

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CERTIFIED NATIVE CDFI, NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3)



 Native CDFI, non-profit 501(c)(3)





VISION

A vibrant region where Nez Perce Tribal and local communities thrive through equitable access to housing, business opportunity, and financial independence.

MISSION

Nimiipuu Fund advances the prosperity of Nez Perce Tribal and local communities by expanding access to capital, housing, and entrepreneurship. We provide tailored financial products and services that support economic development and self-determination across the Nez Perce communities and surrounding region.



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Native CDFI, non-profit 501(c)(3)

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TO OUR RELATIVES, PARTNERS, AND FRIENDS,

2025 was another busy, high-energy year for our team! At Nimiipuu Fund, meeting our goals is just our baseline. The real story of this past year is how we listened to our community, made smart adjustments, and consistently rose to meet every challenge head-on. A powerful sentiment echoed by fellow Native CDFIs and leaders across our field rings true for us as well: 'What we once called a 'Native CDFI moment' has officially grown into a powerful movement toward true economic self-determination.'

ROOTED IN CULTURE, DRIVEN BY RESILIENCE

When unexpected challenges emerged across Indian Country in 2025, our response was simple: we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. As a financial institution deeply rooted in culture and accountability, our motivation comes straight from the resilience of our Tribal and rural communities.

Reflecting on where we started when I first came on board in December 2016, I am incredibly proud of how far we've come. Thanks to the strong vision of our board, our founders, and our team, we are transforming our regional economy from the ground up.

Our capital is out there working. We see our theory of change affirmed every single day in the success of our clients. To ensure we remain ready to meet this ongoing demand, we invested heavily in our institutional future this year by updating our Strategic Plan, Sustainability Analysis, and Infrastructure Review.

Everything we do anchors directly back to our core purpose:

Our Mission: Nimiipuu Fund advances the prosperity of Nez Perce Tribal and local communities by expanding

access to capital, housing, and entrepreneurship. We provide tailored financial products and services that support economic development and self-determination across the Nez Perce communities and surrounding region.

Our Vision: A vibrant region where Nez Perce Tribal and local communities thrive through equitable access to housing, business opportunity, and financial independence.

ACCELERATING OUR IMPACT IN 2025

We ended the year with a tight, highly efficient team of staff members, hitting historic lending milestones along the way. A major highlight of 2025 was our intentional expansion into the housing sector to develop our next loan products, alongside the successful deployment of capital for both small-scale dreams and larger-scale infrastructure projects.

By piloting innovative new programs and launching fresh loan products through strategic partnerships with fellow lenders, we significantly grew our network. We have proven that Nimiipuu Fund is a trusted and capable lender.

THE VISION FORWARD: BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS

We continue to rise to the occasion! The solid foundation we built in 2025 has set the stage for an exciting growth trajectory.

As we look ahead, we are focused on expanding our capacity to bring even more benefits to our people. We are actively working to grow our team, elevate our fundraising efforts, and rapidly scale our home lending products alongside our business and participation loans. We are no longer just meeting today's temporary needs—we are actively building a sustainable economic landscape for future generations.

We have no intention of slowing down, but we also believe in celebrating the collective hard work that got us here. Settle in, and let's dive into our 2025 accomplishments!

In solidarity and leadership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonelle Yearout". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'Y'.

Jonelle Yearout
Executive Director



2025 IMPACT

In 2025, Nimiipuu Fund continued advancing economic opportunity, financial empowerment, and community development across the Nez Perce Reservation and beyond. Through lending, financial education, entrepreneurship support, and technical assistance, we served Native and rural communities with culturally grounded resources designed to strengthen long-term stability and self-determination.

This year's data reflects both the growing demand for flexible

capital and the importance of relationship-based support services. From small business startups and consumer lending to trainings, workshops, and one-on-one coaching, Nimiipuu Fund continued investing in people, families, and communities across Indian Country. The following snapshot highlights the impact of our lending and development services throughout 2025.

LENDING IMPACT



\$1,072,901

TOTAL LOAN DOLLARS DEPLOYED



BUSINESS LOANS

\$417,800



CONSUMER LOANS

\$240,800



HOLIDAY LOANS

\$13,000

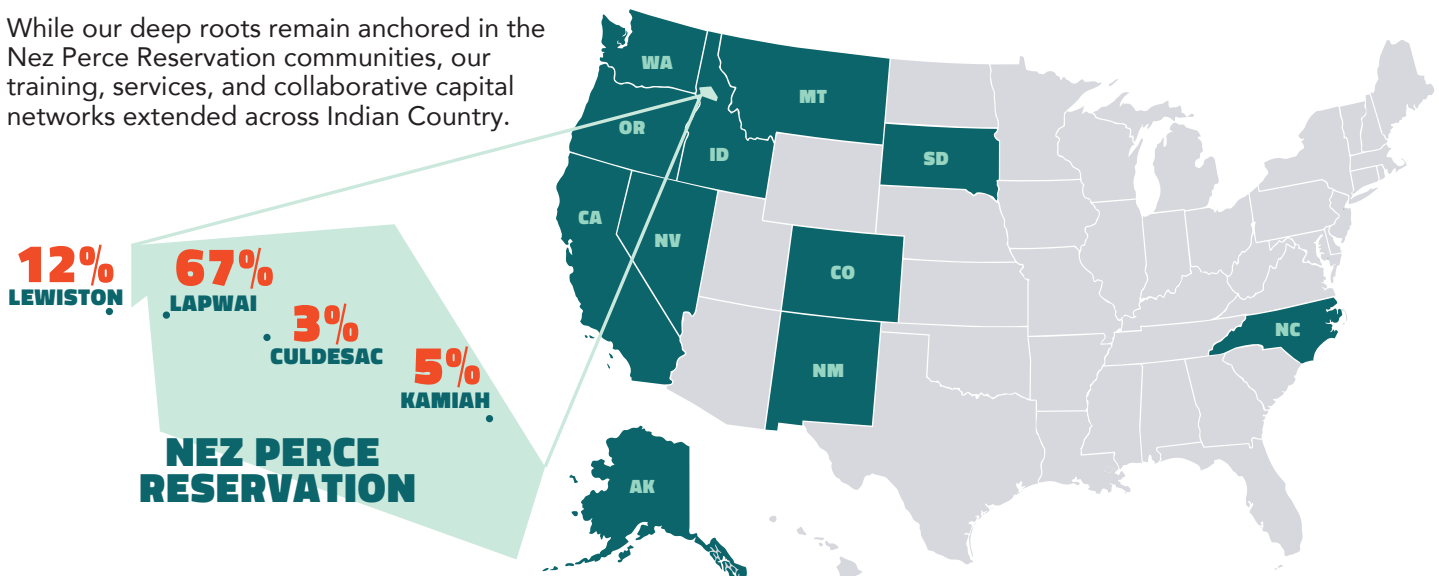


HOME RENOVATION LOANS

\$14,000

GEOGRAPHIC REACH THROUGH LENDING & SERVICES

While our deep roots remain anchored in the Nez Perce Reservation communities, our training, services, and collaborative capital networks extended across Indian Country.



TRAINING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT



22

TRAININGS,
WORKSHOPS
& EVENTS



721

PARTICIPANTS



532

UNIQUE
PARTICIPANTS
SERVED

HOURS OF SUPPORT PROVIDED



105½

TRAINING &
WORKSHOPS



55½

ONE-ON-ONE
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE



9

COMMUNITY
EVENTS



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

45

AVERAGE
PARTICIPANT
AGE

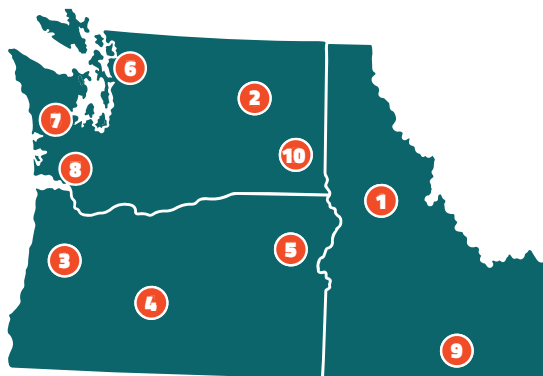
72%

FEMALE

28%

MALE

Nimiipuu Fund remains committed to strengthening Native entrepreneurship, financial capability, housing stability, and economic opportunity through lending, education, and community-driven partnerships.



TRIBAL COMMUNITIES SERVED

1. Nez Perce
2. Colville Confederated Tribes
3. Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
4. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
5. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
6. Lummi Nation
7. Makah Indian Tribe
8. Quinault Indian Nation
9. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
10. Spokane Tribe of Indians

NIMIIPUU FUND
2025 HIGHLIGHTS

RESILIENCY, ADVOCACY AND CONTINUING THE WORK IN 2025

The past year brought significant uncertainty and unprecedented federal challenges that directly impacted Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and the communities they serve. Across Indian Country, Native CDFIs faced funding disruptions, shifting federal priorities, and growing economic pressures on Tribal families and businesses. Despite these challenges, Nimiipuu Fund remained resilient and continued advancing its mission of economic opportunity and self-determination.

One of the largest setbacks came through changes to the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) programs. Nimiipuu Fund had been developing new clean energy lending products under the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) program to support both consumers and larger-scale infrastructure projects when changes in federal priorities halted the program. At the same time, the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program—the cornerstone federal investment supporting Native lending institutions—faced major uncertainty as proposed budget actions threatened the future of the CDFI Fund at the U.S. Treasury.

Community members and small businesses also continued to face rising costs of living, housing challenges, and increased operating expenses. In response, Nimiipuu Fund continued lending, training, and technical assistance while expanding partnerships and participating in larger collaborative financing opportunities to help bring more capital into Native communities.



ADVANCING PROSPERITY FOR NEZ PERCE PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

Advocacy became a major focus throughout 2025. Nimiipuu Fund worked alongside the Nez Perce Tribe, Tribal leaders, and Native CDFI partners to support continued federal investment in Native lending programs. This effort gained national momentum when U.S. Senator Mike Crapo led more than 100 members of Congress in reaffirming support for the CDFI Fund and its importance to rural, Tribal, and underserved communities.

Despite the challenges, Nimiipuu Fund strengthened its organizational capacity by updating its strategic plan, mission, and vision while continuing to build partnerships that support long-term economic resilience. The challenges of 2025 reinforced the importance of Native-led financial institutions and the power of advocacy, collaboration, and community-driven solutions.



READ SENATOR CRAPO'S STORY
<https://shorturl.at/wLKSX>



WORKING TO IMPROVE CONSUMER LENDING

Nimiipuu Fund is currently working to revamp its consumer loan products to better meet the needs of Tribal members and local communities facing rising costs and increasing debt burdens.

As families continue to navigate inflation, higher interest rates, and financial uncertainty, Nimiipuu Fund recognizes the growing need for lending solutions that are flexible, affordable, and focused on long-term financial stability. The updated consumer loan program is being designed to help individuals reduce high-interest debt, improve cash flow, and build healthier financial futures.

The revamped products will focus on responsible lending practices that support debt reduction and financial capability, while also helping borrowers establish or strengthen their credit. Our approach combines lending with personalized support, financial education, and one-on-one technical assistance to ensure borrowers have the tools needed to succeed.

By modernizing our consumer lending program, we aim to better serve today's market conditions while continuing our mission of expanding access to capital and promoting economic self-determination across the Nez Perce community and surrounding region.

Additional details about new loan products, eligibility, and financial coaching services will be announced as the program development continues.



STAY INFORMED & EMPOWERED

Get the latest business and financial resources delivered straight to your inbox! Nimiipuu Fund's weekly resource bulletin keeps you updated with essential tools, expert insights, and important partner updates to help you grow and manage your business.

Exclusive Resources – Access guides, funding opportunities, and financial tools

Expert Articles – Stay informed with insights on business development and financial planning

Partner Updates – Learn about new programs, workshops, and networking opportunities

Don't miss out on valuable information to support your financial and business success. Sign up today at nimiipuufund.org and take advantage of these free resources!



SIGN UP FOR FREE!
nimiipuufund.org/business-resource-newsletter

NIMIIPUU FUND
BOLD PATH FORWARD

"We are not just looking at where we are, but where we need to be. This updated plan helps ensure that we remain a resilient and responsive Native CDFI that empowers people, small businesses, homeownership, and our economy."

Jonelle Yearout, Nimiipuu Fund Executive Director

NEW STRATEGIC & SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

2025–2028



EXPAND ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Grow **loan portfolio to \$2 million**

Launch new home loan products

Increase small business and commercial lending

Support borrowers from "not ready" to "loan ready"



LAPWAI BUSINESS INCUBATOR

\$9M mixed-use development in Lapwai

Space for small businesses, services, and Nimiipuu Fund

Focus on keeping dollars circulating within the community

Currently **raising \$1.5M** to move toward construction



HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Address housing shortages and affordability

Convened **30+ partners** through Housing Ecosystem efforts

Advancing workforce development and building solutions

Move from planning to building homes for our people



STRENGTHEN OUR ORGANIZATION

Grow staff capacity and leadership

Strengthen Board governance

Ensure long-term sustainability and impact

Nimiipuu Fund's Board of Directors and key staff came together at the Coeur d'Alene Casino's Stensgar Pavilion in July of 2025 to review the organization's current strategic direction and shape its goals for the future. The gathering resulted in the development of a bold and forward-looking 2025–2028 Strategic and Sustainability Plan, designed to steward capital wisely while remaining rooted in our Mission and Vision.

The retreat, facilitated by Lisa Wagner of Bluestem Consulting and Caleb Selby of Selby Consulting, provided a space for thoughtful reflection, honest conversation, and

collective planning. With a focus on strengthening services, increasing impact, and adapting to a changing economic landscape, Nimiipuu Fund reaffirmed its commitment to building Native prosperity and economic sovereignty.

Nimiipuu Fund will continue offering its trusted lending services and business development programs — with improvements on the horizon. Updates to processes, policies, and growth strategies are underway to better serve the unique needs of the communities we support.

NIMIIPUU FUND
BREAKING BARRIERS



VIEW MORE SUCCESS STORIES
nimiipuufund.org/success-stories

INDIGENOUS EATS EXPANDS WITH SUPPORT FROM NIMIIPUU FUND

Nimiipuu Fund is proud to support Indigenous Eats, a Native-owned food business bringing Indigenous-inspired cuisine to Spokane. With a business loan from Nimiipuu Fund, Indigenous Eats secured funding for a food trailer, allowing the business to grow and reach more of the Inland Northwest.

LEGAL GUIDANCE REMAINS A CRITICAL NEED FOR TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURS

Survey results revealed a strong demand for legal and regulatory support among Tribal business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. The most frequently requested topics included contracts and agreements (70%), insurance requirements (61%), licensing and permits (57%), and understanding Tribal versus state jurisdiction (48%). Nearly two-thirds of respondents identified a lack of legal guidance as a significant barrier to business success, while confusion surrounding taxes and regulatory requirements continues to create challenges for many entrepreneurs. The findings highlight an ongoing need for accessible legal education, technical assistance, and trusted resources tailored to Tribal business development.

70%

Need Assistance
with Contracts and
Agreements

65%

Cite Lack of Legal
Guidance as a
Major Business
Challenge

61%

Need Help
Understanding
Insurance
Requirements

57%

Need Support with
Licensing and
Permits

87%

Have Either Never
Worked with or
Don't Know where
to Find a Tribal
Business Attorney



BUILDING STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN A NATIVE-OWNED BUSINESS

An Interview with Nimiipuu Fund's Business Lending Client and Small Business Owner Memory Decker-Abe

At Nimiipuu Fund, we believe entrepreneurship is a pathway to self-determination, stability, and generational success. Through business planning support, financial education, and access to capital, we work alongside Native entrepreneurs as they grow their ideas into thriving businesses.

Memory Decker-Abe's journey is a powerful example of that growth. What began with consumer lending support and participation in Indianpreneurship evolved into startup financing that helped launch her dream of owning her own salon business. Today, through continued partnership with Nimiipuu Fund, Memory is expanding her business and creating opportunities for other beauty professionals in the community.

Her story reflects the importance of culturally grounded lending, relationship-based support, and investing in Native-owned businesses for long-term success.

Q Have you tried working with other banks or lenders, and what has been the biggest hurdle to reaching your goals?

A: I have only worked with Nimiipuu Fund. It has always been my first option, and my biggest hurdle has been business expenses.

Q How did our team help you navigate the process, and what was it like working with a lender that understands our community?

A: The entire Nimiipuu Fund team really helped me through the process, especially with the website and online application. There was a lot of communication with the loan officer, who helped ensure my application was completed correctly. I also appreciated that they stood behind me and supported my growth, so I never felt alone during the process. Indianpreneurship helped a lot as well.

Memory shared that she was initially scared to apply for the \$5,000 loan, but because she had built a relationship with Nimiipuu Fund over the years, she felt comfortable moving forward. She also shared that Nimiipuu Fund has been a huge reason she has been able to thrive and overcome obstacles, especially business-related expenses.

Q What do you see next for your business, and what inspiring words do you have for other Native business owners?

A: I hope to provide more stations at The Beauty Bar so new beauty business owners have more opportunities. Being a young mother and a Native woman can be difficult, but it is possible. I want to give that same confidence to my kids, be a role model for them and my community, and continue supporting and encouraging Native business owners.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR LENDING SERVICES**

www.nimiipuufund.org/lending-services



GEORGE MOODY HONORED WITH NATIVE CDFI INDUSTRY ACHIEVER AWARD

Nimiipuu Fund is proud to announce that Accounting Manager **George Moody** was recognized with the **2025 Native CDFI Industry Achiever Award** during the Native Awards Gala at Oweesta Corporation's 10th Annual Native CDFI Capital Access Convening.

The award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to advancing economic opportunity in Native communities. George was recognized for his dedication to expanding access to financial services and supporting economic development for the Nez Perce Tribe and surrounding communities.

Presented by Oweesta Corporation, the Native CDFI Industry Achiever Award celebrates leaders whose work strengthens Native economies, builds financial resilience, and advances Tribal self-determination. George joined fellow award recipients from across Indian Country who are helping shape the future of Native community development through their service and leadership.

We congratulate George on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his continued commitment to Nimiipuu Fund's mission of expanding access to capital, housing, and entrepreneurship opportunities for our communities.

"Each of these honorees represents the courage, commitment, and deep-rooted purpose that drives the Native CDFI movement. Their leadership is a reflection of the strength and brilliance within our communities—and a reminder that our path to economic justice is both grounded in culture and led by example."

Chrystel Cornelius, CEO of Oweesta Corporation

ABOUT OWEESTA CORPORATION:

Oweesta Corporation provides opportunities for Native people to develop assets and create wealth by assisting in the establishment of strong, permanent institutions and programs, leading to economic independence and strengthening sovereignty for all Native communities. As the oldest Native CDFI intermediary, Oweesta offers financial products and development

services exclusively to Native CDFIs and Native communities. These services include training, technical assistance, investments, research, and policy advocacy to help Native communities build an integrated range of asset-building tools.

2025 NATIVE AMERICAN BUILDING CODES SUMMIT



"The summit is an exciting opportunity for Native Americans to come together and advocate for building codes and to create a stronger built environment so that we can create a generation that will be in a healthier living standard."

David Jackson, Gila Indian River Community & Tohono O'odham, Code Advisory Group



Pictured: (Top) Summit Panel Attendee. (Middle) Networking reception at Rivaura Estate Winery. (Bottom) Douglas Marconi Sr. and his Colville Housing Associates.

BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

On September 9 and 10, 2025, Tribal leaders, housing professionals, planners, architects, and contractors came together at the Clearwater River Casino & Event Center in Lewiston, Idaho to explore how Tribal Nations can shape and strengthen their built environments. Discussions focused on culturally aligned building codes, inspection and enforcement systems, and innovative workforce development strategies to support Tribal sovereignty and resilience.

Participants gained valuable insights from national experts and community voices, including Tribal Planners from area Nations, representatives from Native American Code Officials (NACO), and Lakota Funds, who shared their successful workforce development model and experience with code adoption in Indian Country. The summit also featured perspectives from policy advocates and funders working at the forefront of infrastructure and housing development for Native communities.



CHECK OUT THE EVENT BOOKLET
<https://shorturl.at/eEisK>



Pictured: (Top Left) Native American Building Codes & Workforce Development Summit event booklet cover artwork. (Bottom Left) Gloria Garcia Terry asks questions during panel. (Top) Attendees listen to panels on day one of the event. (Below Top) Douglas Marconi Sr., Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority. (Below Bottom) Conference attendees Debra Whitefoot and Cialita Keys.

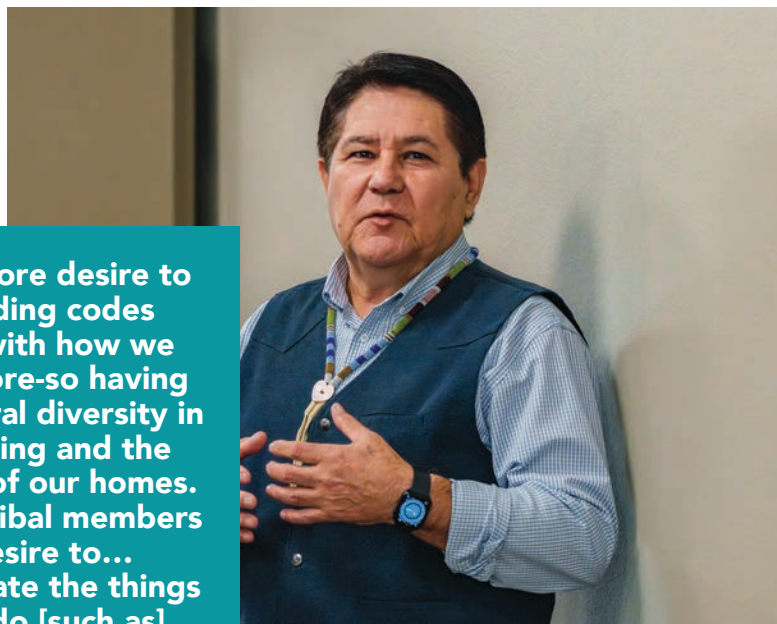


SUMMIT PANELS

The Summit opened with breakfast and an invocation, followed by introductions and two dynamic panel discussions. The first panel featured Native American building professionals discussing how cultural values inform housing and infrastructure development. The second panel focused on overcoming compliance challenges and advancing Tribal solutions through technical expertise and advocacy. Keynote speaker David Jackson highlighted the importance of building codes for safer, more resilient communities, followed by a panel connecting codes, careers, and community development to strengthen Native homeownership. The day concluded with a hands-on workshop on Tribal building codes and an evening networking reception at Rivaura Estate Winery, featuring food, drinks, and interactive activities to foster community connections.

"I have a core desire to see building codes interact with how we build... more-so having some cultural diversity in our planning and the designing of our homes. We have Tribal members that desire to... accommodate the things that we do [such as] cultural practices."

Douglas Marconi Sr., Nimiipuu, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority



Deciyeuyear **THANK YOU**

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and outstanding lineup of speakers and presenters for making this event possible. Their investment supports stronger, safer, and more resilient Tribal communities.

SUMMIT SPONSORS

Amerind
Columbia Bank
Enterprise Community Partners
Hahn Rentals
National American Indian Housing Council
Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority
Nez Perce Tribe Education, Career Program

SUMMIT SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

David Jackson, Founder and Owner of the Code Advisory Group

Tawney Brunsch, Executive Director of Lakota Funds

Ellen Whitethunder, Deputy Director of Lakota Funds

Jeff Ackley, Director of Native American Programs for Enterprise Community Partners' Tribal Nations Team

Val Drywater, Building Official for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Dale R. Schrock, Jr., Executive Director of the Colville Indian Housing Authority

Jason Clark, Capital Improvements Director for the Colville Indian Housing Authority

Michelangelo Bustamante, Commercial Lender at Native American Bank

Douglas Marconi, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority Director

Felix McGowan, MBA, AINS, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure Director

Joel Holliday, Warm Springs Housing Authority

Shayna Ferguson, Lakota Federal Credit Union

Shawn Spencer



PHOTOS ©INDIGENOUS CREATIVES



WATCH THE SUMMIT RECAP VIDEO
<https://shorturl.at/Tg5Tm>

Pictured: (Top) Tribal project site visit in Lapwai, Idaho. (Bottom) Conversations with Calvin Allen, Nez Perce Tribe TERO and Cierra Green, Nez Perce Tourism.

TRIBAL PROJECT SITE VISIT

The second day offered hands-on learning with site visits to Tribal projects in Lapwai, including the Tiny Village Housing Project, Nimiipuu Health Assisted Living Facility, and the Nez Perce Senior Day Center. Attendees explored these projects with guided tours, demonstrations, and discussions on inspection techniques, innovative design, and community impact. The day wrapped up back at Clearwater River Casino with lunch, reflections on lessons learned, digital plan and blueprint interpretation with David Jackson, and a closing group discussion and Q&A.

Together, we took meaningful steps toward building systems that reflect Native values, protect our communities, and create pathways for the next generation of Tribal workforce leaders.



READ THE HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT
<https://tinyurl.com/NCDF-Housing-Needs>

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

MOVING FROM PLANNING TO
BUILDING HOMES FOR OUR PEOPLE

Housing continues to be one of the most urgent challenges facing the Nez Perce community. Rising construction costs, limited housing inventory, aging homes, and barriers to financing have created significant obstacles for families seeking safe, stable, and affordable housing. In response, Nimiipuu Fund is advancing a long-term strategy focused on housing solutions rooted in partnership, self-determination, and community priorities.

Over the past year, Nimiipuu Fund has worked closely with the Nez Perce Tribe, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, and regional partners to move beyond planning and toward action. Guided by the findings of the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment, Nimiipuu Fund and the Housing Authority convened housing leaders, Tribal programs, lenders, and community organizations to begin building a coordinated housing ecosystem for the Reservation.

These housing strategy sessions brought together key stakeholders to review housing assessment findings, map existing resources, clarify organizational roles, identify gaps in the housing system, and develop collective strategies to address current and future housing needs. Through the initial convenings, partners identified several priority areas of focus, including land use planning, land management, housing development, housing financing, construction trades workforce development, homebuyer readiness, and affordable mortgage financing.

A key component of this strategy is the development of new home loan products and financial services designed specifically to meet the needs of Tribal members. Through flexible lending tools, financial education, technical assistance, and homebuyer readiness support, Nimiipuu Fund is working to create pathways to homeownership and long-term housing stability.

NIMIIPUU FUND'S HOUSING SOLUTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Developing **new housing loan products and services** to expand access to affordable housing opportunities.

Partnering with the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority to advance housing needs assessments and strengthen coalition-building efforts.

Participating in the Idaho Native American Housing Coalition to support regional housing initiatives and collaboration.

Awarded a Wells Fargo grant to expand housing initiatives focused on:

- Preserving existing housing units
- Transitioning renters to homeownership
- Improving energy efficiency
- Advancing financial equity



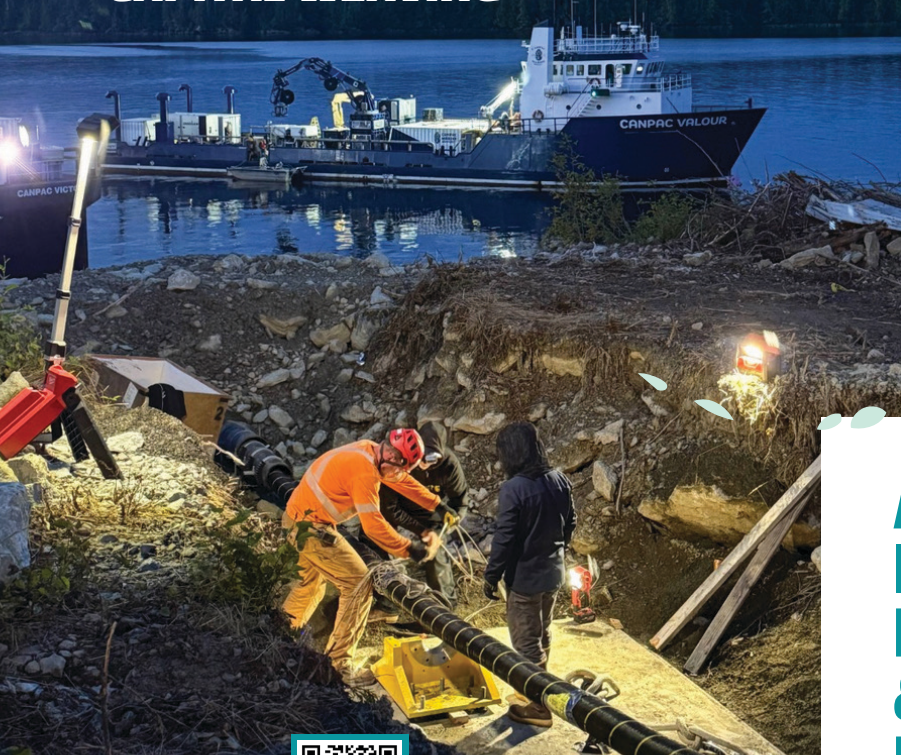
EXPLORE HOME IMPROVEMENT LENDING
nimiipuufund.org/home-improvement-lending

READY TO TACKLE THOSE HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS?

Nimiipuu Fund is proud to offer expanded Home Rehabilitation Loans of up to \$50,000 to support Native homeowners. This flexible loan can be used for a wide range of home improvement projects—from increasing energy efficiency and making critical repairs to upgrades that improve comfort, safety, and long-term home value.

NIMIIPUU FUND

CAPITAL WEAVING



LEARN MORE ABOUT NAFOA AWARDS
www.nafoa.org



AWARD-WINNING INVESTMENT EXPANDS ENERGY & BROADBAND IN METLAKATLA

Nimiipuu Fund contributed to a transformative infrastructure project serving the Metlakatla Indian Community on Annette Island, Alaska—an effort recently honored with the Government Impact Deal of the Year Award by the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA).

The Southeast Alaska Intertie Financing project, led by Metlakatla Power & Light (MP&L), is bringing lower-cost power and improved broadband access to the community. Native American Bank provided a \$5.2 million bridge loan to support completion of the intertie, which will connect Annette Island to the Ketchikan Public Utilities system. The project includes submarine fiber optic cable and upgraded utility infrastructure,

"Completing the Metlakatla Intertie will bring the affordable power and robust Internet service that our community—like every community—needs to thrive. It supports our sovereign aims of self-sufficiency."

Albert Smith, Metlakatla Indian Community Mayor and City Manager

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

\$5.2 MILLION BRIDGE LOAN

\$150 THOUSAND ANNUAL SAVINGS TO MPL AND THEIR CUSTOMERS

LOAN PARTICIPATION WITH FIVE (5) NATIVE CDFIS AND INTERMEDIARY

helping reduce energy costs, expand clean energy use, and improve access to reliable, affordable internet.

A key strength of this effort was its collaborative, multi-CDFI financing structure. Native-led institutions—including Nimiipuu Fund, Nixyáawii Community Financial Services, Oweesta, and Spruce Root—worked together to align mission-driven capital and support long-term system reliability and affordability for the community.

This award-winning project highlights the power of partnership in advancing Tribal infrastructure, strengthening economic resilience, and supporting self-determination.



ADVANCING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Fall of 2025, Nimiipuu Fund joined Native CDFI partners from across Indian Country to support a landmark investment redefining what's possible in Native finance. As part of a collaborative "capital weaving" effort led by Mission Driven Finance's Indigenous Futures team, Nimiipuu Fund participated in a \$9 million investment to help Cairnspring Mills develop a new regenerative flour mill on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

By working together, Native CDFIs pooled resources, shared underwriting expertise, and built a stronger capital stack than any one organization could achieve alone. This collaboration helped unlock more than \$60 million in total project financing—combining equity, layered debt, and tax credit financing—while strengthening the capacity of Native-led lenders.

Cairnspring Mills cofounder and CEO Kevin Morse described the effort as similar to a traditional barn raising:

"The foundation of that barn has been the community of people working with us... I don't know of any other deal... that's woven together this type of capital before."

At the core of this project is Native-led financing designed for long-term outcomes. Located on lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation at Coyote Business Park, the mill reflects shared values around food sovereignty and sustainability. The partnership includes a 50-year land

lease that will generate lasting economic benefits for the Tribe, its lands, and its farmers. As Morse noted, the Tribe already manages thousands of acres with plans to expand regenerative agriculture—making this project a natural fit.

Ted Piccolo of Mission Driven Finance emphasized the importance of community-rooted investment:

"Native CDFIs, by their nature, are located in their community, and we all understand our communities have some tie to the land."

He added, *"This structure reflects what's possible when Native lenders and communities are involved early and meaningfully. Aligning capital around operations, governance, and long-term outcomes is what allows projects like this to move from planning to execution."*

The project brings together an innovative capital stack, including major financing from Steward in partnership with Native American Bank, Tribal equity investment, and broad support from community investors and mission-aligned partners.

This collaboration shows what's possible when Native CDFIs and partners work together—sharing knowledge, leveraging capital, and building opportunity rooted in community. Nimiipuu Fund is honored to stand alongside its partners in this milestone investment and looks forward to continuing this work for generations to come.

EVENTS & W

NIMIIPUU FUND

INDIANPRENEURSHIP

The Indianpreneurship virtual workshop series, led by Native entrepreneur and coach Roxanne Best, guided participants through four hands-on sessions focused on building business plans from the ground up. Attendees developed their ideas, crafted actionable steps, and completed personalized plans—all with expert support in an intimate learning environment.

NATIVE ARTIST POPUPS

These pop-ups provide a dynamic platform for Indigenous artists to showcase their work, ranging from traditional crafts to contemporary pieces. By attending these events, community members and visitors have the unique opportunity to support local Native artists directly, fostering economic growth and cultural appreciation within the community. Each event not only highlights the incredible talent of Native artists but also strengthens the bonds of community through the sharing of culture and artistry.



GRAPHIC DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

This two-day training series at Northwest Indian College, taught by Jiselle Halfmoon of Cayuse Native Solutions, was designed to help participants elevate their digital skills for business and personal projects. The training provided small business owners with tools to strengthen branding, increase sales, and stand out online. Whether participants were new to design or looking to refine existing skills, the workshop helped build confidence in creating content that attracts customers.



VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS
<https://bit.ly/3Befnwl>

WOMEN WHO WINE

Women Who Wine was an unforgettable evening of creativity, flavor, and celebration. Guests enjoyed a guided painting experience with Native artist Lauraly Souza while savoring gourmet bites perfectly paired with Rivaura wines. The night concluded with an energetic performance by Color of Soul, filling the room with music and keeping guests dancing late into the evening.

WORKSHOPS

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Nimiipuu Fund co-hosted the Train-the-Trainer workshop alongside First Nations Development Institute, featuring expert instruction from Shawn Spruce. This impactful event brought together participants from across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho—including representatives from Tribal communities, businesses, programs, and Native CDFIs—to explore how investing can be made culturally relevant and accessible.



RECLAIMING YOUR FINANCIAL POWER

In November, Nimiipuu Fund hosted Reclaiming Financial Power: Healing Your Money Story, a two-day workshop led by Roxanne Best that blended financial education with wellness practices. Participants explored their personal relationships with money, learned about financial trauma, and created spending plans rooted in their values.



“Financial trauma often shows up as avoidance, guilt, or burnout—not because you’re bad with money, but because your nervous system is trying to protect you.”

ROXANNE BEST, CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION, R. BEST LIFE

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

The Estate Planning Workshop, hosted in collaboration with the University of Idaho Law School and Wills Intern, Nez Perce Tribe Office of Legal Counsel, Land Services Department, Housing Authority, and Social Services Department, provided valuable insights on crucial legal matters. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on land, housing, probate, and other essential estate planning considerations. With a diverse panel of experts, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the complexities involved and left empowered with the knowledge to make informed decisions for their future and their families.

LOOKING AHEAD: EXCITING EVENTS IN 2026

As we anticipate the forthcoming years, our focus remains steadfast on fostering economic and entrepreneurial growth within our community. We are excited to announce a lineup of events designed to empower and equip individuals with the tools they need to thrive with **Youth Involvement, Homebuyer Readiness Opportunities, Entrepreneurship, Becoming AI & Tech Savvy** and **Federal Contracting**.

NIMIIPUU FUND

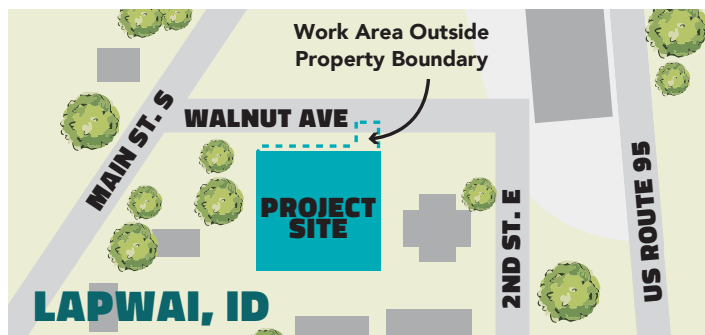
BUSINESS INCUBATOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

BUILDING THE FUTURE IN LAPWAI

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Tribal Programs, Departments,
and area businesses - please take
our survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLTFYPG>



Nimiipuu Fund is advancing a bold vision for economic growth through the development of the Nimiipuu Fund Business Incubator in Lapwai, Idaho. Designed to support Native entrepreneurship and strengthen the local economy, the mixed-use facility will provide office and retail space for startups and small businesses, co-working and conference areas, mentorship opportunities, and affordable business training programs.

The project is grounded in extensive community planning and feasibility work completed with Points Consulting. A major milestone was reached with the acquisition of land in the Carter Addition of Lapwai, and with support from a USDA Rural Business Development Grant, the project has now entered the architectural and engineering design phase in partnership with Native-owned firms Eastwood Development and Akana Engineering.

Nimiipuu Fund is now launching a capital campaign to secure construction and operational funding needed to bring the project to life. The incubator is envisioned as a

long-term investment in Tribal entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic self-determination—helping keep businesses, talent, and economic activity rooted within the community.

Funding partners, philanthropic organizations, and aligned investors interested in supporting Native-led economic development are encouraged to connect with Nimiipuu Fund to learn more about partnership opportunities.



DONATE TODAY

<https://tinyurl.com/NF-INCUBATOR-2024>



OUR TEAM

Nimiipuu Community Development Fund is committed to enhancing the financial prosperity of individuals and families. We provide loans and development services geared towards building community assets and fostering generational prosperity. Our coaching, training, and asset-building initiatives cater to Nez Perce Tribal members and individuals residing in or around our reservation, spanning across Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.



JONELLE YEAROUT
Executive Director



GEORGE MOODY
Accounting Manager



ANTHONY SPENCER
Loan Officer



JAMISON HOPKINS
Loan Officer



ROXANNE BEST
Business Coach



DELRAE KIPP
Director



KIMBERLY PATE
Director



KERMIT MANKILLER
Director



HOWARD TEASLEY
Director



RYAN OATMAN
NPTEC Treasurer

1,113
TOTAL
LOANS

2016-2025

\$3.7 MIL



CONSUMER LOANS

\$2.1 M



SMALL

BUSINESS LOANS

\$320 K



HOME

REHABILITATION LOANS

\$169 K



LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR LENDING SERVICES
www.nimiipuufund.org/lending-services



Pictured: Nimiipuu Fund's team attending the Investing in the Future workshop.

NIMIIPUU FUND

FINANCIALS

FY2024 Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances as filed with 990 IRS Tax Form:

REVENUE

Contributions and Grants.....	\$1,376,870
Program Service Revenue	\$97,681
Investment Income	\$21
Other Revenue	\$14,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,488,572

EXPENSES

Salaries, Other Compensation, Employee Benefits	\$333,386
Other Expenses	\$526,527
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$859,913

NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES

Revenue Less Expenses	\$628,659
Total Assets at End of Year	\$2,844,654
Total Liabilities at End of Year	\$954,923
Net Assets or Fund Balances at End of Year	\$1,889,731

SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

AMERIND
BLUE CROSS FOUNDATION
COLUMBIA BANK
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY
PARTNERS - NATIVE AMERICAN
HOUSING PROGRAMS
HANN RENTALS
INATAI FOUNDATION
'ITAM'YANAAWIT PROGRAM
NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN
HOUSING COUNCIL
NATIVE AMERICAN BANK
NEZ PERCE TRIBAL HOUSING
AUTHORITY
NEZ PERCE TRIBE
NEZ PERCE TRIBE EDUCATION,
CAREER PROGRAM
NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION
OWEESTA CORPORATION
TAMALPAIS TRUST
UNLEASHED MARKETING & DESIGN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(USDA)
U.S. TREASURY CDFI FUND
WELLS FARGO

PARTNERS

ATNI EDC
BLUE STEM CONSULTING
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS –
NORTHERN IDAHO AGENCY
CODE ADVISORY GROUP
IDAHO SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
IMPACT CHARITABLE
KAUFFMAN AND ASSOCIATES
LAKOTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
LAKOTA FUNDS
MISSION DRIVEN FINANCE
NATIVE CDFI NETWORK
NEIGHBORWORKS
NEZ PERCE TRIBAL ENTERPRISES
NIMIIPUU HEALTH
OPPORTUNITY FINANCE NETWORK
POINTS CONSULTING
SELBY CONSULTING
SEVEN SISTERS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



SUPPORT OUR MISSION
nimiipuufund.org/investing-donating

Qeci'yew'yew
THANK YOU



The work we do at our non-profit organization is aimed at providing a holistic approach to solving some of our society's biggest challenges. We make sure our partners are empowered by creating opportunities for individuals and communities. Qeci'yew'yew for all those who have donated, volunteered, and supported Nimiipuu Fund's mission.



 CERTIFIED NATIVE CDFI, NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3)

**EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH
RESPONSIBLE LENDING, FINANCIAL
EDUCATION AND NATION BUILDING EVENTS.**

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