



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

Resolution #2023 – 21

“Support for Funding Increase for CDFI Fund”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Treasury contains an agency call the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) that provides over 1,000 CDFI’s operating nationwide with loan capital and technical assistance grants as well as certifying CDFI’s according to Treasury standards; and

WHEREAS, the CDFI Fund awards lending capital grants through their Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program; and

WHEREAS, CDFI’s provide needed access to capital and direct hands-on assistance to clients in areas not served well by other by conventional financial institutions for inner cities, rural communities, and Indian Reservations; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 64 certified Native CDFI’s across the country and an estimated two dozen more “emerging” Native CDFI’s in the Treasury’s certification process; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC) established the Northwest Native Lending Network (NNLN) initially at the 2019 ATNI-EDC Economic Summit on April 9th, 2019 and provide staffing support; and

WHEREAS, the membership of ATNI endorsed the formation of the NNLN by way of ATNI Resolution #19-18 at the 2019 Mid-Year Convention, as well as supporting the policy initiatives of the NNLN by way of ATNI Resolution #19-42 at the Annual ATNI Convention; and

WHEREAS, NNLN is comprised of lending enterprises, certified and emerging Native CDFI’s in the ATNI region with 16 active members meeting monthly; and

WHEREAS, the Native CDFI Network is the only national membership organization solely dedicated to serving and supporting Native CDFI’s; and

WHEREAS, both the Native CDFI Network and the NNLN are in support of increased funding in the NACA Program in order to get more loan capital to many Indian communities that are often in financial service desert; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of Native CDFI Network members indicated an unmet loan capital need totaling \$166 million and that annual funding requests for the FY 2022 exceeded the amount awarded by the CDFI Fund by 49%; and

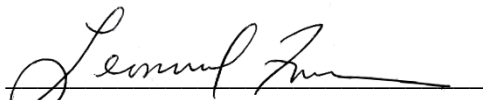
WHEREAS, the Native CDFI Network has crafted a letter (attached) to Congressional Appropriations leadership to increase the NACA funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations process to \$50 million for Native CDFI’s; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urge the Congress to increase the CDFI Fund’s NACA program to \$50 million in the upcoming Appropriations process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI further urges Congress and the Biden Administration to advance policies and legislation to support increased resources and authorities for Native led financial services.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort – Hotel, Worley, Idaho, on May 8-11, 2023, with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary