



USET SPF Comments on the Modernization of Community Reinvestment Act Modernization

USET SPF provided comments in response to Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding best ways to modernize the regulatory framework implementing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Indian Country must be included as full partners in any efforts to transform or modernize the regulations that implement the CRA. Unlike state and local governments, Tribal governments rely on economic development in lieu of property taxes to provide basic government services such as public safety, education, housing, and cultural programs. Therefore, modifications to the CRA can only be effective in Indian Country if they are inclusive of individual Native Americans as well as Tribal governments which have critical capital responsibilities that are essential to growing their economies, creating economic opportunities, and providing services.

While the CRA will not solve all of these issues, modifications to the regulations that implement the CRA can make a significant difference in the way financial institutions interact with Indian Country. By implementing the specific recommendations to the CRA as outlined above, the OCC and other banking regulatory agencies can greatly improve how banks serve Indian Country while providing banks with the surety that their actions will comply with the CRA. Working together in this manner is necessary to address the long-standing issues of access to credit and banking services in Indian Country and the limited reach of the existing CRA to Tribal communities.

Feds Release the Fourth National Climate Assessment, Highlight Risk and Opportunity for Tribal Economies in the Face of Climate Change

(Excerpt from article posted by Clif Cottrell, Nov 28, 2018, <https://www.nativebusinessmag.com/feds-release-the-fourth-national-climate-assessment-highlight-risk-and-opportunity-for-tribal-economies-in-the-face-of-climate-change/>)

The Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), a comprehensive report compiled by a dozen different federal agencies regarding the ongoing effects and threats from human-caused climate change, warns that without major efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the American economy would suffer impediments to growth and considerable losses. By the end of the century, the report calculated that economic losses could reach hundreds of billions of dollars, not to mention species extinction, land degradation, and irreparable harms to human health.

Coupled with the release a few weeks ago of the Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report (SOCCR2), the two papers represent the nation's most up-to-date analysis of a growing crisis that now touches every corner of the globe. Tribal concerns were well represented, with each report including an entire chapter on climate risk and adaptation from the indigenous perspective. In each instance, the contributing authors found political, geographic, socio-cultural, legal, and economic barriers to climate adaptation, but emphasized a culture of Native resilience fostered over thousands of years that could aid the indigenous peoples of America through the uncertain climate shifts of the future.

For more information on either report, follow the link at <https://www.nativebusinessmag.com/feds-release-the-fourth-national-climate-assessment-highlight-risk-and-opportunity-for-tribal-economies-in-the-face-of-climate-change/>.

MBDA Awards More Than \$3M to Support Tribal Business Communities

(Excerpt from article posted by Native Business Staff, Dec 3, 2018, <https://www.nativebusinessmag.com/mbda-awards-more-than-3m-to-support-tribal-business-communities/>)

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) recently awarded more than \$3 million to support programs for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian-owned enterprises. "The Minority Business Development Agency's support to the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian (including Pacific Islander American)

communities is a key component of MBDA’s overall support for minority business development,” said MBDA National Director Henry Childs, II. “Throughout this process, we have worked closely with tribes to ensure economic growth in communities across the country.” During Fiscal Year 2017, MBDA conducted six tribal consultations to better understand business and economic development needs in their communities. Consultation recommendations were incorporated including recognition of the indigenous Native Hawaiian population, expanding the geographic footprint, reducing programmatic and regulatory burdens, as well as increasing project flexibility and autonomy to address the most common business-related needs.

The grant recipients include:

- [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#) (\$233,881) to support a cohort of Native professionals interested in developing STEM-related businesses in California.
- [ASIAN, Inc.](#) (\$300,000) to provide consultative and technical assistance services to start-up, existing, and growing Native American-owned businesses with focused services in access to capital, business coaching, and growth through incubators and accelerators.
- [Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement](#) (\$300,000) to launch business networking sessions with a focus on funding opportunities.
- [University of Alaska Anchorage](#) (\$300,000) to connect minority-owned businesses to resources that include capital, training, coaching, incubators, accelerators, and infrastructure focused public-private partnerships.
- [New Mexico Community Capital](#) (\$300,000) to implement a signature program, the “Native Entrepreneur in Residence” (NEIR) business accelerator.
- [Rural Community Assistance Corporation](#) (\$300,000) to provide technical assistance that addresses core economic development needs of American Indian tribes in Montana.
- [Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc.](#) (\$300,000) for consultation services related to capital access and Federal procurement coaching for capacity building.
- [National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development](#) (\$556,609) to deploy an online platform, “Native Edge”, to provide access to business information, training, counseling services, and business networking.
- [Kauffman & Associates, Inc.](#) (\$300,000) to implement a technology resource platform and incubator model for technical assistance in Federal contracting.
- [United Tribes Technical College](#) (\$300,000) to conduct a needs assessment of 18 Tribal Nations in the Great Plains, identify the top priorities, and assist with deploying economic development activities.

NEWS

❖ National/World

[Businesses bank on women for financial and social gains](#)

[Digital transformation in 2019: A business leader’s guide to future challenges and opportunities](#)

[Globalisation is here to stay, says Davos boss](#)

<http://www.bbc.com/capital/story/20181112-how-blockchain-could-save-musicians-billions>

[Tech giants Microsoft and Google will help train 20 million young Southeast Asians by 2020](#)

❖ Indian Country

[Program helps Natives find jobs in construction](#)

[Congress sends two more Indian Country bills to Trump](#)

[Douglas Miles, Founder of APACHE Skateboards: 3 Ways to Grow Your Brand](#)

[Native Business Magazine Ships Premiere Issue Across Indian Country](#)

[TERO-Certified Vendors Grow Oklahoma Economy](#)

[Tribal Gaming Success Impacts U.S. Economic Landscape, Coast to Coast](#)

[Santa Ana Diversifies Agricultural Investments With Wine Enterprise](#)

[Selling Carbon Credits Is Earning Tribes Millions While Conserving Forests](#)

❖ USET

[Tribal Chief of a Nation With 68-Mile Fiber Network Named to FCC Task Force](#)

[Mashpee Wampanoags Marched, Rallied at U.S. Capitol to Preserve Sovereignty & Tribal Land Base](#)

[Ongweoweh: Doing Business with Real People](#)

<h2>UPCOMING EVENTS</h2>	
1st Annual Taxation in Indian Country Conference Las Vegas, NV December 6-7, 2018	USET SPF Impact Week Crystal City, VA March 3-7, 2019
The Reservation Economic Summit (RES) Las Vegas, NV March 25-28, 2019	

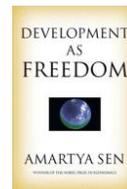


Quote of the Month

“Think about every problem, every challenge, we face. The solution to each starts with education.”

- President George H. W. Bush

Book of the Month



“Development as Freedom”

by Amartya Sen