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## The Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois to Support the State of Illinois in Accelerating Economic Recovery for Native American Owned Small Businesses

*NACC-IL to Conduct Outreach and Provide 1-on-1 Technical Assistance to Ensure Native Owned Businesses Statewide Have Access to Economic Recovery Funds*

**Chicago, IL., August 13, 2021** – Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has selected the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois (NACC-IL) to support the Small Business Community Navigator and Back to Business (B2B) Programs to assist Native American-owned small business across the state in accessing over \$250 million in economic recovery funds. These programs will provide much-needed grant funding for small businesses to rebuild and recover after experiencing significant losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has affected our state's Native American community particularly hard," said Andrew Johnson, Executive Director of NACC-IL. "We are fortunate to have an incredibly experienced team assembled to support the Back to Business program to help American Indian businesses and organizations apply and rebuild."

Using a hub-and-spoke model to reach small businesses most in need, NACC-IL will serve as a spoke in the Community Navigators network collaborating with over 100 regional partners and community-based organizations to engage underserved small businesses, including Native American, rural, veteran, and women-owned businesses. In this capacity, NACC-IL will partner with three Native and Women-owned businesses, Visionary Ventures NFP Corporation, Wolf River Consulting, and Native American Financial Literacy Services, to offer specialized, culturally appropriate outreach and engagement to Native communities throughout Illinois. Together, this team of financial and communication experts will offer Native small businesses owners grant application assistance, document review, webinars, and virtual and onsite training and technical assistance.

The B2B Grant Program will prioritize hard-hit industries and communities, providing grants from \$5,000-\$150,000 to help businesses most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic recover operational losses. The B2B grant will fund companies that have not yet qualified for State or Federal assistance. Native-owned businesses applying for the B2B grant must demonstrate a reduction in revenue in 2020 compared with 2019.

Eligible Native-owned businesses will need to provide 2019 and 2020 Federal tax returns, two business bank statements-one from (March through December 2020) and the most recent, and a business owner ID. Business owners can apply and track their application status in real-time on the B2B application portal at [www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo). Applications will be accepted starting **Wednesday, August 18, 2021**.

NACC-IL invites Native business owners to join an introductory webinar [here](#) at **11:00 am CST on August 19, 2021**, to learn more about the B2B Grant Program and the application process. For more information on how to apply and access Native-owned small business assistance, visit: <https://www.nacc-il.org/>

### **About the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois**

The [Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois](#) is an organization in which American Indian Businesses, Tribal Leaders, Academic Leaders, Government Officials, and other individuals can come together with innovative ideas that will promote and enhance the success of all American Indian people. The Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois aims to assist American Indian businesses to expand and grow. The Chamber actively supports and nurtures well-planned, long-term business opportunities for members by providing organized access to public sector agencies and private industry.



### **About Native American Financial Literacy Services**

[Native American Financial Literacy Services](#) (NAFLS) was founded to provide financial literacy programs and resources to specifically support Native American Tribes and organizations and the tribal members they serve. We teach financial literacy workshops either onsite or via live webinars. We are 100% Native and woman-owned, and all of our Instructors are Native licensed financial professionals.



### **About Visionary Ventures NFP Corporation**

[Visionary Ventures NFP Corporation's](#) mission is to work with community members to bring affordable housing, economic development via infrastructure, jobs-oriented projects, and commercial and community goods and service projects, principally to disadvantaged Native Americans, in addition to under-served and low-income communities nationwide. In providing access to development and educational services, we strive to bring stability and hope to individuals, families, and communities.



### **About Wolf River Consulting**

[Wolf River Consulting Group LLC](#) is a certified Native American and women-owned small business located in Glencoe, IL, and Washington, D.C. We provide culturally relevant communication and marketing strategies, strategic planning, program management, training, and technical assistance. Wolf River Consulting's leadership team brings decades of combined experience developing and implementing national campaigns and initiatives for Indian Country's leading agencies and organizations. Our team offers a unique understanding of the agencies, nonprofits, and institutions that serve Native communities and are committed to helping clients engage diverse audiences and underserved communities with impactful solutions that raise awareness, move people to act, and inspire positive change.



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