



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FACT SHEET

## EDA Awards \$489 Million to Indigenous Communities

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) [Indigenous Communities](#) program allocated \$100 million in [American Rescue Plan](#) funding specifically to support the needs of Tribal governments and Indigenous communities.

Across all six of EDA's American Rescue Plan programs, inclusive of the Indigenous Communities program, **EDA has awarded \$489 million across 128 grants to projects serving American indigenous communities.** EDA's historic investment into Tribal governments and Indigenous communities is a critical step towards closing opportunity gaps and fostering economic mobility and resiliency in Indigenous communities across the country as they rebuild from the pandemic. This significant commitment to Indigenous communities underscores EDA's commitment to equity and prioritizing historically underserved communities and populations.

The \$100 million Indigenous Communities program made 51 awards in 25 states and the Northern Mariana Islands. These projects will create or save 2,435 jobs and attract \$28.7 million in private investment, according to grantee estimates. In addition to the Indigenous Communities program, EDA awarded another \$389 million in 77 projects serving Indigenous communities through its other five American Rescue Plan programs. This includes two Build Back Better Regional Challenge finalist coalitions that are primarily focused on Tribal communities:

1. The [Mountain | Plains Regional Native CDFI Coalition](#), led by the Four Bands Community Fund Inc, will receive \$45 million to accelerate the growth of the Indigenous finance sector and expand economic opportunity in Native American communities through an alliance of nine Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).
2. The [Alaska Mariculture Cluster](#), led by the Southeast Conference, will receive \$49 million to support the growth of the mariculture industry in the region. This work was designed and will be implemented in partnership with Sealaska, a for-profit Alaska Native Corporation owned by more than 23,300 Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian shareholders, ensuring the cluster's approach centers on the priorities of tribal, rural, and other underserved communities.

### The 51 Indigenous Communities program awards include:

- 16 awards (\$46.7 million) to build new business support facilities or provide equipment that enables commercial growth
- 9 awards (\$23.1 million) to build enabling infrastructure that create the conditions for businesses to succeed
- 6 awards (\$12.3 million) to provide workers with the skills and supports needed to secure high-quality jobs and to build facilities to support that training
- 5 awards (\$8.9 million) to build or upgrade tourist attractions—such as museums, event venues, and hiking trails—that will attract visitors and commercial activity to American communities in alignment with the [NATIVE Act](#) which calls on the Department of Commerce to enhance and integrate Native American tourism to spur economic development
- 13 awards (\$5.6 million) for communities to engage in economic development planning and receive the technical assistance needed to recover from the pandemic and build a more resilient economic future
- 2 awards (\$4.1 million) to support business incubation and entrepreneurship



## RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

**What has EDA done to ensure Indigenous communities receive the full benefits of this program and EDA's other programming?**

The Indigenous Communities program was structured to respond directly to challenges and needs that Indigenous communities faced as they recover from the pandemic. The Indigenous Communities program did not require matching funds from grantees and permitted a broader set of eligible activities, allowing many of the most in-need Tribal communities to address their most critical economic development needs as exacerbated by the pandemic.

Over the last year, EDA also implemented a [rule change](#) that expanded the definition of Tribal entities eligible to receive EDA grants to include for-profit Tribal corporations so long as they are wholly owned by, and established exclusively for the benefit of, a Tribe. This rule change applies to all EDA funding and permitted much broader participation of entities within Indigenous communities. To further demonstrate its commitment to investing in Indigenous communities, EDA hired its first Tribal Engagement Coordinator, as well as a Tribal Economic Development Representative in EDA's Denver Regional Office. As a result of these combined efforts, it is estimated that **over half of all Indigenous Communities applications and award recipients were new participants in EDA's grant programs**. Finally, EDA has made a \$1.5 million award to the Urban Institute which will, in partnership with its sub-award the National American Indian Housing Council, establish a community of practice to support EDA's existing Tribal grantees, identify best practices to improve Tribal access to EDA funding opportunities, and to build future economic development capacity among Tribes' project planning and implementation.

**Other Indigenous American Rescue Plan Programming at EDA**

In addition to the \$100 million Indigenous Communities program, through its other five American Rescue Plan programs, EDA has made 77 awards representing \$389 million in funding that will also impact Indigenous communities by creating, saving, or placing into 22,869 jobs and attracting \$751 million in private investment. These investments include:

- 2 [Build Back Better](#) Phase 2 coalitions that are primarily Tribal ([Four Bands Community Fund](#) and [Southeast Conference](#)) and a total of 27 component projects across all 21 coalitions that will impact Indigenous communities (*\$182.2 million*)
- 6 [Build Back Better](#) Regional Challenge Phase 1 finalist awards (*\$3 million*)
- 11 [Good Jobs Challenge](#) awardees (*\$144.4 million*)
- 19 [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) awards (*\$32.9 million*)
- 9 [Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation](#) awardees (*\$21.2 million*)
- 5 [Statewide Planning, Research and Networks](#) awards (*\$5.5 million*)



## CORE THEMES

**People, Communities, and Equity**

The Indigenous Communities program prioritizes equity for this historically underserved group. Each of these projects was designed to meet community needs and dismantle barriers to economic growth whether by diversifying the local economy into new sectors, training the local workforce for high paying jobs, or providing critical community resources necessary to participate in the modern economy such as high-speed Internet.

- In Montana, the [Little Big Horn Community College](#) is designing and engineering the Apsaalooke Cultural Center. This center will highlight the rich heritage of the Tribe and its overlooked cultural amenities, thus attracting tourist activity to the region and generating community-wide economic activity. (*\$1.9 million*)
- In New Mexico, the [Pueblo of Picuris](#) is constructing the Picuris Vocational Training Center, building the skills of the local workforce to help secure quality job opportunities. This project also includes a childcare center, allowing parents or guardians to address their care needs when pursuing training opportunities. (*\$2 million*)

**Supporting Indigenous Businesses**

This program is helping Indigenous communities with what they need—from facilities to equipment to technical assistance—to allow their local businesses to grow and thrive in the 21st Century. With these investments, Indigenous businesses across the country will become more competitive in their local economies and beyond.

- In Minnesota, the [Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe](#) is renovating three existing commercial buildings into incubator spaces to support its Tribal Economy Incubator Program. This program will provide much-needed technical assistance to allow new and existing businesses to grow. (*\$3.1 million*)
- In Maine, the [Aroostook Band of Micmacs](#) are growing their aquaculture economy by expanding their fish hatchery, promoting an environmentally sustainable, next generation aquaculture operation. The project cultivates workforce development and job creation for the community and advances economic and food resiliency. (*\$4 million*)

**Recovery and Resiliency**

The Indigenous Communities program funded a wide variety of foundational projects, including critical enabling infrastructure, that will help Indigenous economies attract businesses and pursue a path of sustainable growth. Infrastructure investments are allowing Tribal Nations to encourage outside investment and build more resilient economies. The program also funded several planning projects, allowing Indigenous communities to chart a strategy that will enable long-term economic prosperity.

- In Nevada, the [Walker River Paiute Tribe](#) is improving its water system infrastructure. Recognizing that business growth is limited by unreliable water infrastructure, this investment will help the Walker River Paiute Tribe build a more resilient and business-friendly local economy. (*\$5.2 million*)
- In North Dakota, [Standing Rock Renewable Energy Authority](#) is planning, evaluating, and designing the Anpetu Wi Wind Farm. This project will help diversify the local economy and increase energy independence for this Tribal community. (*\$750,000*)

**For more information about the Indigenous Communities program, please visit [www.eda.gov/arpa/indigenous/](http://www.eda.gov/arpa/indigenous/).**



For more information about Economic Development Administration's six American Rescue Plan Programs, collectively called Investing in America's Communities, please click here.