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## **Native CDFI Network to Submit Only Exclusively Native-Serving Application to EPA's Clean Community Investment Accelerator Award Program in Historic Indian Country Bid for Clean Energy**

In a historic bid to catalyze clean energy infrastructure development in Native communities across the entire nation, the Native CDFI Network (NCN) has spent the past three months developing a comprehensive Indian Country application to the [Clean Communities Investment Accelerator](#) (CCIA), one of three award programs under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Featuring an unprecedented collaboration involving **62 certified and emerging Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other CCIA-qualified community lenders** covering all 10 EPA regions, NCN's application is the **only Native-led, exclusively Native-serving CCIA application** that will be submitted for consideration by EPA. **NCN is seeking several hundred million dollars as a lead applicant to deploy to its community lenders to finance clean energy projects in Native communities**, with financing recipients ranging from tribal governments and enterprises to Native-owned small businesses and Native consumers. NCN also has enlisted the participation of a dozen nationally renowned coalition partners on its application who will provide cutting-edge technical assistance customized for NCN's CCIA community lenders and the Native communities they will serve.

CCIA-qualified priority project categories include: (1) distributed energy generation and storage (rooftop or community solar, microgrids, distributed wind, and stand-alone storage); (2) net-zero emissions buildings (electrification/energy efficiency, school building space and water heating, replacement of backup diesel generators with storage, and community facility retrofits), and (3) zero-emissions transportation (fleet electrification and electric vehicle charging stations).

Featuring \$6 billion in total funding for low-income and disadvantaged communities, the CCIA has the potential to begin significantly closing the clean energy infrastructure gap for Native communities across the country. It can serve as a springboard for future and ongoing financing for expansion of this infrastructure, making those communities climate resilient over the long run while simultaneously making them much more energy independent and self-sufficient. NCN believes unequivocally that Indian Country's clean energy future must be *self-determined* if it is to truly sustain Native communities, economies, cultures, and lifeways for the next seven generations and beyond. This is why it is committed to supporting the ability of its CCIA community lenders to design and provide customized clean energy financing products that meet the distinct needs and goals of Native nations and communities. As the sole national membership organization supporting Native CDFIs' ability to serve the financing needs of Indian Country, NCN is uniquely positioned and equipped to ensure the CCIA's transformative impacts for a climate-resilient future are felt in all regions of Indian Country.

In addition to serving as a lead applicant for the CCIA, NCN also has signed on to support three Indian Country-serving applications for EPA's [Solar for All](#) program as a coalition partner. These partnerships will build on CCIA efforts to provide capital for clean energy financing in Indian Country.

**To learn more about the CCIA, click [here](#).**

**To learn more about how get involved with NCN's CCIA program, contact: Pete Upton, CEO/Board Chair, Native CDFI Network, [pete@nativecdfi.net](mailto:pete@nativecdfi.net)**