



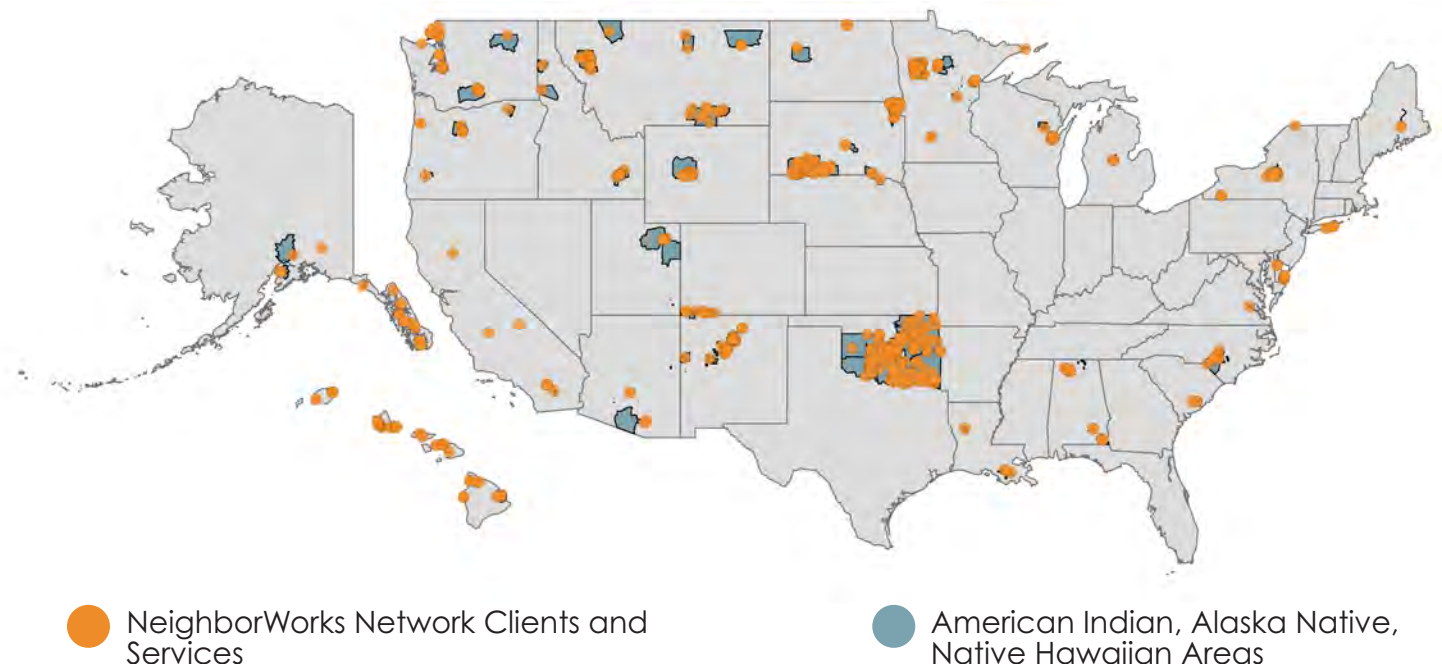
Native American Partnerships and Strategies

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 long-standing housing and community development challenges.

Our Approach

As of 2025, the NeighborWorks network includes four organizations that primarily serve Native communities and tribal lands, as well as five 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 2021-2025, NeighborWorks provided 80 grants totaling \$1.14 million to support network organizations engaging in peer learning and building partnership programs to increase housing and homeownership opportunities, expanding the ranks of network organizations that provide dedicated service to Native communities.

NeighborWorks Investment in Native Areas (FY 2025)



- **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 FY 2025, the NeighborWorks network leveraged \$102M in residential and commercial lending investment to Native areas, preserving homes, promoting homeownership, creating jobs and sparking economic growth.

Our Work in Action

To better serve Alaskans and Tlingit and Haida tribal citizens across Southeast Alaska, staff at NeighborWorks network organization Haa Yakaawu Financial Corporation (HYFC) knew they needed to revamp their financial capability program. The organization offers workshops and one-on-one coaching on everything from budgeting and credit building to homebuyer readiness and small business development. But to better serve clients in remote communities, they needed to focus on training, coaching and program design.

In 2025, HYFC joined NeighborWorks' financial capability cohort to do just that. Participation in the initiative comes with peer learning, technical assistance and strategic support to help expand HYFC's curriculum, strengthen their virtual delivery model and improve how they track outcomes. "It's helping us continue to find avenues to reach communities in meaningful and relevant ways," Lending and Operations Manager Shaun Guthrie says. "This work is helping us build stronger financial foundations that lead to homeownership, business ownership and long-term financial stability for the communities we serve."

