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OUR MISSION
The Nimipuu Fund facilitates financial independence by enhancing the personal and entrepreneurial capacity of the Nez Perce Reservation and surrounding communities. We promote economic growth while embracing our cultural values and traditions by providing tailored financial products and services.

OUR VISION
A better financial life by advancing individual self-determination and self-sufficiency for every community member.
Greetings and happy 2022! As I write to you, I’m reminded of the enormous challenges we’ve faced as a people over the last two years and the continued resiliency as we are working towards recovery. During the pandemic, Nimipuu Fund assisted small businesses and individuals/families with recovery related to finances and stability. And, we continue to do so. Despite the challenges of the moment and those that lie ahead, I am optimistic and grateful for your trust in our CDFI.

To meet the increasing needs, our team at Nimipuu Fund has grown. We welcome Natasha Edwards as Loan Officer, Sidryn Sam as Office Support Associate and Lauren Arthur as our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Each is equipped with skill sets to increase our development services: financial education, coaching, and youth financial education, along with specialized training in home lending.

Together, we’ve built a strategy and we’re executing it. Our mindset and our way of working are changing. We’ve become faster and more creative. We nurture new businesses by providing resources. We provide business planning to help businesses launch, grow, or readjust. I’m confident that regardless of the hurdles that arise, our associates and our leadership team will step up and serve. They’ll serve our customers and members; they’ll partner with each other, and they’ll serve the communities where they live. They’ll help people save money and live a better life. And, as they do, they are building a new business model that is more resilient and more impactful for all our stakeholders.

As a growing loan fund serving the Nez Perce Reservation and our Tribal traditional homelands, we are designing a business that benefits all stakeholders. With the recent completion of our Market Study and Business Incubator Study, we are developing strategies to expand our products and services to meet your needs. These strategies are being developed with much thought based on data trends and your input. It is an exciting time for our CDFI in planning for 2023 and beyond.

2021 proved to be a year of learning. We have to adjust to changing economic conditions and seek opportunities to bring additional services in business technical assistance and continue our Covid response loan - Employee Loan. The business opportunities include a Small Business Administration Community Navigator Grant award with both Nez Perce Tribe and Nimipuu Fund that allows for a dedicated business coach (Ty Domebo) and expanded professional services from Nimipuu Fund. This assists in refining our processes with our lending strategy, helps us maintain products that are competitive and easy to access to help launch and grow businesses by providing access to capital.

I’m so proud of what we’re accomplishing as a Native CDFI. We have dedicated staff and board leadership who are members of the communities we serve. We live our purpose. It’s why we do what we do with our hearts and expertise.

QECI’ YEW YEW / THANK YOU
Nimiipuu Fund

Where We Work

Nimiipuu Fund was established in 2013 by the Nez Perce Tribe to foster economic growth for the Nez Perce reservation and traditional areas of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. By providing access to capital, financial, and entrepreneurial capacity building we create economic opportunities, advance entrepreneurial spirit, and preserve cultural values.

The Nimiipuu, or Nez Perce Tribe, held a large land base in the Pacific Northwest while traveling with seasons from buffalo hunting in the Great Plains to salmon fishing at Celilo Falls. 17 million acres in what is now Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana made up the Tribe’s homeland. Today, the Nez Perce Indian Reservation consists of 750,000 acres, of which the Tribe or Tribal members own 13 percent. The Tribe, with an enrolled membership of about 3,500 (2011), is headquartered in Lapwai, Idaho. The land and natural resources management continues to be paramount for the Nez Perce.
Current Nez Perce Reservation
1863 Treaty
Land Ceded to the United States
1855 Treaty
Columbia Basin

Boise
Wahington
Coeur D'Alene
Lewiston
Lapwai
Orofino
Kamiah
Yakima
Pendleton
Snake River
Columbia Basin

PHOTO © JBRAD STINSON
WWW.NIMIIPUUFUND.ORG
Nimiipuu Fund focuses on responsible lending and smart financial services with Native focused training and counseling to build the financial capacity of the Nez Perce people and provide support toward their financial goals. Our goal is to create informed borrowers and consumers while our services emphasize debt reduction.

Business, Personal & Employee Loans
At Nimiipuu Fund, we provide general business loans for startup or existing businesses. Our goal is to provide flexible debt capital for your startup or business expansion to increase our resiliency for Tribal private sector growth.

Our Personal Loans are available to individuals in our target market designed to assist individual financial status. Employee loans are available for Nez Perce Tribal Government and Tribal Entity employees to help with debt consolidation or other needs. We have seen the need to help Tribal members and employees remove themselves from the difficult cycle of high interest Payday loan institutions and debt accumulation. With the Employee Loan Program we will, with Tribal Payroll Departments, set up a reasonable pay-back plan through payroll deduction.

Visit our website, www.nimiipuufund.org, to learn more and to easily apply for our lending programs through our streamlined online applications.

Asset Building Support Services
Nimiipuu Fund offers training and counseling to build the financial capacity of the Nez Perce people while providing support toward their financial goals. Our goal is to create informed borrowers and consumers while our services emphasize debt reduction.

Financial Education
We use proven financial education programs that serve Native American communities throughout the United States. This customized training fits our community needs by helping clients better understand their financial options for overall financial well-being. We offer a variety of tools such as classes, workshops and one-on-one coaching.
Nimiipuu Fund believes that our coalition of asset building trainers are here to assist with training and development services for the youth of our community. As part of our mission, we provide a variety of services and activities to build financial health.

Nimiipuu Fund provides a variety of services and activities to build financial health for individuals and families. We have a network of partners that conduct training sessions or can meet with you regarding your unique financial situation. We are here to help you!

**Business Coaching**

Nimiipuu Fund offers many different business classes to assist with developing the entrepreneurship spirit. From creating a business plan, to marketing your business, we have the experts to help guide you successfully on your business journey.

Want to learn more about how Nimiipuu Fund’s products and services can help you?

Connect with us at Nimiipuu Fund for more information and to start achieving your financial goals: (208) 621-3729; www.nimiipuufund.org.
Enriching Native Entrepreneurs

Growing Native Small Businesses
Oweesta has been awarded one of eight Tier-1 national grants of $5 million as part of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Community Navigator Pilot Program aimed at reaching small businesses for stronger economic recovery efforts.

Acting as a “hub,” Oweesta will serve as a centralized, lead organization and leverage with Nimipuu Fund, Native CDFI, as a “spoke” to provide training and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Through this model, government resources will be more effectively distributed to reach small business owners and entrepreneurs. Research shows that the amount of Native-owned business are scarce in today’s market due to structural barriers Native businesses and entrepreneurs face in business ownership and creation. Rooted within the communities, Native CDFIs are instrumental in reaching underserved Native communities and providing culturally relevant, economic development services.

The grant provides access to additional business management training and technical assistance, including business planning, financial statement preparation, and marketing assistance.

Fueling Native Economic Development
Nimipuu Fund was the recipient of Northwest Area Foundations Fueling Economic Development Business Lending Capital grant in 2019 for $100,000 in lending capital for business lending needs of our CDFI target market. Outcomes included self-determined economic development evidenced creating 10 jobs, increased revenue generated by businesses, credit scores, leverage created by lending capital, and a total of $52,059 and loans made during the period of grant award.

“Northwest Area Foundation is a longtime supporter of Nimipuu Fund, and this includes business capital support through the Federal Home Loan Bank collaboration. Our partnership with Nimipuu Fund started almost a decade ago when the organization was forming. We’ve found it incredible to witness Nimipuu Fund’s growth and to know that its business development activities are building sovereign economies, supporting cultural wisdom and values, and advancing economic justice.” -Northwest Area Foundation

The Northwest Area Foundation’s mission is to support grantees that advance equity for Native Americans, communities of color, immigrants and refugees and people in rural communities, allowing them to thrive on their own terms. Native-led groups are its focus with 40 percent of annual grant dollars awarded to this sector.

Nimipuu Fund’s Small Business Marketing Opportunities
Nimipuu Fund has hired marketing and business coache Roxanne Best. She facilitates as a professional mentor who supports, educates and motivates business owners while providing recommendations for a company’s vision, growth and goals. Effective business coaches provide motivation but also implement and prioritize strategies to help businesses grow.

Nimipuu Fund has partnered with Unleashed Marketing + Design to bring design and marketing expertise to our Tribal entrepreneurs. They offer logo design and branding, marketing materials, website development, and digital marketing with nearly 40 years of combined award-winning design experience in the marketing and creative field.

Want to learn more about how Nimipuu Fund can help with your business journey? Connect with Nimipuu Fund for more information and to start achieving your business goals: (208) 621-3729; www.nimiipuufund.org.
Roger Amerman, a Choctaw Tribal member and nationally renowned Native Artist, was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. He lost revenue from speaking engagements and art exhibits of his work. Roger reached out to Nimiipuu Fund in hopes of acquiring a loan to acquire antique beads to support his business as a Native artist. Together Roger and Nimiipuu Fund identified “the next steps” to finance his request to get Roger ready for upcoming art exhibits in 2020 and 2021. Roger was able to purchase artist materials and showcase his art at Whitman College and the Josephy Center in Oregon.

Entrepreneur Spotlight

Renita “Red” Wheeler (pictured left with her daughter) has been in the beauty industry for over 20 years and opened a small beauty salon on Main Street in Lapwai, Idaho in 2011. Her shop was closed in 2018 as the space was no longer available for commercial use. Red resumed services from the living room of her home and limited house calls throughout 2020. In 2021, Red approached Nimii puu Fund to help finish an outbuilding at their home for dedicated business space to reopen Red’s Salon & Barbershop. The Wheeler’s closed a loan with Nimii puu Fund in August 2021. Since that time, they finished the building and opened services. Their daughter also obtained licensing to assist with and enhance services at the salon.

Roger Amerman (pictured left), a Choctaw Tribal member and nationally renowned Native Artist, was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. He lost revenue from speaking engagements and art exhibits of his work. Roger reached out to Nimiipuu Fund in hopes of acquiring a loan to acquire antique beads to support his business as a Native artist. Together Roger and Nimiipuu Fund identified “the next steps” to finance his request to get Roger ready for upcoming art exhibits in 2020 and 2021. Roger was able to purchase artist materials and showcase his art at Whitman College and the Josephy Center in Oregon.
Responding to Consumer Needs

Market Analysis: A Community Snapshot by Oweesta Corporation for Nimipuu Fund, October 2021

2021 embarked another year of navigating COVID-19 hardship and finding unique ways to respond to consumer interest and needs. The results and top recommendations from the survey included a mixed response to access to capital with a concern over credit scores, predatory lenders and pandemic impacts. Participants showed an entrepreneurial desire to start a business with the need for business environment support and expanded business services. Uniquely, we discovered the need for housing and home repair on the rise along with the desire for a local bank credit union and youth and elder financial education. Our clients come from our home state of Idaho and reached across the United States from coast to coast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>46</th>
<th>61%</th>
<th>94%</th>
<th>92%</th>
<th>84%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated with Nez Perce Tribe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nez Perce Tribe Employees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Loan Type Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Loan</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Loan</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Loan</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Loan</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Service Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Coaching &amp; Workshop</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Grant Programs</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax Preparation</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Development Account</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Covid-19 Small Business Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interrupted Business Operations &amp; Sales</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in Sourcing Materials &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers Unable to Afford Products &amp; Services</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Business Online</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Employees</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE &amp; Covid-19 Precautions Equipment</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Individual & Small Business Covid-19 Financial Hardships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hardship</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased Cost of Living</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing Debt</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Unforeseen Circumstance</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Hours Reduction</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furlough</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Caretaker Schedule Priority</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Layoff</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2021 Market Analysis

Based on the impact data collected from our clients, our team is focusing on the next steps we can take to better serve our clients’ needs. This includes:

1. Expanding the business loan ceiling to meet the average requested loan amount.
2. Exploring home loans to allow those who are renting to begin building equity and grow their financial independence.
3. Exploring home improvement loans to help clients increase energy efficiency and save money on their utility bills.

As our team looks ahead and continues to form strategic goals for the future, we will continue to utilize this information to make informed data-driven decisions to grow our services for the benefit of our clients.
“Nimiipuu Fund and the staff have always treated me with respect and kindness. They gave me hope that it was possible to grow my business and provided necessary funding. Through my loan with Nimiipuu Fund I was able to acquire the proper equipment to help my business expand. I could not have done all this without the help of Nimiipuu Fund!”

Valerie Albert
Thunder Valley Art & Craft
Are you interested in volunteering? What about giving back to your community, gaining a leg up in the workforce, and meeting like-minded people? AmeriCorp Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) is a program that teaches you unique skills, earn income towards your education or student loan, and instills a newer and greater appreciation for your community.

I joined the Nimiipuu Fund team in April 2021 and extended my services through September 2022. In that time, I’ve attended many virtual meetings for Financial Education, coaching and business, grant classes, assimilation exercise Spending Frenzy, and so forth. Attaining a minor in Publishing Arts has helped broaden my understanding of marketing. I helped with events within the community and put on through Nimiipuu Fund, such as the Sip n’ Paint Women Who Wine event with artist Helen Goodteacher, and the 2nd Annual Nimiipuu Fund Golf Scramble at the Redwolf Golf Club to name a couple. Information gathered was for the market survey.

While I still have much to learn as far as financial goals and credit building, I know that I’ve made one improvement in deciding to do something about it. I might be at a standstill as far as my education after grad-school goes but maybe post grad school is an option at some point to deepen my understanding and success with grant writing.

So, if you are contemplating whether AmeriCorp VISTA is right for you, keep in mind it is a great first step for those looking to get experience before joining the workforce and give back to your community. It is also ideal for anyone seeking to become a part of a program with a strong alumni network that will support you long after your service term is done.

To learn more about becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA member you can contact Dr. Renee Hott, Nez Perce Tribe’s Site Supervisor for the Wapaayatat Project at reneeh@nezperce.org.
Nimiipuu Fund

Team and Board of Directors

GEORGE MOODY
Loan Officer

NATASHA EDWARDS
Loan Officer

SIDRYN SAM
Office Support

ROXANNE BEST
Business Coach

LAUREN ARTHUR
VISTA Member & Marketing Development Coordinator

KIMBERLY PATE
Director

QUINTIN ELLENWOOD
Director, NPTEC Treasurer

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Financials

FY2020 Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances as filed with 990 IRS Tax form.

**REVENUE**
- Contributions, Gifts, Grants & Smaller Amounts Received: $914,966
- Program Service Revenue: $42,780
- Other Revenue: $23,896
- **TOTAL REVENUE**: $981,642

**EXPENSES**
- Salaries, Other Compensation, Employee Benefits: $152,416
- Other Expenses: $547,737
- **TOTAL EXPENSES**: $700,153

**NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES**
- Revenue Less Expenses: $281,489
- Total Assets: $1,089,866
- Total Liabilities: $97,479
- Net Assets or Fund Balances at End of Year: $992,387

Strategic Goals 2020-2022

Nimiipuu Fund board and staff regularly check in on the status of meeting objectives and adjust if necessary. We are thrilled at the opportunity to build economic development for communities while providing excellent service and development to address financial need and security.

- Improve Capital Access for the Nez Perce Community through Growing our Loan Fund
- Create a Flourishing Entrepreneur and Business Lending Program
- Build Institutional Capacity to Create a Platform for Organizational Growth
- Passionately Steward our Resources through Financial Excellence
Thank You

We would like to thank the following organizations and funders for a great year and partnering with Nimipuu Fund:

All Golf Sponsors, Donors & Volunteers
City Service Valcon
Coeur d’Alene Casino
Edward Jones
FSA Investment Group
Idaho Central Credit Union
Idaho Women’s Business Center
Innovia Foundation
Kauffman and Associates
LCCU (Lewis Clark Credit Union)
Little Roots Learning Center
Local Education Grant - Nez Perce Tribe
Merrill - Larson-Kirkpatrick Group
Golf Scramble Major Sponsor
Merrill Lynch - Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
Native Systems Inc.
NDN Fund
Nez Perce Express
Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises Golf Scramble Major Sponsor
Nez Perce Tribe
Northwest Area Foundation
Northwest Media/Inland Cellular
Northwest Native Development Fund
Northwest Native Lenders Network
Oweesta Corporation
Potlatch Fund
RBC Wealth Management
Randall and Hurley
Redwinds
Rogers Toyota
Roxanne Best
Sebly Consulting
Seneca Direct
USDA
U.S. Treasury CDFI Fund
Umpqua Bank

Qeci’yew yew