



CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

March 17, 2011

ATTENDEES

Tanya Fiddler
Heidi Cuny
Sarah Dewees
Chris James
Lori Larson

Onna LeBeau
Joanna Donohoe
Bill Spurlin
Colleen Steele
Shay Smith

Dave Castillo
Nicole from Bois Fort
Donna from Alaska

NOTES

1. Chris James from the CDFI Fund provided the group with an update on the new Native Lending Study that is underway. The study is scheduled to be released in 2012 and is currently in the development and planning phase. The 2nd phase of the study will consist of surveying Native communities, and in the 3rd phase the CDFI Fund will finalize the report. The CDFI Fund will be talking to Native CDFIs individually. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call Chris James directly. Chris also announced that the CDFI Fund will be hosting a series of workshops throughout the summer in various cities.
2. Sarah Dewees of First Nations Development Institute reported preliminary findings from a survey on the utilization of federal funds by Native CDFIs. There were 54 respondents to the survey, and the preliminary findings reveal there are many federal programs not being utilized by Native CDFIs.
3. Bill Spurlin from Salt River Financial updated the group on the CDFI Coalition's recent annual event, the CDFI Institute in Washington DC. There was an abundance of information to be gathered at the event, but Bill gave a few highlights. The 112th Congress is in favor of a domestic spending freeze for the next 10 years, so it is important that we let them know there are programs that work and that are worth funding – like the CDFI Fund and its initiatives. The suggested strategy is to keep opposing cuts and try to keep the budget at the 2010 level. It is also suggested to identify republicans who are CDFI champions. During the event Donna Gambrel announced that the Fund will be delivering a capacity building initiative with NeighborWorks and OFN. Dates and locations will be announced.
4. The Native CDFI Network is administering a survey to determine how we can best serve our members. We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to complete the survey.
5. Our Co-Chair, Robin Danner, has a direct connection with Senator Akaka's policy director. Senator Akaka is the chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. Robin has suggested that everyone send in their top priorities and challenges so she can present them.
6. Co-Chair, Tanya Fiddler, proposed the idea of hosting an event with funders and policy makers in Eagle Butte, South Dakota this summer. The event would be the first, and successive events would be held in different Native communities. The group favored the idea.
7. The meeting was wrapped up with reminders to take the survey, like NCN on Facebook, and join the mailing list to stay involved with the Network.

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