The mission of the Four Bands Community Fund is to assist entrepreneurs of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation with training, business incubation, access to capital, encouraging economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for all communities of the Reservation. Thanks to Four Bands Community Fund, the Lakota people of the Cheyenne River Reservation are creating opportunity while combating poverty and hardship. Employing a multi-faceted business development strategy based on a traditional Lakota model called Icahya Woecun—"the place to grow"—the organization offers services in four areas: education, financing, incubation, and advocacy. Its products and services include small business loans, business development and financial management classes, one-on-one technical assistance, special youth services, and an Individual Development Account savings match program. Founded in 2000, Four Bands is the most successful business development organization on the Reservation, and has emerged as a leading Native Community Development Financial Institution.

Success Story: JTR Trips, Eagle Butte, SD

With a loan and business training from Four Bands Community Fund—and much encouragement and additional funding from their parents, Bernie and Verzella LaPlante—Jared, Tyson, and Rebecca LaPlante (age 26, 23, and 20, respectively) purchased and now manage JTR Trips, a sporting goods store on the Cheyenne River Reservation in downtown Eagle Butte. “We are reminding tribal members that they are in control. We are empowering them to realize that they can make anything they dream happen,” said Tanya Fiddler, the Executive Director of the Four Bands Community Fund.

Financial and Social Impact

- Loans made: 127, totaling $610,000
- Businesses created or retained: 70
- Jobs created or retained: More than 105
- Graduates of business development class: 155
- People receiving technical assistance and training: More than 900
- Amount committed in IDA savings matches: $76,000

Contact

PO Box 932
Eagle Butte, SD 57625
P: 605.964.3687
F: 605.964.3689
E: info@fourbands.org