Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial (Mazaska), the only housing loan fund on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, recently celebrated reaching the $1 million mark in making housing loans to tribal members. “We are excited about making $1 million in loans, but this is only the beginning,” stated Colleen Steele, Mazaska’s executive director. “We will continue to raise capital to make loans to qualified borrowers. As we know, housing conditions on Pine Ridge are critical, with many families living in overcrowded conditions and thousands of families in need of a new home. Our loans enable families to purchase a new home, or make certain repairs to their existing homes.”

Mazaska is a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), certified by the US Treasury Department. Mazaska grew out of a partnership with Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Partnership for Housing who incubated and supported the organization’s start up. To date, Mazaska has made 21 loans totaling $1,176,285.00 to 21 families who successfully qualified for their loan products.

Mazaska serves members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe living on, or in communities adjacent to, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Mazaska’s clients complete a six-week homebuyer education class in order become fully prepared as a homeowner and to qualify for one of Mazaska’s five loan products. Mazaska’s loans enable families to purchase a home or land, rehabilitate a home, or to build a new home.