



# Cooperative Development in Indian Country

Presented by  
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# Overview of First Nations Development Institute

- Established in 1980
- Early work
- Partnerships
- Grant making
- Where we are today



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# First Nations' Mission

*To assist Indigenous Peoples to control their assets, and through that control, build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures.*



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## Assets in Indian Communities

- The building blocks of wealth.
- Generate income, jobs and other benefits.
- Difference between rich and poor.
- Who controls the assets?

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## Cooperatives as Institutional Assets

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial</li> <li>• Physical</li> <li>• Natural</li> <li>• Institutional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human</li> <li>• Cultural</li> <li>• Social</li> <li>• Political</li> </ul>
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## Strategies for Development

- **Control** - Increase participation and decision-making in the political process
- **Utilize** - Build management capacity to make better use of the asset, or use the asset more effectively
- **Leverage** - Use the asset to acquire additional assets
- **Retain** - Develop regulatory or legal infrastructure or systems of controls to better protect or keep the asset
- **Create** - Create or originate a new asset
- **Increase** - Achieve a higher return, or add value to the asset

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## Education, Training and Leadership

- Maximize energy and resources allocated to delivery technical assistance and capacity building.
  - ✓ Organizational Assessment
  - ✓ Management Review Committee
  - ✓ Native Assets Research Center
  - ✓ Fundraising/Resource Generation

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## Challenges – What’s Lacking

- Awareness
- Information
- Funding
- Technical resources
- Native control of Native assets

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## Cooperatives in Indian Country

- Flathead Native Agricultural Cooperative, Ronan, MT
- Aloha ‘Aina Health Center, Kane’ohe, HI
- Wai’anae CDC, Wai’anae, HI
- Blackfeet Original Allotment Heirs, Browning, MT
- Tohono O’odham Community Action, Sells, AZ

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## Contact

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