

Bi-Weekly Update

May 2024 #6



FIRST NATIONS
COMMUNITY FINANCIAL

Pathways Home



FNCF has partnered with HHCD and HCN to offer the "Pathways Home" class. It is designed to help participants become home buyer ready. Our facilitators will cover topics such as pre-purchase, post-purchase, foreclosure prevention, and many more! Let us help get you ready to become home-buyer ready!

We offer this course virtually and in-person. However, our next class is in person and we will be traveling to the Oneida Nation on May 17th, 2024. Register today and come join us.

[Register for Pathways!](#)



Small Dollar Loan Award



THE SMALL DOLLAR LOAN PROGRAM AWARD BOOK

FY 2024



"At least one quarter of American households do not have a bank account or rely on costly payday lenders and checkcashing outlets to pay their expenses. The Small Dollar Loan Program (SDL Program) expands consumer access to financial institutions by providing alternatives to high-cost, small dollar lending."

FNCF is proud to announce that we are an award recipient for the 2024 Small Dollar Loan Program! This program, in total, contributes \$18 million dollars to CDFIs across the country. We are so honored to be a recipient and be trusted to use these funds to help unbanked and underbanked populations build credit, access affordable capital, and allow greater access into the mainstream financial system.



Economic Impact Survey



Economic Impact Study For Wisconsin Tribes



Are you an Indigenous Entrepreneur or Business Owner?

Take our survey to share your business's contribution to Wisconsin's economy. Participating in this survey will give you access to the final report created and entered into a prize drawing. Scan the QR code to fill out the survey:



The Wisconsin Indigenous Economic Development Corporation (WIEDC) is excited to announce a new project to assess and showcase the substantial contributions of indigenous small businesses in Wisconsin. This economic impact study will result in a report and database that may be used to foster economic development and policy initiatives to support Wisconsin's tribal communities.





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Why is this important?

The contributions of native-owned businesses to Wisconsin's economy and to tribal nations' economies has not been well documented. As such, not enough funding and resources are going towards assisting indigenous-owned businesses and business support initiatives. This study will result in more accurate information about these businesses that tribal communities and economic development entities can use to provide more relevant programming and resources. In addition to numerical data, this study will also highlight stories of successful indigenous business owners and tribal enterprises.

How can this study benefit our communities?

The information from this study will be shared back with participating businesses, tribal communities, and resource providers such as WIEDC, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, Wisconsin's Native CDFIs, and the Economic Development Administration, enabling them to provide better assistance and develop new programming for native-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs. Ultimately, this will help create better pathways and support for those interested in starting a business or other income-generating creative pursuit. As an added benefit, WIEDC will create a directory of indigenous-owned businesses that choose to have their information included, which can be marketed to attract new customers.

Find project updates and track our progress on the WIEDC website at <https://wiedc.org/eis>

Fern Orié

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Interim CEO, WIEDC

Don't be shy, fill out your survey response now!

Survey



Empowering Homeownership



Owning a home is a dream for many, but navigating the complexities of homeownership can be daunting. First Nations Community Financial is here to help with our HUD-approved financial counseling and education services. Read more about them here!

[Visit our blog](#)



Success Story



Bad River Tribal member, Victorio Salas established his LLC in March of 2022 but the official launch did not happen until June of 2023. He connected with FNCF in March of 2023 to begin the Wooruwi Business Loan application. He was approved for the loan on July 27, 2023.

Victorio linked his business to his family and heritage. He explained that his last name, Salas translates to Halls and since he has four siblings, he went with the name Five Halls. After researching popular brand names, he really liked Parent's Choice. His mom is called Koko which stems from the Ojibwe word for grandmother, Nookomis. She was his go-to while designing the product and he decided to name his product after her, Koko's Choice.

He operates his online store out of Ashland, WI. If you are in the market for a durable, fashionable, and versatile diaper bag backpack click the link below to see his available products! You will not be disappointed.

Koko's Choice



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