

Expand NMTC investment in Indian Country

Summary: The NMTC statute should be amended along the lines of a provision included in (H.R. 5376, which passed the House in 2021 and in S. 5048, the Native American Tax Parity and Relief Act of 2022 introduced in 2022) to ensure tribes and Native populations receive a proportional share of NMTC investments.

Proposal:

Add \$175 million in annual NMTC allocation to 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 NMTC allocation rounds targeted to Tribal Statistical areas and projects that serve or employ indigenous people.

Eligible Communities:

- Tribal Statistical Areas: Any low-income community which is located in any Tribal Census Tract, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area, Tribal-Designated Statistical Area, Alaska Native Village Statistical Area, or Hawaiian Homeland.
- Any project outside of a Tribal Statistical Area that services a significant population of Tribal or Alaska Native Village members who are residents of a low-income community and obtains a written statement from the relevant Indian Tribal Government in support of the project.

Justification:

About one in four Native Americans were living below the poverty line in 2021, compared to 11.6 percent of all Americans. Indian Country accounts for more than 5 percent of the population in poverty in America, but despite that, less than 3% of NMTC allocation has reached the communities and projects targeted by this proposal.

Congress enacted a set-aside in 2004 for non-metropolitan areas, and the CDFI Fund could implement this in a similar fashion.

Projected Impact:

Based on past NMTC activity, we project the impact of \$700 million in NMTC allocation as:

- 90 NMTC projects totaling \$1.4 billion in total project investment in Indian Country.
- 12,400 permanent full-time jobs and temporary construction jobs.
- Over 200,000 patients served in new or improved health centers, hospitals, and clinics.
- More than 22,000 young people served by new schools, early childhood education, and youth programing.

Project Example

The Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Native American Medical Clinic project is the new construction of a 78,100 SF facility in El Paso, TX. The project includes a 54,000 SF medical clinic, a 3,900 SF Community Room/Cultural Center/Commercial Kitchen, and 20,200 SF of (tribal) Department of Health Services administrative offices.