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FIRST NATIONS OWEESTA CORPORATION

Financial and Social Impact

- Total Jobs Created: 865
- Total Jobs Retained: 1,316
- Total Affordable Housing United Created: 111
- Total Micro Businesses Created: 624
- Total Small Businesses Created: 236
- Total Acres of Land Acquired: 14,611

Contact

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First Nations Oweesta Corporation (Oweesta) is a national nonprofit organization that works with Indigenous peoples living in some of the most rural locations in the United States, including American Indian reservations, traditional Native lands, Hawaiian homelands, and Alaska Native villages. Oweesta's mission is to provide opportunities for Native people to develop assets and create wealth by assisting in the establishment of strong, permanent institutions and programs, contributing to economic independence, and strengthening sovereignty for all Native communities. It accomplishes this mission by following an integrated asset-building strategy. Oweesta has worked with hundreds of Native communities and organizations, including the 65 certified Native CDFIs and more than 60 emerging Native CDFIs spanning 34 states. Oweesta is the only existing Native CDFI intermediary offering financial products and development services exclusively to Native CDFIs and Native communities.

Success Story: Chi Ishobak, Inc., Dowagiac, MI

In 2012, Chi Ishobak began its offering financial products and development services identified through a strategic planning process. Chi Ishobak closed its first three loans, then started small-business development resources and approved the first IDA participant. In 2013, Chi Ishobak deployed 31 loans (five commercial; twenty-one auto; and five credit builder); matched more than \$5,050 in IDA funds for tribal members who are graduates from the Financial Wellness Program; provided more than 165 hours of technical assistance to 580 individuals; received Native CDFI certification from the CDFI Fund; and diversified its capitalization sources.

