



OWECASO OTIPI FINANCIAL

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Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial to Use \$75,000 Grant from Catholic Campaign for Human Development to Expand Operations

Pine Ridge, SD – September 20, 2012 – Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial (Mazaska), the only Native housing community development financial institution (CDFI) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, was recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to expand its current suite of products and services to include in-house financial literacy and home buyer education training.

Currently, Mazaska works with various community partners to deliver pre-lending training to its clients. This expansion of services will also include a focus on foreclosure prevention to ensure greater success for Mazaska’s new homeowner clients. “This is a significant milestone in our organization’s development, and we are pleased to continue our work in helping to address the housing crisis on the Pine Ridge Reservation,” states Colleen Steele, Executive Director of Mazaska.

This award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development’s Economic Development Grant Program will also support the hiring of two new staff members, a Loan Officer and a Homebuyer Coach, within Mazaska. “The expansion of our staff is a critical step in strengthening our organization and expanding the reach we have in the communities we serve. In the end, it is all about the families we serve,” says Steele.

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About Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial

Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial is the only Native community development financial institution (CDFI) focused on providing home ownership opportunities on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. Mazaska offers a variety of home loan products paired with services, including credit coaching, financial education, and homebuyer education, that enable low-income individuals and families residing in the communities of and adjacent to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to improve their living conditions. Since its inception in 2004, Mazaska has disbursed over 20 loans totaling \$1.2 million.

