

## Script for NCN Members to Use for Phone Follow Up

Hello Senator/Representative XX,

Thank you for taking my call. My name is XX and I'm with the XX, a Native CDFI. I'm also a member of the national Native CDFI Network (NCN), a membership organization that represents the field of Native CDFIs. I'm reaching out to you as an NCN member to follow up on my letter of [date] to you regarding the 2015 NCN policy priorities, which are for Congress to:

- Provide at least \$16 million for the CDFI Fund's Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program in the FY 2016 Financial Services and General Services Appropriation bill. This is the funding level requested in the President's FY 2016 budget and is an increase of \$1 million over the FY 2015 enacted level. With over 70 certified Native CDFIs and 60 more in the certification pipeline, demand for funding will grow as Native CDFIs work to serve more Native communities.
- Include language in the FY 2016 Financial Services and General Services Appropriation bill to waive the non-federal match requirement (Public Law 113) for Native CDFIs applying for NACA Program funds in FY 2016. Native CDFIs face significant institutional barriers to raise private funds. Native communities are unserved or underserved by the conventional financial institutions which are the most common source of CDFI match and private foundations, also a common source of CDFI match, have a limited presence in Native communities. These barriers to capital are constants in Indian country.
- Make the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program permanent. The NMTC Program was enacted by Congress as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 and is administered by the CDFI Fund. It provides tax credits to individuals or corporations, which invest in job creation or material improvements in low-income communities, including Native American communities. Some Native CDFIs have succeeded in deploying NMTC investments. With permanence, NMTC investors and Native CDFIs will have more time to plan and invest in the infrastructure necessary to support the program and have an even greater impact in Indian Country.

As you know, American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities continue to experience substantially higher rates of poverty and unemployment than other communities in the United States and Native communities face a unique set of challenges that severely limit economic growth, workforce development, entrepreneurship, homeownership and other drivers of a healthy economy. Native communities have historically been unserved or underserved by conventional financial institutions leaving tribal citizens cut off from the economic mainstream. The proposed priorities are absolutely essential for Native CDFIs to build on the important and sustain the critical economic development we've begun. We are counting on your support to help us in our efforts to create strong and vibrant Native communities.

Thank you very much for your time and attention on this call.