



ONAC Announces Three New ONAC Mini Grant Awardees

The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc. (ONAC) Announces ONAC Mini Grant Awardees

November 23, 2015. We, the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc. (ONAC), announce that we have awarded three additional ONAC mini grants.

ONAC is a nonprofit Native asset building coalition that works with Oklahoma tribes and partners interested in establishing asset-building initiatives and programs in Native communities, for the purpose of creating greater opportunities for economic self-sufficiency of tribal citizens.

In January 2014, ONAC released our first request for proposals (RFP) to fund Native asset building projects in Oklahoma. We received seven excellent applications from tribal governments and tribal programs based in Oklahoma. At that time, we had funding for four projects. Thus, we awarded a total of \$14,000 in mini grants to four ONAC constituents. Those awardees have since completed their projects. Over the past eighteen months, ONAC has worked to raise additional funds to support the three remaining applicants. At this time, we have secured funding through the Ford Foundation and its generous support of First Nations Development Institute and ONAC.

ONAC is excited to work with the three new awardees as they continue to offer Native asset building projects to their tribal members. If needed, ONAC is available to provide free training and technical assistance to the grantees as they implement their asset building programs.

Below is information about the three new ONAC mini grant awardees and their projects:

The Mvskoke Loan Fund will enroll one of their staff members in the credit counseling certification program offered by Rural Dynamics, Inc. The staff will then work with entrepreneurs to improve their credit rating and help prepare them to receive business loans (awarded \$3,500).



Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) will offer Shonya Mbwaka (Money Smart) to stimulate sustainable economic opportunity for the Citizen Potawatomi tribal community and all past and current clients. Through this project, the CPCDC will provide five workshops for a target of 50 people. The main topic will be investing, but they will also review the basic financial essentials. Participants will receive a plan developed for their situation in the form of workshops, individual credit sessions, and budgeting sessions (awarded \$3,500).

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma will offer their tribal employees the opportunity to become more economically self-sufficient as they participate in Dave Ramsey "Financial Peace University" classes. Through video teaching, class discussions, and interactive small group activities, this financial education program will present culturally-appropriate and practical steps toward economic self-sufficiency. Employees will be taught how to get rid of debt, manage money, spend and save wisely, and plan for retirement. Additionally, during this project, the tribe will provide youth financial education materials for the tribal employee's children. To incentivize class participation, the tribe will offer \$50.00 each, in opening deposit funds for a family emergency savings account, to twenty-four of the tribal employees who complete the financial education program (awarded \$3,500).

Award Total: \$10,500

Congratulations to these grantees!

For more information about the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc., please go to <http://www.oknativeassets.org/>.

A second Request for Proposals for ONAC mini grants will be released in January 2016.

To help ONAC offer more mini grants to tribes and Native nonprofits in Oklahoma, please donate to ONAC via NativeGiving.org. **Your gift will help ONAC meet our match gift challenge.**

If you have any questions about ONAC and the mini grants, contact Christy Finsel, ONAC Executive Director, at cfinsel@oknativeassets.org.