



# National Native Homeownership Coalition

- October 2017 Updates -



## What are our NNHC members saying?

**NNHC Mid-Year Call:** On August 23rd, the NNHC hosted a check-in call for all Coalition members to discuss our work thus far. Highlights of the call include:

- NNHC Convening in Summer 2018
- Upcoming webinars on findings from mortgage lending data and research

**Mid-Year Survey:** feedback on NNHC’s engagement and partnerships (see inset). Highlights include:

- We are going in the right direction
- Members would benefit from increased interactions between our working groups
- Partners are important, and we should share more about our participating organizations
- The NNHC Newsletters are a good way of keeping connected and engaged.

Thank you all for your feedback on how to amplify our mission to increase homeownership on trust lands. We appreciate your hard work and we will keep communicating how it is making a difference!

Please see the [NNHC webpage](#) for the current **S.M.A.R.T. goals** for each of our Working Groups.

[Visit the NNHC Website](#)

## Results from the NNHC’s first Mid-Year Check-In

**Do you get the information you need about the Coalition?**



■ Yes ■ Sometimes

**Do we have the right partners?**



■ Yes ■ Maybe  
■ No ■ No response

**Do you feel engaged as an NNHC Member?**



■ Yes ■ Sometimes  
■ No response



## South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition – Planning for the Next 5 years

State-based homeownership coalitions provide vital services to tribes seeking to expand housing opportunities in their communities. When the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition (SDNHC) was established in 2013, Elsie Meeks, then USDA South Dakota State Director for Rural Development, described the initial meeting as a **“historic first step toward collectively working toward increased homeownership opportunities in Indian country.”** Four years later, the SDNHC is reflecting on its early work and mapping the future of American Indian homeownership on tribal lands in South Dakota.

Meeting in Pierre, SD on September 11th in advance of the 2017 South Dakota Housing Development Authority’s Annual Housing Conference, the SDNHC team reviewed several major milestones it has accomplished and identified new benchmarks to strive for in 2018. In a recent survey of the Coalition membership, 92% of respondents found the Coalition to

be extremely valuable, 82% saw an increase in their organizational capacity, and 85% reported benefiting from the peer-to-peer sharing. Indeed, the results of these efforts are tangible. **“For far too long, we have allowed (others) to come into our communities and tell us what they think will work for us... Now we ask our community what will work for them and what they want,”** SDNHC member.

The results of these efforts are tangible - increasing numbers of Native Americans are buying homes and becoming ready for their first purchase, and the housing system is responding better to meet the needs of Native families and their communities. Clearly, the Coalition is seen as the platform to collaboratively address the challenges and opportunities of homeownership on tribal trust and allotted lands. We look forward to many more accomplishments from the SDNHC and increased homeownership opportunities throughout South Dakota’s Indian country.

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### Member Spotlight—Krystal Langholz

Co-Chair, NNHC Homebuyer Readiness  
Working Group Member, Capital & Secondary Markets

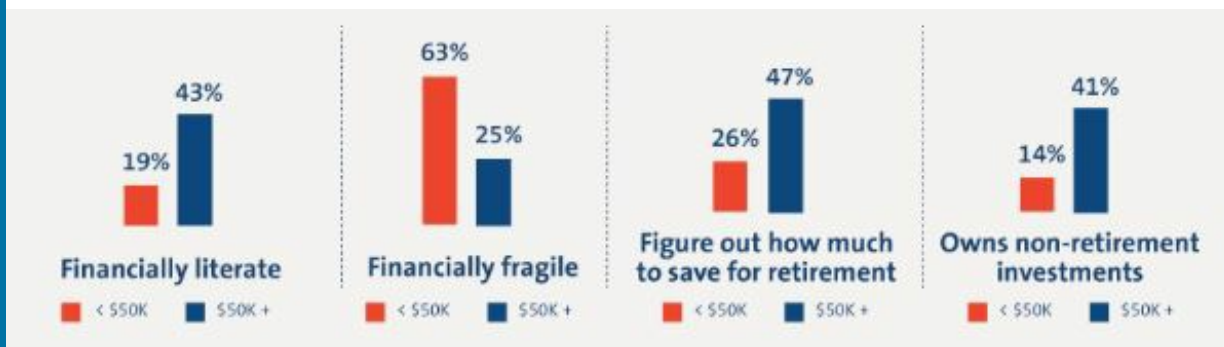
Krystal Langholz is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the [First Nations Oweesta Corporation](#), the first and only national intermediary lender to Native CDFIs (Community Development Financial Institutions). Oweesta provides support to other Native CDFIs by lending capital, education and building organizational

capacity. Oweesta's mission fits closely with NNHC's Working Groups on Homebuyer Readiness and Capital and Secondary Markets. Their nationally acclaimed [Building Native Communities](#) curriculum is now in its 5th edition and can count for over 260 certified trainers across Indian Country in culturally-focused financial education, a significant part of the work to ready borrowers for a mortgage. Oweesta also has been putting together a \$10 million pool for Native CDFIs to increase their access to capital, which is of interest as we explore the standing of capital access as a barrier to lending on trust lands.



Krystal's involvement with Oweesta and NNHC stems from her history working in Native communities, which began with an internship with [Lakota Funds](#) on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and then as Executive Director of [Hunkpati Investments](#). She's drawn to this work because, **"I have always had a strong call for social justice and a strong call to work with disadvantaged communities."** Early on, Krystal was driven a call for social justice and volunteered for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Northeast Iowa Community Action, and the Campfire Boys & Girls Club.

The National Native Homeownership Coalition has a deep appreciation for Krystal's expertise and especially for the heart she brings to helping Native homeowners realize their dreams.



## New Report on Financial Capability in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

*First Nations Development Institute and FINRA Foundation Publish In-Depth Analysis of Financial Capability of Native Americans*

By: Sarah Dewees, First Nations Development Institute (FDNI)

Financial empowerment is an important step towards personal empowerment and self-determination. Financial knowledge and financial capability are important building blocks for homeownership. The Homebuyer Readiness Working Group National Native recently held a webinar describing a new report on the topic of Native financial capability.

The report, titled [Race and Financial Capability in America: Understanding the Native American Experience](#), shows

The report suggests that Native Americans face many challenges related to savings and managing financial products. In addition, the report documents that many American Indians and Alaska Natives are experiencing challenges related to poverty and low incomes.

**"The findings in this report have several implications for homeownership programs,"** shared co-author Sarah Dewees. "First, it is clear there is still a **need for financial education** in many

that Native Americans—even more so than other populations—face difficult financial circumstances and experience high levels of financial fragility. First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation ([FINRA Foundation](#)) published the report, which provides new information about the financial knowledge, behavior, and opportunities of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

communities. This can be an ongoing effort. In addition, there is a need for affordable financial services such as checking and savings accounts. But poverty and low incomes remain a challenge.

**Homeownership programs can provide financial education and also help individuals find a down payment for home purchase. This combination, along with ongoing support, is a winning formula for supporting homeownership.”**

### **Special Announcement from the Homebuyer Readiness**

**Working Group:** On the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm ET, we invite speakers to present on a range of topics related to Native homeownership. We would like to invite all NNHC members to participate in these calls at the top of the hour (lasting thirty minutes). For example, we have had experts discussing how to become HUD-certified housing counselors, findings on Native American financial capabilities, and CRA investment opportunities from the FDIC.

**To join**, simply dial 1-855-377-2663 with Participant Code 83798300. We look forward to your participation!

Center for Indian Country Development | Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
[nikki.pieratos@mpls.frb.org](mailto:nikki.pieratos@mpls.frb.org) | [NNHC Homepage](#)

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