



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Native CDFI Network Spends Week in Washington DC to Advocate for Native Community and Economic Development**

**Washington, D.C. – March 6, 2013** – For the second year in a row, the Native CDFI Network, a network created to unify and strengthen Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs), traveled to Washington DC to advance policy priorities that foster systemic and sustainable Native community and economic development. This year’s Native CDFI Network delegation spent the last week in February in Washington DC and was comprised of seven Native CDFI representatives from around the country who:

- Attended the U.S. Treasury’s Community Development Advisory Board Meeting and the CDFI Fund’s Information Session on the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Interim Rule
- Fostered relationships with the National Congress of American Indians, NeighborWorks America, and Partners for Common Good
- Met with the Department of Interior Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development and the U.S. Treasury Office of Financial Education
- Attended six Hill visits with various Senators and/or their staff

“The Native CDFI Network’s annual trip to Washington DC is all about telling the collective story of Native CDFIs – the lives we positively impact by creating access to capital and resources – and building strategic relationships to influence policy favorable to our industry so that our members may continue executing their missions in their individual communities,” says Tanya Fiddler, Board Chairperson of the Native CDFI Network and also Executive Director of Four Bands Community Fund, a Native CDFI located on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

While most of the Network’s meetings with partner organizations and federal agencies discussed new strategies to increase the impact of Native CDFIs, the overarching theme of the Hill visits emphasized maintaining the \$12 million annual appropriation to the U.S. Treasury’s CDFI Fund Native Initiatives. “Over the last ten to twelve years, we have seen some real growth in the Native CDFI industry, which has been followed by an increase in jobs creation in some of the most economically distressed areas of the country. This growth could not have happened without funding from the CDFI Fund’s Native Initiatives, and it is critical to keep the funding level up to maintain these kind of results,” comments Fiddler.

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#### **About the Native CDFI Network**

The Native CDFI Network was formed in 2009 to unify Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) serving Native trust land communities, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Currently, over 70 certified Native CDFIs are located in 19 states across the country. The mission of the Native CDFI Network is to be a national voice and advocate that strengthens and promotes Native CDFIs,

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creating access to capital and resources for Native peoples. More information on the Native CDFI Network can be found at [www.nativecdfi.net](http://www.nativecdfi.net).

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