SOUTHWEST NATIVE ASSETS COALITION

The Coalition Letter

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Arizona & New Mexico

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The best is not behind us. It is ahead of us.

Greetings, friends, partners, and relatives.

Three years ago we set out to sit down with Native families in their own communities and help them build financial footing that lasts. Not a class. Not a pamphlet. A relationship. What follows is a thank you to everyone who made that possible, and a look at what's next.

To the Wells Fargo team and family, thank you for believing in the vision of the Southwest Native Assets Coalition by investing in something far greater than numbers. You invested in people, families, and the future of Tribal communities across Arizona and New Mexico.

Your support has helped families begin saving for the first time, establish confident banking relationships, strengthen their understanding of credit, prepare for homeownership, achieve greater housing stability, access relationship-based capital through SWNAC's lending framework, and build culturally grounded generational wealth. More importantly, your investment has allowed us to meet people where they are, in the comfort of their own communities — removing barriers to education and ensuring that culturally responsive financial empowerment is accessible to every family we serve.

At SWNAC, we believe our communities deserve more than programs. They deserve authentic investments and lasting relationships built on trust, respect, and shared lived experience. We intentionally deliver culturally responsive education through Native practitioners and local professionals who understand our communities because we are members of those communities.

Our work is grounded in Hózhó — living in balance, harmony, and beauty — and guided by traditional teachings rooted in K'é, the Diné principle of kinship, respect, responsibility, and our interconnectedness with one another. K'é reminds us that our greatest investment has always been in our relationships: with our families, our communities, and future generations.

Every workshop, every counseling session, every homeowner and homebuyer, every family that opens a savings account or takes a step toward financial independence represents far more than a statistic. It represents the restoration of K'é through economic empowerment, renewed confidence, and another family moving toward lasting stability, sovereignty, and permanent belonging.

The impact reflected in these numbers belongs to the communities who welcomed us into their chapter houses, community centers, schools, Tribal housing offices, colleges, and gathering places. To every participant who trusted us with your journey — ahéhee' (thank you). Your willingness to learn, grow, and invest in your future is what makes this work meaningful and lasting.

Together, we are proving that Native communities are not defined by statistics of distress. We are defined by resilience, innovation, culture, and possibility. We are not pilot projects, and we are not temporary solutions. Like our ancestors before us, we continue to build strong foundations that honor our traditions while creating opportunities for future generations.

SWNAC remains committed to being the bridge — connecting Native families to education, trusted resources, opportunity, housing stability, access to capital, and pathways to asset and wealth building while honoring who we are as Indigenous people.

> *"To every community that welcomed us, every partner who believed in and invested in us, and every family that entrusted us with their journey — ahéhee'. The best is not behind us, it is ahead of us!"*
>
> MY-TEGIA LEE · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AHÉHEE' TO OUR PARTNERS

Wells Fargo

For walking with us, believing in our vision, and investing in Native communities through Native leadership.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

For being a true way maker, and for recognizing that lasting systems change begins by investing in Native children, youth, and families.

Anchorum Health Foundation

For recognizing that healthy communities are built through both physical and financial well-being.

Tribal Housing & Community Partners

TDHEs, housing directors, Chapter officials, Pueblo leadership, Tribal departments, and educational partners across New Mexico and Arizona — for opening your doors.

THREE-YEAR IMPACT

What Three Years Looks Like

Numbers are not the point. But they are the receipt. Here is what 2023 through 2025 added up to across Arizona and New Mexico.

3,663
Individuals served across three years

141
Workshops and community sessions delivered

58
First-time homebuyers supported

1,162
Clients connected to State, Tribal, and local housing resources

100%
Of communities served were rural and Native

100%
Of programming delivered at no cost to families, sponsored by our funding partners

Every one of those numbers is a family who decided they were done being taken advantage of.



A financial empowerment session hosted in community, where the work belongs.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Come Sit With Us

Two full days of financial education at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, sponsored by Wells Fargo and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Open to the community. Seating is limited.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tue, Aug 25	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Navajo Nation Museum, Hwy 264, Window Rock, AZ 86515
Wed, Aug 26	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Navajo Nation Museum, Hwy 264, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Same content both days — choose the day that works for you.

WHAT WE COVER

Homeownership Readiness · Credit Building & Credit Repair · Budgeting With Intention · Pathways to Generational Wealth · Real Tools for Real Life

REGISTER

Scan the QR code on the flyer, or email mlee@swnativeassets.com or caitlin@swnativeassets.com

If you have a bulletin board, a client list, or a Facebook page, the flyer is attached. Pass it along.

THE ASK

Bring SWNAC to Your Community

We hold workshops where we're invited. Chapter houses, Tribal housing offices, community centers, colleges, staff trainings. If your families are dealing with debt, credit trouble, or trying to figure out whether homeownership on Tribal land is even possible, we'll come sit down with them.

Sponsored by our funding partners. No cost to your community members or your organization.

WHAT IT TAKES

A room, a date, and someone to tell people it's happening. We handle the rest.

START THE CONVERSATION

mlee@swnativeassets.com
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NEW ON OUR TEAM

A New Face You'll Be Seeing



caitlin@swnativeassets.com

Caitlin Kee

HOMEBUYERS EDUCATION SPECIALIST / HOUSING NAVIGATOR · GALLUP, NM

Yá'át'ééh. Caitlin Kee joined SWNAC in July as our Homebuyers Education Specialist and Housing Navigator. She's from Gallup, and she'll be working across the Navajo Nation and Arizona.

If you run a Housing Authority, a TDHE, a Chapter, a Tribal department, a school, or a lending or nonprofit organization, Caitlin is who to call. She coordinates financial literacy workshops, homebuyer education, credit counseling, and housing counseling in your community, and she'd rather come sit down with you and hear what your families need than guess at it.

"I look forward to meeting you and beginning this journey together."

CAITLIN KEE

RESOURCES

Worth Your Time This Fall

HUD's Office of Native American Programs and the National American Indian Housing Council run sponsored classroom trainings for Tribal housing staff. A few coming up in our region:

Sept 1	2026 HUD National Tribal Housing Summit — Arlington, VA
Oct 20	Indian Housing Law, SWONAP — in person
Nov 3	Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), SWONAP — in person
Dec 9	IHP/APR, SWONAP — in person

Full schedule and registration: naihc.net/training-schedule

If your staff attends one of these and wants to talk through how financial capability fits into your housing pipeline, reach out. That's a conversation we're always up for.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Where We've Been









Top left: the Native CDFI Capital Access Convening hosted by Oweesta, Maine. Top right: a financial wellness session in community. Bottom left: a full day of financial education with the Zuni community, April 2026. Bottom right: My-Tegia spoke on entrepreneurship through a culturally grounded lens at the Native Women Lead Growth Capital Summit, Albuquerque.

Let's Have a Conversation. That's It.

You don't have to figure this out alone. Whether you're a family, a Tribal department, a housing entity, or a financial institution, reach out and we'll meet you where you are. No pressure. No cost to you. No judgment.

GET IN TOUCH

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Serving Tribal communities across Arizona and New Mexico.

Equal Opportunity. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of the Treasury policy, SWNAC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.