

Native American Partnerships and Strategies

Native communities have long faced unique and intractable housing and community development challenges. To serve its commitment to Native communities, NeighborWorks® America is focused on building and nurturing partnerships between Native American communities and Native-serving organizations and advancing comprehensive strategies to address systemic housing and community development challenges.

NeighborWorks Investment in Native Areas (2024)

Our Approach

Investing in Tribal Organizations and Communities: As of 2025, the NeighborWorks network includes 5 organizations that primarily serve Native communities and tribal lands as well as certified Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). In addition to the direct service these organizations provide to their communities, they also guide other network members on how to effectively hone their service offerings for Native communities through peer-to-peer learning and exchange. From 2021-2023, NeighborWorks provided 39 Native Partnership Grants totaling \$800,000 to support network organizations' efforts to build partnership programs with Native communities to increase housing and homeownership opportunities, expanding the ranks of network organizations that provide dedicated service to Native communities.

Strategy, Planning, and Action: Peer-learning and engagement is a key component of NeighborWorks' strategy to increase and enhance service to Native communities. To further this work, NeighborWorks hosts gatherings of practitioners focused on sharing their best practices and lessons learned from their partnerships with Native communities. NeighborWorks has also convened a cohort to create a virtual space to share resources, workshop challenges, and build relationships as they work to connect housing and jobs, develop community infrastructure, and expand access to capital for homeownership and economic development.

Thought Leadership and Collaboration: NeighborWorks serves as a thought partner and technical advisor to government agencies and policymakers working on programs affecting Native Americans. Technical experts from NeighborWorks work closely with the federal banking agencies to advance mortgage lending on Native lands and Congressional offices call on NeighborWorks to advise on legislative, regulatory, and administrative solutions to a range of issues, including increasing access to credit by reducing delays in mortgage processing for homes and bringing to bear innovative financial tools like New Markets Tax Credits to build schools on tribal lands. NeighborWorks has also partnered to develop a comprehensive suite of training offerings for practitioners serving Native communities.



In 2024, the NeighborWorks network leveraged \$79 million in commercial lending to Native areas, creating jobs and sparking economic growth.

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