



**ONAC August 2017 Mini Grant Final Report**  
**Prepared by Christy Finsel, ONAC Executive Director**  
**October 2017**

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 2016, ONAC released our second request for proposals (RFP) to fund Native asset building projects in Oklahoma. This grant was made possible with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. We received excellent applications from tribal governments and tribal programs based in Oklahoma. At the time, ONAC received an application from the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation and the Mvskoke Loan Fund, but was not able to fund grants to them until our second grant installment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation arrived.

As of October 2017, those two grantees have completed their mini grant projects. With the use of their grant funds, each grantee grew their own capacity to provide asset building programs for their citizens. Through their projects, the grantees reached 45 tribal citizens. While this impact was immediate, ONAC anticipates that the positive effects of these initiatives will continue into the future.

### **Grantee Projects and Outcomes**

**The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation** assisted ten families with starting an emergency savings account, as part of a matched savings account program, to help them to become more self-sufficient and move towards homeownership. Each of the families received \$200 for their account. This grant also paid for travel expenses of three staff members of the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation to attend *Pathways Home: A Native Guide to Homeownership*. All three staff members who attended the training passed the instructor test and will be able to teach a comprehensive homebuyer education program to the families served by their housing authority (awarded \$3,500).

#### **The Mvskoke Loan Fund**

The Mvskoke Loan Fund purchased a "Spending Frenzy" game kit offered by First Nations Development and facilitated a "Spending Frenzy" financial education simulation for 35 Native students. Twenty of the middle school students who participated in the simulation and attended the Eufaula Dormitory, a school established by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in 1892, received \$100 account opening deposits for emergency savings accounts. Accounts were opened at First Family Federal Credit Union. Students took a field trip to the credit union



headquarters (awarded \$3,500).

### **ONAC Mini Grant Lessons Learned and Future Plans**

Through this round of mini grants, ONAC has reinforced earlier learning that there is need for flexible sources of funding for asset building projects among constituents in Oklahoma. Additionally, the coalition has learned of, and has been impressed by, the considerable reach of these initiatives in tribal communities. Thus, going forward, ONAC will strive to continue to offer such grants to our constituents.

ONAC thanks these constituents for their willingness to engage with the coalition and for all their work to design and implement these projects. The coalition looks forward to working with these constituents, and others, to offer additional asset building projects in the future.

For more information about ONAC mini grants, please contact Christy Finsel, Executive Director, at (405) 401-7873 or [cfinsel@oknativeassets.org](mailto:cfinsel@oknativeassets.org).