



**Concept Paper**  
**ANA Proposed New Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)**  
**For Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies**  
**(SEEDS)**

**Background/Introduction:**

- The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) supports economic and social development projects in Native American communities with discretionary grants to tribal governments, economic development agencies and other human service organizations.
- ANA grants are a significant source of Federal support to improve economic and social conditions in Native American communities. Funding is provided through ANA's Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) program.
- Data collected by ANA between 2006 and 2011 show that organizations with the most successful projects are typically those with long-term commitment to sustainable economic development programs through microenterprise, skill-development and local capacity-building projects. These projects often stress job creation, business development, and business expansion that lead to long-term economic and social well-being of Native Americans.
- The current economic downturn has increased the importance of job creation as a support for our most vulnerable communities.
- Improving access to employment opportunities will enable tribal members who are struggling under the current economic conditions to work and participate in social and economic activities to improve their lives and those of their families.

**Purpose and Scope:**

- Building on the experience of the past 6 years, ANA will seek through the SEEDS FOA to expand on proven economic development activities because they are consistent with ANA's overall goal of funding sustainable social and economic development strategies in Native American communities.
- ANA seeks to fund projects that will implement strategies for economic development that focus on sustainable employment and business opportunities in Native American communities.
- ANA will allow the use of funds for activities that lead to business start-up or business development, as consistent with the ANA's economic development strategies, provided

that the expenditures result in the creation of positions that can be filled with local residents.

- It is expected that grantees will use this set of ANA funds, along with other leveraged funds, to conduct activities that will lead to business development, skill development and infrastructures that support business development.
- Priority will be given to organizations focused on creating employment opportunities with the objective of promoting economic development within the community through business development.
- ANA expects to see a return on its investment in the number of jobs created and in the amount of revenue/income retained within the community.

#### **Statutory Authority:**

- The Native American Programs Act (NAPA) of 1974 as amended, authorized the Commissioner to provide financial assistance, on a single year or multiyear basis, to public and nonprofit private agencies, including but not limited to governing bodies of Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations, Alaska Native villages and regional corporations established by Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C 1601 et seq.), and such public and nonprofit private agencies serving Native Hawaiians, and Indian and Alaska Native villages, for projects that promote the goal of economic and social self-sufficiency for Native Americans.

#### **Proposed Funding Mechanism**

- ANA proposes to fund this initiative in partnership with other federal agencies through a competitive grant award.
- However, ANA is open to other methods such as “challenges and prizes” program.
- Challenges and Prizes funding mechanism is a federal funding policy that increases the ability of federal agencies to promote and harness innovation by challenging grantees to develop innovative or cutting-edge projects for funding.

#### **Potential Federal Partners Supporting this Special Initiative**

The following federal agencies have shown interest in working with ANA to fund or otherwise provide support for this initiative:

- Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
- Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Native American Programs
- Department of Interior, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development
- Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy
- Department of Treasury, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

**Funding:**

Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Estimated Total Funding:	\$5,000,000
Expected Number of Awards:	To be Determined (TBD)
Project Period:	5 Years
Award Ceiling:	\$500,000 Per Budget Period
Award Floor:	\$100,000 Per Budget Period

**Outcomes Expected**

The focus of this project is to provide economic opportunities for Native Americans. Also, it is to assist Native American communities ensure that the revenues that are generated through these projects are recycled in the local communities. Therefore, ANA is interested in:

- The number of full-time employment opportunities that will be created,
- The number of businesses created,
- The number of tribal members employed,
- The amount of revenues generated, and
- The percentage of revenue retained within the community.

ANA is currently requesting community input on this proposed special initiative. We held an initial input call on September 18, 2012. We will hold additional opportunity for input at additional venues, and we welcome feedback. If you would like to comment on this proposal please email [michelle.sauve@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:michelle.sauve@acf.hhs.gov). If you have questions, please contact the ANA Help Desk at 1-877-922-9262.