



**NATIVE
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ACCESS**

PRESS RELEASE

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Tribal Housing Excellence Academy – Class of 2018 Begins

Portland, OR.—Native Capital Access (NCA) and Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) jointly partner to implement THE Academy—an innovative three-year initiative to work with tribal organizations in the West. With renewed funding from HUD, this week once again, the formal training portion of THE Academy began in earnest in Portland, Oregon.

Eight organizations were selected because they demonstrated clear determination to increase their skills, willingness to commit time and resources, and have a potential housing development project. Each participating organization has assembled a development team; and two development team members from each organization shall participate in five, week-long training sessions over the course of 30 months. In between, and after the formal training sessions the development teams shall continue to receive technical assistance from a coach as they move their projects forward.

Participants of THE Academy's second cohort include: Cheyenne River Housing Authority, Eagle Butte, South Dakota; Coeur D'Alene Tribal Housing Authority, Plummer, Idaho; Puyallup Nation Housing Authority, Tacoma, Washington; Craig Tribal Housing Association, Craig, Alaska; Native Village of Barrow, Barrow, Alaska; Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority, Ukiah, California; Hualapai Housing Department, Peach Springs, Arizona; Pueblo of Zia Housing Services, Zia Pueblo, New Mexico.

The goal is to increase the quality, quantity and types of housing on tribal lands. Tribes serve diverse communities, which include low-income families, teachers, health care workers and public safety officers. Moreover, tribes encounter unique challenges in building on trust land, such as a lack of capacity and experience among tribal housing developers and investors.

The new federal administration this year has created significant uncertainty about the fate of federal funds that tribes have historically relied on heavily for housing. It is exactly this scenario that THE Academy was designed to address and to encourage tribes to leverage existing resources with other historically underutilized funds including debt financing.

THE Academy employs faculty members and coaches who have extensive expertise in housing development on and off tribal lands and in best practices to leverage new funding and financing sources. Through peer-support, intensive capacity-building sessions, networking with top developers and financial institutions, legal guidance, and coaching from seasoned housing development experts, THE Academy moves housing developments from concept to construction.

Native Capital Access is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and established at the request of elected tribal leaders. NCA assists tribes to succeed in leveraging their public sector dollars. The financing and technical assistance NCA provides helps establish, augment and validate model activities for more efficient use of federal and other funds to benefit Indian housing, community and economic development. To learn more about NHC visit www.nativecap.org/ or find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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