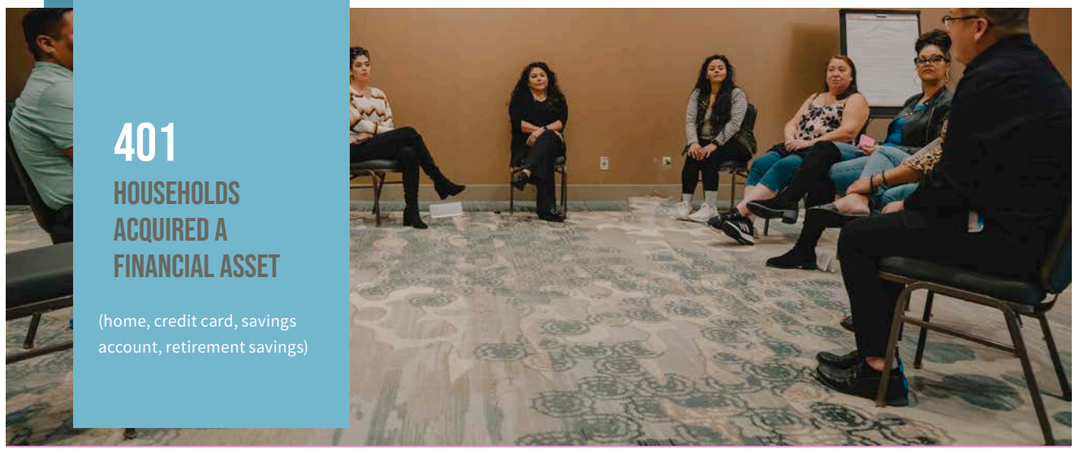
To all our Native Hawaiian hosts and partners: mahalo nui loa. Your leadership, innovation, and cultural stewardship inspire us beyond words.



INVESTING IN NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

FOR 25 YEARS, OWEESTA HAS PROVIDED THE TOOLS, TRAINING, AND CAPITAL TO HELP NATIVE PEOPLE CONTROL THEIR ECONOMIC DESTINIES THROUGH THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND CAPITALIZATION OF NATIVE CDFIS. THROUGH OUR DIRECT INVESTMENTS TO THESE NATIVE CDFIS, OWEESTA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR ECONOMIES, CREATION OF HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AND INDIVIDUAL ASSET BUILDING ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY, THUS CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NATION. THE VISUALS TO THE LEFT REPRESENT THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE INVESTMENTS MADE BY OWEESTA TO NATIVE CDFIS AS WELL AS THE END COMMUNITY IMPACTS MADE BY OUR BORROWERS' ACTIVITIES.

Building Native Communities (BNC)



401
HOUSEHOLDS ACQUIRED A FINANCIAL ASSET

(home, credit card, savings account, retirement savings)

ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR SURVEY RESPONSES



922 HOUSEHOLDS DECREASED DEBT

OWEESTA'S BNC PROGRAM EMPOWERS NATIVE TRAINERS TO DELIVER LIFE-CHANGING FINANCIAL EDUCATION — ROOTED IN TRADITION AND BUILT FOR IMPACT.

Oweesta's Building Native Communities (BNC) suite of training programs offers a culturally grounded, community-driven approach to financial education. Designed specifically for Native organizations, BNC helps build and sustain impactful financial empowerment initiatives across Indian Country. Led by certified instructors who are deeply rooted in their communities, the program empowers individuals to integrate traditional values with essential financial knowledge—equipping them to make thoughtful, informed decisions that benefit themselves, their families, and their nations.

Demand for Oweesta's Train-the-Trainer model continues to rise, reflecting the growing need for accessible, relevant financial education in Native communities. In 2024 alone, we certified 92 new trainers through six BNC Train-the-Trainer workshops- bringing the total number of certified trainers nationwide to 989. These trainers return home equipped to deliver life-changing education at the grassroots level, where transformation begins.

And the results speak for themselves:

- **$13,796** – Average debt reduction among participants
- **423** – New bank accounts opened
- **508** – Individuals improved their credit scores(average increase: **22.8 points)**
- **844** – Individuals increased their savings(average increase: **$17,270**)

Oweesta's BNC training is not only building individual financial capability – it's fueling systems change, creating a ripple effect of economic empowerment that reverberates across generations.



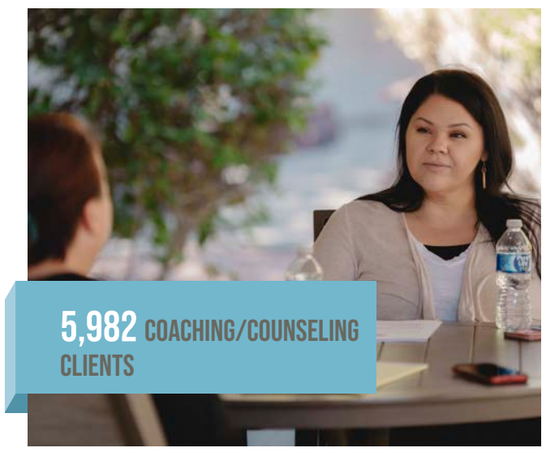
473 HOUSEHOLDS INCREASED INCOME



526 ESTABLISHED FIRST CREDIT FILE/SCORE

$17,270

Average Income In savings



5,982 COACHING/COUNSELING CLIENTS

Building Financial Resilience, One Community at a Time.

Oweesta remains deeply committed to building financial knowledge and expanding economic opportunity across Native communities. Our training programs, webinars, and conferences are designed not just to educate, but to empower—providing individuals and organizations with tools that are rooted in cultural values and Indigenous ways of knowing.

Our nationally utilized **Building Native Communities (BNC)** curriculum continues to be a cornerstone of this effort. From youth to elders, and from trauma-informed coaching to credit building, the BNC program is creating lasting change across Indian Country. Through our **Train-the-Trainer** model, the impact of our work reverberates far beyond a single session—cultivating a network of Native trainers who carry financial empowerment directly into their own communities. And we can proudly say: **it works.**

Below is a snapshot of our 2024 impact:

- **Certified Trainers:** Individuals certified across all seven BNC curricula, including Financial Skills for Families, Youth, Elders, Trauma-Informed Financial Education, Financial Coaching, Coaching 2.0, and Coaching for Credit.
- **Financial Coaching Training:** Participants trained in culturally grounded financial coaching practices.
- **Webinar Participants:** Community members engaged in our live webinars, deepening their financial knowledge.
- **Total Participants:** Individuals who took part in Oweesta-led training programs, conferences, and webinars—including the Native Gathering Day, National Native CDFI Network (NHCN), and executive/financial/lending tracks.

This year, our commitment to strengthening financial capability in Native communities has never been stronger. Every training, every conversation, and every connection represents a step toward greater economic independence and long-term resilience. We are honored to walk alongside the trainers, participants, and community leaders shaping a more financially empowered Indigenous future.



173
CERTIFIED TRAINERS

48
FINANCIAL COACHING PARTICIPANTS

91
WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

694
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

12,309
PARTICIPANTS IN PARTNER FINANCIAL EDUCATION CLASSES

11,223 Training & TA Participants

7,838 Hours of Training & TA Hours Provided

OUR WORK, OUR COMMITMENT

Building Knowledge, Building Leaders: New Curricula and Trainings

Oweesta proudly expanded our training offerings to meet the evolving needs of Native communities and practitioners. We debuted three groundbreaking curricula that reflect our commitment to culturally grounded, community-centered education:

BNC Financial Coaching with Families Next Level (BNC Coaching 2.0) – A next-level approach to financial coaching with families, deepening skills in goal-setting, behavior change, and culturally relevant support.

BNC Financial Confidence for Elders (BNC Elder) – Tailored for Native elders, this curriculum honors intergenerational wisdom while providing tools for navigating financial decisions in later life.

BNC Trauma-Informed Practitioner – Designed to equip housing and financial professionals with tools to recognize and respond to financial trauma in a compassionate, healing-centered way.

We also launched the first **NCP107: Leadership & Management for Native CDFIs** training in March 2024 and **NCP108: Financial Management III** training in May 2024—a major step in our strategy to build strong, sustainable Native institutions. This course supports current and emerging leaders in developing the skills, strategies, and confidence needed to lead with impact.

Each of these new offerings is a response to what we've heard from the field: that Native communities deserve training that reflects their realities, their resilience, and their right to self-determination.



Native HUD Housing Counseling Network: Expanding Capacity, Deepening Impact

1,858 HOUSEHOLDS

1,194 GROUP EDUCATION CLIENTS

734 ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING CLIENTS

This year, the **Native HUD Housing Counseling Network (NHCN)** celebrated key milestones in expanding Native-led housing counseling capacity across Indian Country. We proudly welcomed two new organizations to the network: the **Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)** and **Mni Sota Fund**. Their inclusion strengthens our collective ability to deliver culturally grounded housing support and financial guidance in Native communities.

We also celebrated a major achievement as **First Nations Community Financial (FNCF)/Cedar Growth** gained **HUD Housing Counseling Agency approva**l — a significant step that enables them to provide comprehensive housing counseling services and advocate more effectively for the housing needs of their community.

Each new member and milestone moves us closer to a future where every Native community has access to trusted, culturally relevant housing counselors. Together, the NHCN is building a powerful movement for homeownership, housing stability, and economic sovereignty.

765	342	69	15
Households completed a financial literacy workshop	Households completed a pre-purchase homebuyer education	Households completed a post purchase workshop	Households completed a predatory lending workshop



MELO Powerwash: A Native, Veteran Owned Business Thriving with the Support of Native CDFIs:

IN THE HEART OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, DANIEL AND TREASA SABO ARE DOING MORE THAN RUNNING A BUSINESS—THEY'RE BUILDING COMMUNITY, UPLIFTING NATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND SETTING A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN VISION MEETS OPPORTUNITY.

As proud Native American and Veteran business owners, the Sabos launched MELO Powerwash, a professional exterior cleaning company that helps homeowners and businesses protect and enhance their most valuable assets. But MELO Powerwash is more than a service provider — it's a symbol of resilience, determination, and the transformative impact of culturally grounded business support.

Treasa's journey began with an idea and a determination to make it real. She connected with Nimiipuu Fund, a Native CDFI dedicated to empowering Indigenous entrepreneurs, and enrolled in their Indianpreneurship Workshop. Through this program, Treasa sharpened her business strategy, developed a clear plan, and gained the tools she needed to launch MELO Powerwash with confidence.

With continued mentorship and access to seed capital through Nimiipuu Fund, the Sabos turned that plan into reality. What began as a small start-up has since grown into a thriving operation serving residential and commercial clients across Washington state. MELO Powerwash now offers a full suite of services — including professional pressure washing, roof and window cleaning, and seasonal holiday light installation-helping clients preserve their properties and investments with care and professionalism.

But the story doesn't stop with business success. At its core, MELO Powerwash is about service — to family, clients, and community. As the business grows, so does its positive impact. By creating local jobs, modeling entrepreneurship for other Native families, and investing in their hometown, the Sabos are not just building a brand-they're building a legacy.

Their success underscores the vital role Native CDFIs play in transforming local economies through culturally relevant lending and training. Organizations like Nimiipuu Fund are uniquely positioned to meet Native entrepreneurs where they are-providing the capital, coaching, and connection needed to bring dreams to life.

Today, MELO Powerwash stands as a testament to the strength of Native innovation and the ripple effect of investing in Indigenous businesses. With every home they restore, every roof they clean, and every client they serve, the Sabos are proving that economic empowerment starts at the grassroots—and grows into something much greater.

A Journey to Homeownership: The Boyd Family's Story



Over the past two years, Hawai'i Community Lending (HCL) has had the honor of walking alongside the Boyd family as they transformed financial uncertainty into the reality of stable, secure homeownership. Their story is one of resilience, determination, and the life-changing power of community-driven financial solutions.

Kevin Boyd, a Native Hawaiian entrepreneur, and his wife Alycia, were among the many families hit hard by the economic ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite their hard work and dedication, the couple found themselves facing mounting financial pressure and rising housing costs- all while raising their two children on the island of Kaua'i.

When the Boyds received their long-awaited residential lease award from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), it felt like the dream of owning a home was finally within reach. Yet the excitement of land ownership quickly gave way to the stark reality: the financial barriers to building their home were steep, and the path forward was uncertain.

That's where HCL stepped in.

We began by offering technical assistance to help the Boyds navigate the complexities of the homebuilding process. But as is common for many families in similar situations, Kevin and Alycia faced a critical challenge- they carried too much debt to qualify for a mortgage.

Rather than letting this setback define their future, HCL provided a debt consolidation loan, enabling them to reduce liabilities and improve their credit profile. Still, another major obstacle loomed: the Boyds were paying $3,200 a month in rent, making it nearly impossible to save for a down payment or afford construction costs.

Recognizing the need for a creative solution, HCL offered the family a Kapili Construction Loan, requiring no down payment and deferring interest payments during construction. This innovative product lifted a significant financial burden, allowing the Boyds to focus on building- not just a house, but a future.

Once construction was complete, we partnered with the USDA Native CDFI Relending Program to provide a permanent mortgage with a competitive 3.5% interest rate. To further support the transition, we collaborated with Kaua'i Federal Credit Union to secure a $25,000 down payment grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. This grant covered closing costs and deferred interest, ensuring the Boyds could close on their home with stability and peace of mind.

Today, Kevin and Alycia Boyd- and their two children- are thriving in their new home on the Anahola Homestead on the island of Kaua'i. With a monthly mortgage payment of just $1,087, they've traded uncertainty for security, and temporary housing for a place of their own.

"Without HCL, none of this would have been possible," shared Alycia.

"They believed in our dream even when it felt out of reach. Now, we have a home- our own home-to raise our children and build our life."

The Boyd family's journey is a powerful testament to the role Native CDFIs play in dismantling systemic barriers and creating pathways to generational wealth. Through HCL's holistic approach—combining financial education, creative lending products, and collaborative partnerships—we're proud to have helped the Boyds take this life-changing step.

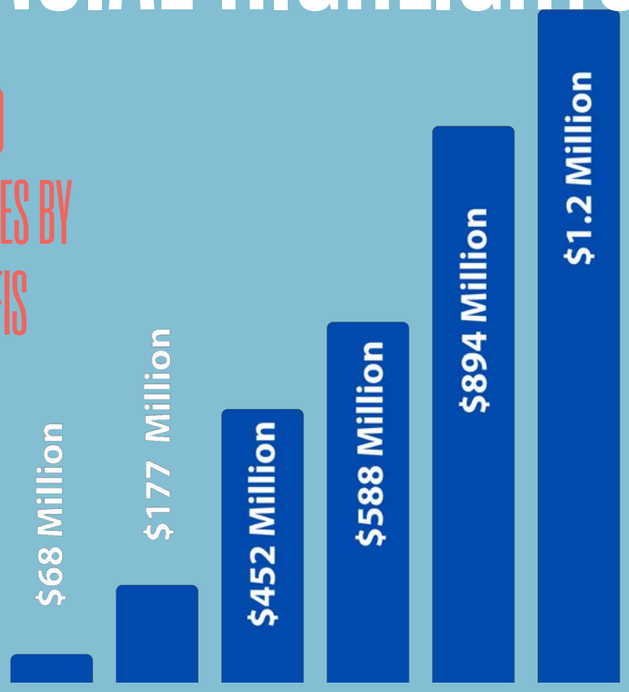
At Hawai'i Community Lending, we believe that every Native family deserves the opportunity to thrive in a home they can call their own. The Boyds are proof that with the right support, even the most difficult paths can lead to powerful new beginnings.

"THEY BELIEVED IN OUR DREAM EVEN WHEN IT FELT OUT OF REACH. NOW, WE HAVE A HOME — OUR OWN HOME — TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN AND BUILD OUR LIFE."

THANK YOU HAWAI'I COMMUNITY LENDING FOR SHARING THIS INCREDIBLE STORY!

25 YEARS FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

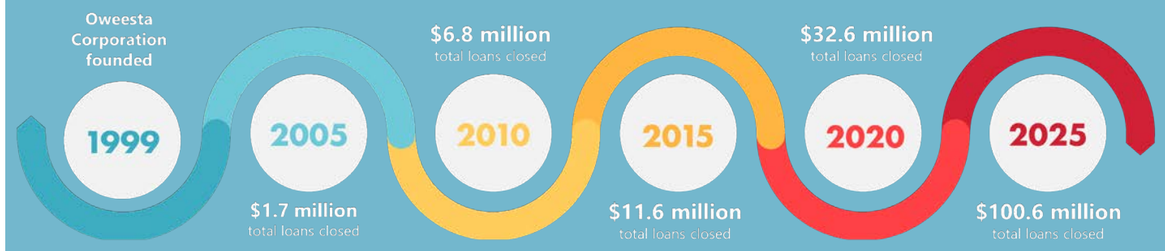
DISBURSED TO NATIVE COMMUNITIES BY OUR NATIVE CDFIS



$ 100 MILLION

Oweesta is a $100 million institution serving 75% of the Native CDFI Industry.





IMPACT TO NATIVE COMMUNITIES

5,051	20,829	24,582	1,536
Businesses Funded	Jobs Created & Retained	Natives Individuals Financed	Homes Financed

A Legacy in Motion: 25 Years and Rising

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OWEESTA
CORPORATION
1999-2024

1999 — FOUNDATION

First Nations Oweesta Corporation established to address the lack of financial infrastructure in Native communities.

2000 — FINANCIAL EDUCATION BEGINS

Launch of Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families curriculum

2001-02 — INITIAL GROWTH

- Secured first major funding to support Native entrepreneurs.
- Began lending operations.

2003-05 — EXPANSION AND LENDING MILESTONES

- Expanded services by partnering with the CDFI Fund.
- $1.7MM in total loans closed.
- 34 Certified Native CDFIs established.

2006-10 — INCREASING IMPACT

- Jobs created/retained: 237 (2006) → 201 (2010).
- Small businesses supported: 68 (2006) → 108 (2010).
- Affordable housing units financed: 40 (2006) → 10 (2010).
- Recognized annual Circle of Honor and Visionary Leader awardees.

2011-15 — NETWORK BUILDING & CAPITAL ACCESS

- 2011: Native CDFI Network established.
- 2012: First Capital Access Report published.
- 2013: $9.9MM in total loans closed.
- 2014: 15-year anniversary; $8.1MM in total lending, 0% default rate.
- 2015: Hosted first Native CDFI Capital Access Convening.

2016-19 — FINANCIAL INNOVATION & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- 2016: First $10MM capital pool created.
- 2017: Piloted Building Native Communities Financial Coaching Curriculum.
- 2018: Launched Native HUD Housing Counseling Network.
- 2019: Surpassed $50MM in assets; introduced Youth BNC financial education.

2020-21 — RESPONSE & RECOVERY

- 2020: Separated from First Nations Development Institute.
- 2021: Completed Capital Pool II (COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund).
- 2021: $47.2MM in total loans closed.

2024 — 25 YEAR IMPACT

- Expanded Building Native Communities curricula.
- Certification Program for Native CDFI Practitioners completed.
- Key financial highlights:
  - $98M total assets.
  - $59.6M in outstanding loans.
  - $95M in total loans closed.
  - 4,606 businesses funded.
  - 19,776 jobs created & retained.
  - 1,327 homes financed.

For 25 years, Oweesta has provided the tools, training, and capital to help Native people control their economic destinies through the creation, development, and capitalization of Native CDFIs. Through our direct investments to these Native CDFIs, Oweesta has been able to assist in the creation of private sector economies, creation of homeownership opportunities, and individual asset building across Indian Country, thus changing the landscape of tribal communities across the nation. The visuals below represent the total cumulative investments made by Oweesta to Native CDFIs as well as the end community impacts made by our borrowers' activities.



A Path to Healing:
Financing the Future of Native Behavioral Health

Oweesta participated alongside Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation and lead lender Native American Bank (NAB) in a $16.7 million debt financing capital stack to support the construction of the Pawnee Nation Behavioral Health Facility (PNBHF) in Pawnee, Oklahoma. The total cost of this vital project exceeds $22 million. Oweesta's investment of $2.4 million was part of a $5.7 million source loan structured within the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) framework. This collaboration between Native-led financial institutions provided 100% of the debt financing through revolving loan funds, underscoring the power of Native CDFI partnerships to drive large-scale, mission-aligned infrastructure projects.

The new 29,000-square-foot facility will offer a full continuum of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, including 26 inpatient beds for adult and geriatric care, as well as outpatient services. Designed to enhance and complement the existing Pawnee Indian Health Center, the facility directly responds to unmet needs within the region—particularly in Pawnee County, a federally designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA). The new center will provide access to psychiatric services, medication-assisted treatment, and peer-supported recovery programs, with care tailored for children, adolescents, adults, and elders. Staff with lived experience will help lead healing journeys, offering peer support grounded in cultural understanding.

Scheduled to open in mid-2025, this project represents a major investment in community-based, culturally relevant healthcare. It reflects the Pawnee Nation's mission to provide healing that promotes positive health outcomes, drug-free lifestyles, and long-term well-being for individuals and families. For surrounding rural areas grappling with trauma, economic disruption, and the opioid crisis, the facility will be a critical resource for restoring health and hope.

This project is a powerful example of how Native CDFIs, working in alignment with Tribal Nations and Native financial institutions, can help bring transformational, intergenerational impact to the communities they serve—financing healing, sovereignty, and self-determined futures across Indian Country.

Fueling the Movement:
2024 Investments in Native Economic Sovereignty

In 2024, Oweesta Corporation received over $23.6 million in investments from a growing and diverse community of values-aligned funders. These contributions—ranging from $20,000 to $10 million—represent powerful commitments to Indigenous self-determination, financial sovereignty, and long-term systems change.

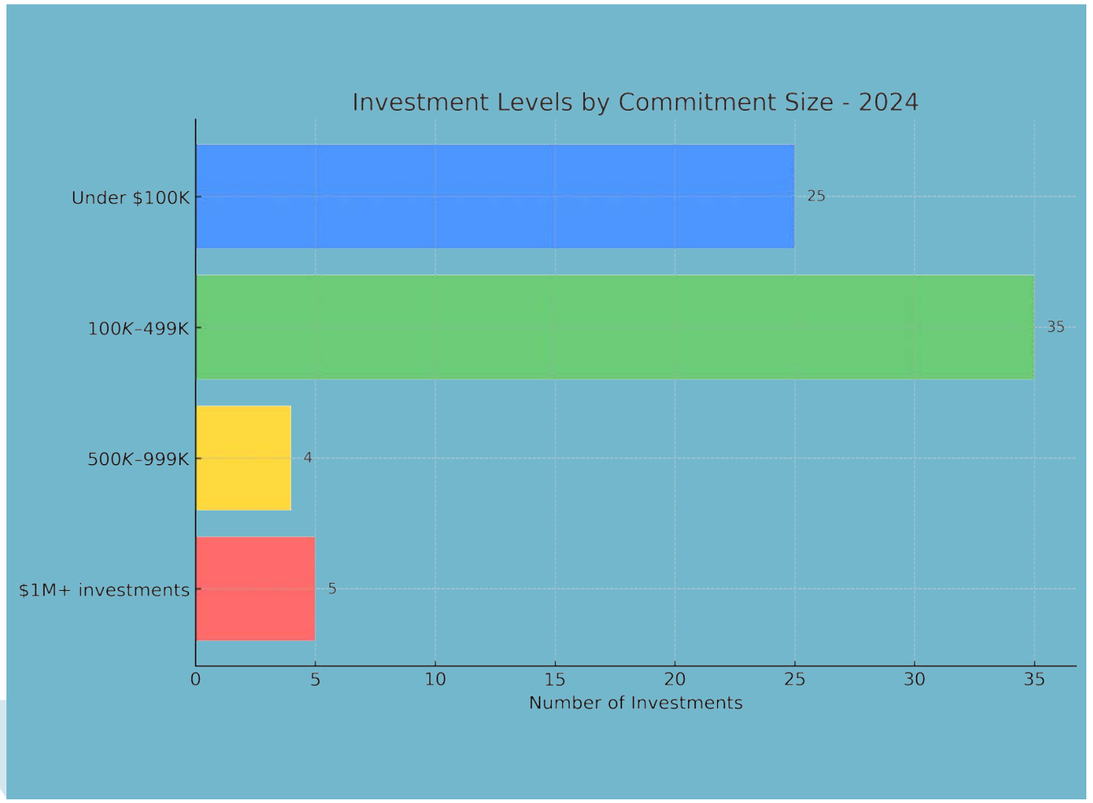
Our investors this year included family trusts, donor-advised funds, foundations, impact investment firms, and individual changemakers—many of whom have deep, multi-year relationships with Oweesta, as well as several new partners drawn to our mission and impact.

This influx of capital directly strengthens our ability to meet the moment: expanding access to lending, increasing our capacity-building programs, and fueling innovation across Native CDFIs and communities.

"These investments are not just dollars—they are declarations of belief in the power of Native communities to shape their own futures."

— Shannon Ward, Chief Lending Officer, Oweesta Corporation

As we reflect on 25 years of movement-building, we remain deeply grateful for the trust and partnership of our funding community. With this shared commitment, we continue to build a more just, equitable, and self-determined economic future for Native peoples across the country.



DETAILED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This year marked a significant chapter of growth for Oweesta.

In alignment with our five-year strategic plan, we invested deeply in our operational capacity to meet the evolving needs of Native communities. We welcomed 10 new team members across various departments—bringing fresh perspectives, expanding our expertise, and strengthening our ability to deliver on our mission.

We also successfully launched our Salesforce platform, a transformative step forward in modernizing our systems and infrastructure. This robust tool is already streamlining data management, enhancing impact tracking, and improving internal collaboration—laying the groundwork for more responsive and data-driven support to our Native CDFI partners and clients. The Salesforce launch is more than a tech upgrade—it's a long-term investment in stronger relationships, smarter decision-making, and deeper impact.

To ensure we grow intentionally, we provided targeted training and development opportunities for our team. From group facilitation skills to "Fundamentals Week," we focused on building capacity across the organization, equipping our staff with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in their roles and lead with excellence.

We also expanded our communications department, recognizing the vital role storytelling, transparency, and outreach play in amplifying Native voices. This investment will allow us to share the impact of our work more widely, deepen engagement with communities and funders, and elevate the narratives that reflect the strength and resilience of Native-led solutions.

This year's operational growth reflects our commitment to sustainability, scalability, and systems that match the ambition of our mission. As we continue to strengthen our foundation, we are positioning Oweesta to drive even greater change in the years ahead.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | FISCAL YEAR 2024

Condensed Statement of Financial Position		
	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	36,177,151	26,315,740
Loans Receivable (Net of Allowance)	56,841,204	52,724,593
Other Assets	5,907,049	2,300,952
Total Assets	**98,925,404**	**81,341,285**
LIABILITIES		
Notes Payable	67,214,907	54,492,032
Other Liabilities	4,552,481	2,945,919
Total Liabilities	**71,767,388**	**57,437,951**
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restriction	22,985,293	20,122,265
With Donor Restriction	4,172,723	3,781,069
Total Net Assets	**27,158,016**	**23,903,334**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**98,925,404**	**81,341,285**

Statement of Activities-Operations		
	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUE		
Earned Revenue	2,353,972	1,889,582
Grants and Contributions	14,033,993	9,647,728
Total Operating Revenue	**16,387,965**	**11,537,310**
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Capacity Building	3,906,170	3,933,405
Lending	1,104,569	1,098,656
Administration	1,463,289	1,015,708
Development	377,681	268,039
Total Operating Expenses	6,851,709	6,315,808
NON OPERATING EXPENSES		
Subgrants to Others	5,454,298	1,220,619
Total Non Operating Expenses	**5,454,298**	**1,220,619**
Change In Net Assets	**4,081,958**	**4,000,883**





















Native Gathering Day!

Oweesta proudly hosted the **19th Annual Native Gathering Day** in partnership with the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Conference in Los Angeles. What began as a small convening has grown into a cornerstone event for the Native CDFI movement. For nearly two decades, Oweesta and OFN have worked together to create a dedicated space—held the day before the national conference—where Native CDFIs, partners, and advocates can gather, connect, and learn from one another.

What began as a small convening has grown into a powerful platform that has helped shape and expand the field of Native community development finance. Each year, Native Gathering Day offers a unique opportunity for Native practitioners to engage in culturally grounded, peer-to-peer learning while advancing strategies for economic sovereignty in their communities.

This year's gathering brought together voices from across Indian Country to engage in meaningful dialogue on issues including access to capital, green financing, housing solutions, and the evolving landscape of Native economic development. Attendees shared successes, explored challenges, and built relationships that strengthen the collective work of Native CDFIs nationwide.

As our movement continues to grow, Native Gathering Day remains a vibrant testament to the power of collaboration, leadership, and Indigenous-led solutions. It is more than just a meeting—it is a reflection of the strength, resilience, and shared vision driving sustainable economic change in tribal communities across the country.















Honoring the Builders of Nations: Oweesta's 9th Annual Capital Access Convening

Oweesta Corporation proudly hosted its **9th Annual Capital Access Convening (CAC)** on June 10-12, 2024, at the beautiful Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico. This deeply impactful gathering brought together 239 participants- including 88 Native CDFIs, Native financial institutions, 18 Tribal entities, funders, investors, and partners- all united in a shared commitment to strengthening Indigenous economies and advancing economic sovereignty.

A highlight of the convening was the **Native Awards Celebration and Dinner,** a powerful evening dedicated to honoring the individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service continue to transform Indian Country. These awards are more than recognition- they are a celebration of those building lasting legacies of empowerment and self-determination for Native communities.

2024 Native Award Winners

Industry Achiever Awards:

Celebrating excellence in leadership, innovation, and commitment to community:

- **Janice St. Germaine,** Lending Director, Wisconsin Native Loan Fund (WINLF) Since joining WINLF in 2015, Janice has played a pivotal role in the organization's expansion- underwriting its first-ever $1 million loan in 2023 and doubling its loan portfolio. Her impact has opened doors to opportunity for countless Native borrowers in Lac du Flambeau, WI.
- **Melissa Curley**, Senior Loan Officer, Akiptan . Melissa has been a driving force at Akiptan since 2019, advancing Native agriculture and financial empowerment through her deep commitment to Native food systems. Her work has strengthened economic resilience across Indian Country.
- **Sue Trnka,** Lead Community Services Coordinator, White Earth Investment Initiative (WEII) A tireless advocate for community development, Sue has led major efforts to expand homeownership and financial education on the White Earth Reservation. From securing HUD certification for housing counseling to expanding VITA services, her work has made a profound difference in community.

Wichahpi (Star) Award

The highest honor of the evening, this award recognizes a visionary leader whose work exemplifies service, impact, and excellence.

- **Lakota Vogel**, Executive Director, Four Bands Community Fund Lakota's transformative leadership has elevated Four Bands to national recognition. Her strategic vision, policy engagement, and powerful advocacy have created meaningful change not just locally- but across Indian Country. An enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Lakota serves on the U.S. Treasury Department's CDFI Fund Advisory Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Board of Directors, and the USDA Equity Commission. She is also a National Congress of American Indians fellow and a past honoree of "Native American 40 Under 40."

"To honor these award recipients is to honor the builders of nations," said Chrystel Cornelius, CEO of Oweesta Corporation. "Their work strengthens the foundations of Tribal communities, advances economic justice, and preserves the cultural knowledge and sovereignty that define Indigenous resilience. We are humbled by their leadership and proud to walk beside them in this movement."

Beyond the awards, the convening offered rich opportunities for connection, learning, and inspiration. Attendees toured local partner organizations leading transformative initiatives in ecosystem restoration, food sovereignty, and drought-resistant agriculture. They also engaged in powerful discussions around access to capital, green financing, housing solutions, and the evolving landscape of Native community development.

The event offered not only knowledge and networking but a deeper cultural experience- rooted in the traditions and history of the Pueblo people. It served as a vibrant reminder of the strength, wisdom, and innovation held within Native communities.

As the Native CDFI movement continues to grow, Oweesta's Capital Access Convening remains a vital space for collaboration, celebration, and collective action. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who joined us for this powerful gathering- and to the leaders who continue to light the path forward.

Portfolio Family

Akiptan
Bay Bank
Native American Bancorporation
Black Hills Community Loan Fund
Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund
Chi Ishobak
Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation
Cook Inlet Lending Center
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
First American Capital Corporation
First Nations Community Financial
Four Bands Community Fund
Four Directions Development Corporation
Haa Yakaawu Financial Corporation
Hawaii Community Lending
Hawaiian Lending & Investments
Homestead Community Development Corporation
Hopi Credit Association
Indian Land Capital Company
Lakota Funds
Leech Lake Financial Services
Local Bank
Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial
NACDC Financial Services
Nakoda Aaniih Credit Agency
Native American Development Center
Native Partnership for Housing
Native360 Loan Fund
NDN Fund
Nimiipuu Community Development Fund
Nixyaawii Community Financial Services
Northwest Native Development Fund
Pacific Northwest Tribal Lending
Pakini Loan Fund
San Carlos Apache Tribe Relending Enterprise
Seneca Nation of Indians Economic Development Council
Spruce Root
Taala Fund
The People's Partners for Community Development
Tiwa Lending Services
Westwater Financial
White Earth Investment Initiative
Wind River Development Fund
Wisconsin Native Loan Fund
Woodland Financial Partners

"WE WILL BE KNOWN FOREVER BY THE TRACKS WE LEAVE."

— DAKOTA TRIBE

STORIES OF IMPACT

"ONE OF **SENECA NATION** OF INDIANS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S (SNIEDC) CURRENT LOAN CLOSINGS WAS TO A CLIENT THEY ALREADY HAD THAT HAS A BUSINESS LOAN FOR A CONVENIENCE STORE/TIRE SHOP. HIS BUSINESS HAS BEEN DOING REALLY WELL AND IS A STAPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. HIS NEW LOAN WITH SNIEDC IS HELPING HIM DIVERSIFY HIS BUSINESS INTO CONSTRUCTION SITE REMEDIATION. HE HAS SINCE BEEN ABLE TO HIRE 10 FULL TIME STAFF AND HAS $1.5 MILLION IN CONTRACTS AND PROGRESSING RAPIDLY. HIS HOPES ARE TO KEEP EXPANDING HIS FLEET OF TRUCKS AND EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT TO TAKE ON MORE PROJECTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

"MY JOURNEY TO PURCHASING MY OWN HOME WAS A LONG PROCESS BUT VERY WORTH IT. I SOMETIMES BECAME IMPATIENT BUT GOT TO SEE WHY THINGS HAPPENED IN THE TIME SPAN THEY DID, AND IT GAVE ME MORE OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS. THE ONE OBSTACLE I HAD WAS WORKING ON MY DEBT, TO UNDERSTAND MY AFFORDABILITY. WORKING WITH **MAZASKA OWECASO OTIPI FINANCIAL, INC.** STAFF WAS REALLY GOOD: HOW MUCH THEY COMMUNICATED WITH ME AND HOW THEY WORKED WITH ME ON UNDERSTANDING THE INDIVIDUAL PROCESS I HAD TO GO THROUGH. THEY EXPLAINED EVERY STEP TO ME ALONG THE WAY, MAKING SURE I WAS INFORMED AND UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING CLEARLY. MY EXPERIENCE LOOKING FOR A HOME WAS ONE OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES I'VE HAD. I HOPE EVERYONE CAN EXPERIENCE IT WITH MAZASKA. ALSO KNOWING IT'S OK TO BE AS PICKY AS YOU WANT WHEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR FOREVER HOME."

"**MNI SOTA FUND** PROVIDED A LOAN TO A LOCAL NATIVE-OWNED TATTOO SHOP THAT WAS HOSTING THE FIRST REGIONAL NATIVE TATTOO FESTIVAL. THIS EVENT HELPED TO GROW THE HOST BUSINESS, WHILE ALSO CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND MARKET EXPOSURE TO DOZENS OF OTHER NATIVE TATTOO BUSINESSES AND ART BUSINESSES."

