

Tribal Community Vision Partnership

Frequently Asked Questions



What the Tribal Community Vision Partnership Is & Why It Matters

What is the Tribal Community Vision Partnership?

The Tribal Community Vision Partnership (Vision Partnership) is a national public-private partnership to drive a large-scale infusion of capital into Indian Country to promote self-determination and sustainable economic development. Working with Tribal Nations, the Vision Partnership will leverage philanthropic investments utilizing existing federal programs to build new community buildings, schools, healthcare facilities, and other economic development projects in Tribal communities.

What systemic issue will the Vision Partnership address?

Tribal Nations often face systemic barriers in accessing capital. Seeking the necessary investments to build community and economic development opportunities in Indian Country requires bringing together and building a shared understanding among partners and sectors on the political, historical, and legal landscapes. These nuisances make it more difficult to obtain private capital investments and often leave Tribes out or seen as riskier investments, limiting Tribal community growth and opportunity.

How will the Vision Partnership address these issues differently from other approaches?

The Vision Partnership is the first-of-its-kind initiative to centralize the capacity, collateral, capital, and partnerships together to address these issues. Utilizing the decades of experience in Tribally led economic development and relationships with philanthropy, the Vision Partnership will de-risk investments for private capital with philanthropic investments that can be replenished using existing federal programs available to Tribal Nations. This Tribal-led and focused development banking partnership has never been done before for Indian Country. It will create a model of investing in Tribal development and seeding on-the-ground capacity for each project it undertakes.

How is the Vision Partnership complementary to – rather than duplicative of – CDFIs and other Tribal financing efforts?

The Vision Partnership will work in coordination with existing Tribal financing efforts to provide a new avenue for funding larger-scale community development projects, broadening the field and the availability of capital in Indian Country. Our goal is to ensure the longevity and success of community development in Indian Country and to build on-the-ground capacity in Tribal communities by providing complementary services that address long-standing capital needs that are not currently addressed.

What does the unique relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government bring to the Vision Partnership?

Tribal governments are the first sovereigns of this land and maintain a well-established political relationship with the United States as distinct governments. Through treaty-making negotiations and other agreements, Tribes relinquished lands for legal promises. This unique political standing is embedded in the U.S. Constitution, acknowledging Tribal governments alongside state and foreign governments. The United States carries out its responsibilities under these agreements as part of a trust relationship where the federal government provides programs and support for Tribal Nations to honor the treaty rights and the trust responsibilities. Several federal agencies have recently affirmed their commitment to the unique government-to-government relationship and Tribal self-determination programs.

This political relationship and existing federal programs/funding related to it provide a strong foundation and legal framework for delivering additional surety for the initial capital investments provided by philanthropic and private market partners.

What is Tribal self-determination?

Tribal self-determination is the federal government's acknowledgment that Tribal Nations are best positioned to govern their affairs and federal programs that directly impact their citizens. Congress affirmed this when it passed the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (ISDEAA), which established the right of Tribes to provide these services and to ensure that policies are Tribally driven and federally supported. For programs at the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) and the Indian Health Service at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), self-determination services can include, but are not limited to, operation of Tribal K-12 schools, health care facilities, and law enforcement offices. Tribes that elect to provide direct services contract with the federal government, receive funding, and can develop and implement their own programs and services.

What role does Tribal self-determination play in the Vision Partnership?

Supporting and enhancing Tribal self-determination is at the very core of our work. The Vision Partnership will provide the capacity and collateral to help Tribes build projects under the section of 105(l) of ISDEAA, which allows Tribes to both lease existing and new Tribal facilities to provide services. Once built, the federal government pays maintenance costs, principal, and interest on loans. This unique program puts Tribes in control over the project development, ensuring it fits the needs of their communities, and allows the Vision Partnership's funding to be recaptured and recycled for new projects.

What the Vision Partnership Funds & How Projects Work

What types of projects will the Vision Partnership support, and what does the early project pipeline look like?

The Vision Partnership will help support community development projects that are eligible under the Section 105(l) program under the ISDEAA. These projects include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, schools, community centers, and other facilities related to Tribal self-determination and self-governance. Utilizing our network of established partnerships, we have identified a few potential 105(l) projects that will pave the way for the next round of projects.

How does the 105(l)-lease reimbursement process work, and which federal agencies are involved?

Section 105(l) leases are currently available through the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services. Typically, the process begins when a Tribal government submits a letter of intent to the federal government for a new facility explaining which programs, functions, services, or activities under the ISDEAA it will be used for as well as the necessary square footage for them, and the estimated cost. The Department reviews and verifies the information to confirm it meets the Section 105(l) requirements, and works with the Tribe on a draft lease, terms, and compensation.

What aspects of the Vision Partnership model help reduce risk for participating funders?

In addition to the unique political relationships between Tribes and the federal government and its legal responsibilities, Tribal self-determination programs and funding are embedded in statutes and existing annual appropriations. Further, ISDEAA has more than 50 years of successes spanning across programs, agencies, congresses, and administrations. This creates a more secure and unique investment opportunity than any other market that de-risks investments by rooting them in the strong foundation of Tribal self-determination and self-governance.





How the Vision Partnership is Structured, Governed & Funded

Who are the key partners, and what roles do they play?

Led by Native Americans in Philanthropy, the Vision Partnership includes other key partners from Tribal governments, Tribal philanthropy, national and regional philanthropic organizations, and private capital, serving as advisors to our work. Our strategic partner, SeaChange, will help manage the Community Development Fund, guide investments, and help ensure all necessary compliance. Further, partners like Owessta and Mission-Driven Finance will serve as key technical advisors.

When will the Vision Partnership be ready to accept philanthropic grants and PRI investments?

The Vision Partnership is ready and can accept philanthropic grants and PRI investments right now. Early funding support is essential to building the internal and Tribal capacity necessary to launch the first set of community development projects in 2026.

How much early capital is needed to launch initial projects and the capacity fund?

We are seeking an initial \$12 million for our Aggregate Capacity Fund to provide specialized support to Tribes to navigate federal programs, negotiate with capital markets, and manage complex projects while creating replicable models for future projects. Additionally, the Vision Partnership seeks to raise over \$100 million for the Community Development Fund to finance essential healthcare facilities, schools, and community centers for Tribal governments, with repayment by the federal government through 105(l) and recycling the funding for future projects.

How will investment decisions be made?

Working in collaboration with our investment partners at SeaChange, the Vision Partnership will leverage research, risk analyses, and or expertise and experience working in Indian Country as well as the advice of our Advisory Committee to make sound decisions about projects and investments.

What is the Advisory Committee, and what opportunities does it offer for participating funders?

At the outset of our work, the Vision Partnership will establish and seat an Advisor Committee to provide guidance and insights to enhance our work and ensure a strong connection to our stakeholder communities. The Advisory Committee will include Tribal leaders, regional and national philanthropy representatives, commercial banking and private capital professionals, and other stakeholder representatives and funders.