



Interim Data Report on Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) Emergency Savings Account Initiatives: 2015 – 2023 Authored by Karen Edwards and Christy Finsel June 30, 2023

Introduction

According to data from a 2017 report by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and First Nations Development Institute, 30% of American Indians surveyed had set aside emergency or rainy day funds that would cover their expenses for three months, in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies. This was the lowest emergency savings rate across all major populations.¹

Family Emergency Savings Accounts (ESAs) help Native families, with lower incomes, to open flexible savings accounts to buffer them in times of emergency, income fluctuation, or irregular expenses. These accounts also promote financial inclusion by providing a mechanism for Native families to connect to mainstream financial services that are safe and affordable. ESAs, for any family, can be a step along the way towards family financial stability and economic mobility.

Through the ONAC ESA program, ONAC fully administers its own ESA program (providing Native-specific financial education, working with Native partners on outreach for the accounts, directly providing the account owners with an opening deposit for their ESA, collecting data, and completing program evaluations). After ONAC provides the initial opening account deposit, the families can grow the accounts over time with their own deposits. Beyond administering its own ESA program, ONAC also works as an intermediary funder to build the capacity of tribes and other Native-led nonprofits to administer their own ESA program by awarding them grants and providing technical assistance to them as they design and implement their own ESA programs.

ONAC, as a Native-led nonprofit, provides various opportunities for Native families to build assets. As part of ONAC's efforts to provide integrated asset building strategies, ONAC has linked its emergency savings account program to the ONAC Children's Savings Account program, Native Bank On ONAC initiative, and the ONAC financial coaching program. When possible, ONAC works with families to open both Children's Savings Accounts for their children and an ESA for the adult(s) in the household. For those families that have no bank account and are interested in receiving an opening account deposit through the ONAC ESA program, ONAC shares information with them about various financial institutions in their geographic area that offer Bank On certified accounts. ONAC promotes Bank On accounts as they have transparent and low fees and provide a safe way for families to save for a rainy day. As of May 2020, ONAC is also providing free one-on-one financial coaching via phone or teleconference to any interested families participating in ONAC's programs, including those who completed the ONAC ESA program.

¹ Dewees, Sarah, and Gary Mottola, 2017. "Race and Financial Capability: Understanding the Native American Experience." FINRA Investor Education Foundation Insights Brief. https://www.finrafoundation.org/sites/finrafoundation/files/Native-American-Experience-Fin-Cap_2_0_0_0_0_0_0_0_0.pdf



The Establishment and Implementation of ONAC ESA Initiatives

In 2015, ONAC established the ONAC ESA program with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Since that time, the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), Verizon, and the Wells Fargo Foundation have also provided funding for the program. The ESA program established through these grants and donations coincide over multiple grants and years. In total, from May 2015 to December 2023, ONAC has secured funding for 1184 ESAs and funded 940 ESAs. ONAC will fund the remaining 244 accounts in 2023.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Funded ONAC's First ESA Project (2015 – 2019)

ONAC began its first ESA pilot initiative mid-2015, as part of a project funded by a \$200,000 grant, over an initial three-year period, from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, seeking to promote and provide opening deposits for 270 Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs) for Native children and to award six grants to tribes and Native-led nonprofit partners to administer their own ESA programs. An additional \$75,000 of funding was awarded at the end of the original grant period, extending the grant for a fourth year (2018-19) and providing funding to award six more mini-grants for ESAs.

To accomplish the ESA goal, ONAC implemented an online "mini-grant" application process during the first year of the grant. In years one and four of the grant, ONAC funded a total of twelve ESA programs implemented by tribes and organizations. The mini-grants were awarded on both a competitive and an invitation-only basis. In the original grant proposal, no target number of ESAs was specified to be established, but \$38,000 was allocated by ONAC for ESAs over the four-year grant period. The total number of ESAs established by the mini-grant awardees over the four-year grant period was 225. The total amount of funds granted to the twelve grantees over the same four years was \$38,000, of which \$28,500 was used directly for deposits and \$9,500 of the grant awards were used by the twelve grantees for related ESA program expenses (financial education, supplies, meeting costs, staff, etc.). The range of opening deposit amounts for ESA savers, among the twelve grantees, was \$50 to \$600 – depending on each partner's specific program design. The emergency savings accounts established were linked to CSAs and other tribal asset-building programs that ONAC and ONAC's Native partners administered; other programs included financial education, workforce development, homeownership preparation, foreclosure prevention, credit builder/credit repair, and free tax preparation assistance. *See the table below for additional details.*



Mini-grantee	Grant Amount	Targeted account-holders	Number of ESAs opened	Amount of initial deposit in each ESA	Total amount deposited in all ESAs
1) The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation	\$3,500	Homeowners and homeowner candidates	15	\$200	\$3,000
2) The Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV)	\$4,000 (\$3,500 in W.K. Kellogg Funds and \$500 in non-Kellogg Funds)	Domestic violence survivors	21	\$100	\$2,100
3) The Mvskoke Loan Fund	\$3,500	Youth living at the Eufaula boarding schools	20	\$100	\$2,000
4) The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation	\$3,500	Homeowners and homeowner candidates	10	\$200	\$2,000
5 & 6) Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority	\$2,000	Homeowners and homeowner candidates	10	\$200	\$2,000
	\$2,000		10	\$200	\$2,000
7) Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma and Modoc Housing Authority	\$1,500	Financial Services Program participants	15	\$100	\$1,500
8 & 9) The Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	\$3,500	Homeowners and owner candidates; financial education for tenants/renters	25	\$100	\$2,500
	\$1,000				
10) Cherokee Nation Commerce Services	\$7,000	Members of the tribal workforce development program	70	\$100	\$7,000
11) American Indian Resource Center (AIRC, Inc.)	\$3,500	Students	3	\$600	\$1,800
			4	\$375	\$1,500
12) Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	\$3,500	Tribal citizens	22	\$50	\$1,100
Grand Total:	\$38,000 in W.K. Kellogg Funds and \$500 in non-W.K. Kellogg Funds		225		\$28,500



While it was the W.K. Kellogg Foundation that initially suggested that ONAC request funding from them for ESAs, the idea has been enthusiastically embraced by ONAC and its Native partners. Subsequent demand for the accounts has exceeded available funding. The use of the term “emergency savings accounts” by ONAC is intentional. It establishes the dedicated purpose for ESAs: to accumulate funds to pay for emergency expenses – particularly larger unexpected expenditures that require immediate cash outlays.

When possible, ONAC has promoted a two-and three-generation approach for CSA account owner savers (parents, grandparents, and other guardians) to encourage them to also look at ESA savings as an important family financial safety net that will provide them with greater economic security. The culturally friendly financial education that ONAC and Native partners provide with the establishment of CSAs, ESAs, and other savings programs, is intended to assist Native peoples in considering and making sound financial decisions about how to best support and utilize their financial resources and assets. ONAC and partner tribes agree that it is important to encourage Native savers to stay the savings course over time, and to take pride in watching funds in their various accounts grow to amounts that will benefit their families and communities.

No target number of ESAs was originally designated to be established through the W.K. Kellogg grant, as it was specified in the funding application that the mini-grant awardees were to determine the number of ESAs they would open with their tribal population and at which amount they would fund each account. In total, as of the conclusion of the four-year W.K. Kellogg grant, ONAC mini-grant awardees provided funding for 225 accounts with \$28,500 in grant funds deposited into those accounts. ESA program participants, themselves, have added deposits, and stated that they gained feelings of security and financial strength from the experience (see feedback below).

ONAC received the following qualitative data from the twelve ONAC Native ESA mini-grantees, funded by the W.K. Kellogg grant, reflecting their experiences of working with ONAC to implement and track ESA projects, and their participant account holders’ feedback, over a four-year period:

The Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority (Two ONAC ESA projects)

- Emergency savings accounts promoted financial preparedness for emergency situations for participants of our Home Ownership/Lease to Own programs.
- ESAs increased the self-sufficiency of our housing clients and families.
- ESAs provide an effective incentive for the housing clients and their families to invest in their future – helping them to gain a greater future orientation.
- A majority of the tenants who received ESA deposit assistance expressed their desire to continue to build up their savings accounts for such things as home repairs, appliance replacement, and emergency situations, which will also assist the community to provide safer and more sanitary living conditions through a greater sense of self-sufficiency.
- ESA holders report that saving for emergencies has taught them well that true self-sufficiency is important to their well-being, and that the Housing Authority should continue to give tenants and



future tenants these kinds of savings opportunities; opportunities that will assist them to learn and grow in positive ways, and will be passed on to future generations.

- Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority has a requirement that families must be at or below 80 percent of the median income for the State of Oklahoma to receive assistance. However, during their tenancy the families may increase their income to above the 80 percent stated limit. In 2019, data from the final ten families that the Housing Authority served, through the mini-grant ESA program, showed that four of the families were at the 80 percent median income level and six were above the 80 percent median income level.
- Housing Authority staff stated that the mini-grant application, implementation, and reporting processes all went smoothly, and they have no recommendations for improvement.
- We are truly appreciative of being a recipient of two ONAC ESA mini-grants for ESAs and are grateful for the opportunity to help our clients create, or work towards creating, a more self-sufficient environment for their families.
- We hope we may offer this program again in the future.

The Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation (Two ONAC ESA Projects)

- We managed a grant to support ESAs that was first awarded to the Seminole Nation Workforce Development program in 2016, and then was transferred to our housing authority to manage. Additionally, we were awarded a grant in 2018 by ONAC to fund additional ESAs for our tenants.
- Early on in ESA program implementation we thought we had set our expectations too high related to the number of account openings we wanted to offer; it was harder than expected for us to recruit 25 families for the ESA program. However, presenting the opportunity during the Children's Savings Account opening event helped us recruit over half of our participants, and we eventually successfully opened our allotted number of accounts.
- Indicators we collected show us that the accounts will help families to have assets available to them in case of an emergency, foreclosure, or even a natural disaster.
- We work with a tribal population that needs subsidized housing. Our families do not often have funds that they are willing to contribute to a savings account. We hope that the financial education provided by First United Bank at recruiting events, the one-on-one counseling, and account opening events, help make and keep our clients motivated.
- Some of our clients do not have bank accounts or have had no dealings with banks. Others have had family members with bad experiences of financial institutions and so do not, themselves, want to interact with financial institutions. Others have had bad personal experiences with banks due to having overdrawn their checking accounts and accrued high charges. These types of circumstances created fear in our clients of going to a bank and resolving account issues. We allayed many of our clients' fears by providing education for clients about resolving past issues with banks, as part of this project.
- Clients reported to us that their application, implementation, and reporting processes seemed to be clear and straightforward. It was neither burdensome nor too technical.



- Technical assistance and working with ONAC was great; we were able to quickly talk through issues, and therefore more easily figure out our next project steps. It worked well for us to reach out to ONAC by email or phone with questions or comments, and to have them respond quickly to our questions. We appreciated them sharing overall project learnings at the ONAC conference, where we heard the experiences of other projects.
- We were glad to be able to participate in the project.

The Mvskoke Loan Fund (a Native CDFI)

- We used part of our grant money to purchase a “Spending Frenzy” game kit offered by First Nations Development Institute and facilitated a spending frenzy financial education simulation for 35 Native students.
- Twenty of the middle school students who participated in the simulation were also attending the Eufaula Dormitory – a boarding school established by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation in 1892. Those students all received \$100 ESA account opening deposits.
- Accounts were opened at First Family Federal Credit Union. Students took a field trip to the credit union’s headquarters that they seem to find interesting.
- The Mvskoke Loan Fund will re-use the Spending Frenzy kit and materials for future interactive game-style financial literacy events with additional young people.
- The Spending Frenzy interactive event was highly rated by the participants, reinforcing our desire to continue to offer the simulation once a year.
- Parents reported that they appreciated the opportunity for their children to have the ESA accounts.
- ONAC’s application and reporting processes were clear and straightforward.
- To learn more about this mini-grant project and the impact of the accounts on the youth we serve please see a video, produced by Muskogee Media, at <https://youtu.be/D9sssV7REHQ>

The Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

- In 2017, we received a grant of \$3,500 to provide financial education and emergency savings accounts. In 2018, ONAC awarded a second grant to us to help us pay for related expenses for the program (such as food for the financial education classes and other incentives).
- We partnered with two financial institutions to educate our tenants on such skills as budgeting, learning about different types of loans, learning about the financial impacts of predatory loan interest rates, and about the importance of saving for a rainy day; then we offered each of them the opportunity to open an ESA.
- Our financial literacy classes ran for four to six weeks, for one hour each class, in the evening. As we offered more sessions, more participants attended (through word-of-mouth marketing).
- The lead contact for this grant, a ROSS grantee, had attended an ONAC financial education train-the-trainer in 2018, and used her newly-honed skills to teach financial education to program participants. Our goal is to move some of our tenants from renting low-cost units towards owning their own homes.



- 25 tenants completed their financial education course and opened ESAs. Three others completed a special homebuyer's class. In all, we worked with ONAC to open 25 ESAs and 44 CSAs.
- We wish to share two success stories: Number one is about a homeless 27-year-old single mom, who moved into our low-rent apartments in 2017. She was struggling to make ends meet and needed to learn how to make and maintain a budget. She attended all our budgeting classes, completed the manual help application, completed our home buyer education classes and in January 2019, about two years later, moved into her own home. She is currently working a full-time job, attending college, and helping her daughter develop a college plan by signing her up for the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. She attributes some of her success to the opportunities provided to her by our Housing Authority through the ONAC grants (including ESAs).
- Success story Number two: A single mom with four children attended our financial literacy classes, and then opened an ESA. She had purchased a home several years before, but due to personal and financial struggles was unable to keep or maintain her home. She moved into our Housing Authority low-rent program to get back on her feet, financially. Over the following three years she developed a budget, an emergency savings plan, opened an ESA, and completed the homebuyer's education courses offered by ONAC and PHA. She then was able to complete the homebuyer's education course we offered and move into her own home in January 2019.
- We learned that immediately building relationships with new tenants increased their attendance in financial education classes. By having these classes last for several weeks we were able to build a better rapport with tenants, and the tenants were more likely to ask questions and learn valuable financial skills. The more questions asked the more our tenants were able to learn about the importance of such things as good credit, saving for rainy days, 529 accounts for children, and the other opportunities offered through the Housing Authority.
- ONAC was awesome to work with on this grant. ONAC was always available to answer questions, provide support, share ideas, and come to our town to help with events. We believe that opening one or more of the savings accounts we offer has helped shift the focus of our families towards saving money.

The American Indian Resource Center, Inc. (AIRC, Inc.)

- We work with Cherokee language immersion graduates, who attended Tsunodeloquasdi Immersion School from ages 3 through the 8th grade, and those who have completed, or tested out of, Cherokee I and Cherokee II language levels at Sequoyah High School.
- Seven students completed the ESA program and had funds to assist them with defraying school costs such as ACT/SAT exams, college application fees, college dormitory deposits for housing, senior pictures, graduation announcements, honor sashes for graduation, yearbooks, etc. Of the seven students, five are from single-parent low-income families.
- All the students completed a financial education class.
- The application process was user-friendly, and the accounts created a mechanism for lower-income students to save funds that were needed for educational expenses.



The Cherokee Nation Commerce Services

- We funded ESA accounts for 70 American Indians who are participating in our workforce development programs.
- Ninety-three percent of these individuals had incomes of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, with 66 percent having incomes of less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
- At least 25 of the 70 participants (36 percent) responded to our questionnaire that they used the funds to cover emergency expenses. Twenty-eight percent of the 70 participants responded that they added more funds to the \$100 opening balance we provided to their emergency savings account; 36 percent responded that they did not add any money to their savings accounts; and the final 36 percent of participants did not respond to our attempts to contact them.
- Of those who added money to the account, amounts added ranged from \$20 to \$3,000.
- As to the money used from their savings accounts, 29 percent had not yet used any of the funds, 35 percent used money from the account, and 36 percent did not respond.
- Of the 35 percent who did use the money, the average amount used was \$165, with the total amounts used ranging from \$20 up to \$1,400. Stated uses included (in order of high to low stated uses): gas for cars; food; vehicle maintenance; phone bills; shoes and baby supplies; undisclosed emergencies; undisclosed bills; school related expenses, taking care of an overdrawn bank account; moving expenses; and personal items. Our data shows that at least 25 low-income Native Americans were able to cover some everyday expenses that otherwise might have gotten them into financial difficulties, specifically as a result of having an ESA.
- Seven percent of participants closed their savings accounts; 57 percent still had an open savings account; and 36 percent did not respond when we queried all of them two months later. The Cherokee Nation was not able to reach 36 percent of account holders due to non-working phone numbers and the failure of those participants to return our mail or email messages.
- Ninety-six percent of the 70 participants did not have an ESA at the time of program enrollment; 86 percent had never had an ESA; 41 percent did not have a checking account at the time of enrollment; 9 percent had never had a checking account.
- Feedback from enrollees was positive; all expressed their appreciation for the savings account; 28 percent put additional funds into the account; two respondents stated that having the account encouraged them to save money that they would likely not have saved otherwise.
- The application, implementation, and reporting processes were extremely easy. We definitely think that this project helped our participants get banked and save for emergencies.



The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

- We purchased Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University” training kits for participants. In July 2018, we generated posters, handouts, and tribal newspaper ads to provide information about the financial education classes created by the “University.”
- Twenty-two tribal members completed the classes and opened ESAs, with a \$50 opening deposit provided by the tribe (through the ONAC mini-grant).
- ESA funds used by savers were for car repairs; car tires purchase; water heater purchase; and siding repair on modular homes.
- The tribe is interested in asset building since we are located in Ottawa County, where the median household income from 2008 – 2012 was \$37,139; compared to the statewide average of \$66,088. Seventy percent of the students in Ottawa County are receiving free and reduced lunches.
- Our asset-building efforts included providing financial education to assist tribal citizens to get out of the habit of living paycheck to paycheck, and to shift their thinking towards a forward orientation. Many stated that they were beginning to think in terms of getting an education, having a savings account, owning a home, and/or owning a business.
- We are pleased with the number of families we reached with the program, with their embrace and use of the ESAs, and with the in-depth financial education we were able to provide to participants.

The Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV)

- The NAAV utilized the Moving Ahead Curriculum, a financial empowerment resource developed under a grant awarded to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, as a foundation for its financial empowerment training. The Moving Ahead Curriculum, intended as general advice for those in abusive relationships, offered the basis for the financial empowerment training which was modified to include modules specific to the considerations of Native domestic violence victims/survivors. In 2018, the NAAV, in partnership with the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition Inc., First Nations Development Institute, Choctaw Asset Building, Bank2, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Victim Services brought to Oklahoma the Building Native Communities, a Native-specific and culturally relevant financial education training-of trainers. From that training, NAAV staff recorded new financial empowerment training models for domestic violence victim survivors and, in concert with Oklahoma tribal domestic and sexual violence response programs, began offered the trainings first to survivors within shelters, and then those receiving non-shelter services.
- The financial empowerment training was made available via the NAAV website and marketed to domestic violence victims/survivors seeking services through tribal domestic violence shelter programs. Upon completion of the financial empowerment training and successful completion of a quiz recapping key points of the training, individuals were offered the opportunity to have a \$100 ESA account.
- The training utilized by the NAAV, as a result of this grant award, provided information on the types of financial abuse, the basic financial fundamentals, understanding credit, how to build



financial foundations, budgeting strategies, and a chance to have a savings account. We want victims to leave their perpetrators, but more importantly we want them to be able to sustain themselves financially, or at least learn what that might look like and understand the strategies to become stronger, economically.

- Our ONAC grant was made available to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Many of these individuals were either in a tribal domestic violence shelter or obtaining services from a domestic violence and sexual assault tribal program. The families who took advantage of this program were extremely grateful for the opportunity to start a savings account. One individual was preparing to be a new mother and needed the help starting a savings account so that she could use it while on maternity leave, as her job did not offer paid maternity leave. Some of the families were saving to move out of shelter and needed to save for deposits and moving expenses. A few of the families were preparing to furnish new places to live and needed to start saving for furniture, etc. A few of the individuals who participated were homeless as a result of the violence, and had just started new jobs, so they were going to use the money to help find a place to live. Another individual was saving to return back to school. All of the participants were in dire need and starting a savings account helped them get one step closer to obtaining their personal goals. Simply put, these savings accounts created hope and provided options to survivors. It was not uncommon for the survivor to shed tears upon receiving the funds and opening the savings account. That is how important the contributions were to them.
- The ONAC grant provides a positive way to help people learn to budget and give them an extra incentive to start saving. The hard part was offering the day long classes at a time working individuals could participate. Time is something many of the individuals we targeted had very little of with all the new changes to their personal relationships, with obtaining help from other services, and taking care of children, it was hard to get individuals to commit to coming to the class even with the benefit of a savings account contribution. Once we revisited the online training from a trauma lens and delivered the training in a way that was more “doable” in short modules over the course of several months, rather than a large time commitment in one setting, we were able to reach more people that were willing to take the course.
- We appreciate the work of the Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition and have no feedback concerning the grant application, implementation and/or reporting process. The grant process was simple, and the grant management was respectful.

Modoc Tribe and Modoc Housing Authority

- We funded 15 families with ESAs at \$100 per account. The families we served did not have previous generations of wealth and savings to rely on for money or information, so we were appreciative that the grant provided the initial ESA investment for them.
- The housing authority provided financial education to the families.
- After we did begin the program, we worked hard to get word of the program out into the community and respond to their questions.
- We are grateful to have had the opportunity to offer the ESA project to our citizens. We worked with the families who received deposits in ESAs, to assist them in making wise financial choices and using the funds in a thoughtful manner.



- We think that ONAC serves a wonderful purpose in keeping an eye on those who the rest of society often overlooks – such as the clients served by our tribal housing authority.

Key Lessons Learned by ONAC Regarding Implementation of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Grant Include the Following:

- Four housing authorities applied for funding. Given their efforts to help Native clients to save for homeownership and to address immediate home maintenance issues, they showed great interest in adding ESAs to their programming.
- All grantees reported that ESAs were helpful to their clients; especially related to gaining important knowledge about money matters in a real-time fashion, becoming more goal and future orientated, and gained awareness of the importance of having savings.

ONAC ESAs Funded by the Administration for Native Americans (2018 – 2021):

ONAC continues to support programs that promote family financial security for American Indian families. In 2018, the Helping Native Families in Oklahoma to Build Assets Project was launched. This three-year project deals with culturally-relevant and community-centric asset-building services and programs in one of the most densely populated areas of Indian Country (Oklahoma), including both urban and rural Native communities. This project is supported by a \$375,000 Social and Economic Development grant to ONAC from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), awarded through the Administration for Children and Families. Related to this project, ONAC targeted the opening of 270 CSAs for Native youth ages birth to 22 years of age, at \$100 per account, and 253 ESAs for Native families, at \$300 per account.

For this project ONAC completed partner outreach, is on target to fund the projected total of 253 ESAs at \$300 per account (a total of \$75,900) over the three-year grant period (2018-2021), and is administering the program. ONAC's confirmed tribal outreach partners for this project are:

1. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
2. The Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
3. Kiowa Tribe Head Start
4. Osage Financial Resources, Inc.
5. The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
6. The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing
7. Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

ONAC worked with these tribes and Native-led non-profit partners to determine the number of accounts they each will need for those they serve, considering the project budget. ONAC also signed Memoranda of Understandings with their partners, so that project expectations are uniform.

The partners and ONAC provide financial education for participants, and ONAC works with prospective program participants to provide and complete account applications (which have a financial education component). ONAC enters all participant account application information into an internal database, then sends a check to each accepted participant for deposit into his or her emergency savings account. During



the pandemic, ESA applications are taken online. Participants may deposit ESA funds in their existing bank account or, if they are unbanked, ONAC provides them with information in the ESA application about Bank On approved accounts offered at AllNations Bank, BancFirst, and First State Bank of Anadarko, as well as information about a similar personal checking account available at Chickasaw Community Bank. The Bank On certified accounts are low-cost and safe accounts. Partners have indicated that they are pleased with the establishment and availability of all ONAC ESA program processes. The tribal and Native-led nonprofit program partners offer Native-specific financial education, using a curriculum of their choice. Additionally, in the online ESA application, ONAC includes live links to: a financial education podcast entitled “Natives on a Budget”; several financial education questions; a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) COVID-19 pandemic scam handout; a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) budgeting sheet; and information about Bank On certified accounts. ONAC also offers financial education booklets from the Oklahoma Securities Commission to Native partners. In both October 2018 and October 2019, ONAC co-hosted a “train the trainer” (not using ANA funds) for financial educators, that sought to build a stronger cohort of those available to teach Native-specific financial education. ESA partners were invited to attend the training and six of the seven partners under this grant did attend. In fall 2020, ONAC plans to publish information for partners about how to take in-person financial education online. ONAC also plans to offer an online financial education training. Whenever possible, ONAC links ONAC-funded ESAs to ONAC-funded CSAs so that account openings may be synchronized. If ESAs are being opened by tribal partners during the same period as CSAs, both accounts can be opened at the same account opening event. Under the ANA grant, the targeted goal of 253 ESA accounts was broken down into sub-targets of 100 accounts opened in the first year, 70 accounts in the second year, and 83 accounts in the third year. To date, the level of community participation desired by ONAC per program objectives is being achieved.

ONAC established a database to track ANA-funded ESAs. Data collection efforts focused on gathering information about funds deposited during the ANA-funded project:

- Number of accounts opened:
 - 253 accounts have been opened
 - 202 accounts were opened by females and 51 accounts were opened by males
- Age range of participants:
 - 19 to 79
 - Median age of participants is 39
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:
 - The Oklahoma-based tribal and Native-led nonprofit partners for this grant are mostly serving tribal citizens from their own tribal communities, but also serve others. Tribal affiliation is sometimes cited as mixed, but is reported as distributed amongst 24 Nations (in order of responses): Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, Osage Nation, Kiowa Tribe, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Comanche Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, The Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Shawnee Tribe, Quapaw Nation, Ute Tribe, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians,



Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Wyandotte Nation, Hopi Tribe, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and The Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database, through the third year of the grant), @ \$300 each:
 - Osage Financial Resources, Inc. = 18
 - Kiowa Tribe and Kiowa Head Start = 36
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes = 77
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma = 52
 - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma = 25
 - Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing = 41
 - ONAC financial coaching referral=4
- Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:
 - 220 participants
- Composite comments offered regarding participants’ making additional deposits into the accounts, in order of those offered most to least, all related to “yes” responses:
 - Money from each paycheck
 - I try to make saving a bi-weekly goal
 - I had a class to teach me how to save my money
 - I want to save enough money never to have to worry about a financial emergency
 - I want to have an account that is mostly used for saving, not spending money
 - I plan to use this account in the future
- Composite comments offered regarding participants putting additional deposits into the accounts, in order of those offered most to least, all related to “other than yes” responses:
 - We plan to deposit a set amount of my income once I start working
 - As often as I am able
 - When I get employment with a payroll function that allows me to save for my future
 - Possibly in the future
 - Not sure
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
 - Learn how to become more financially stable (increase self-sufficiency and survive economic downturns)
 - Improve saving habits so that I can afford the things my family needs
 - Increased peace of mind by establishing a financial safety net (survive high-cost personal emergencies and resulting financial hardships)
 - Teach my children and grandchildren about saving money (positive impact for future generations)
 - Increase opportunities for education and career paths for me and my family
 - Just to be able to handle an emergency when it happens



- Security, self-sufficiency
- To put into my rainy day savings plan, just in case any problems were to arise I would have that money to use
- To build a savings account for emergencies
- My hopes for myself is to start saving to help have a cushion when times get hard to cover expenses
- Some breathing space! I'd just been getting back to some breathing space in my finances after moving, when the pandemic hit and wiped it all out
- To get ahead and keep doing better and then do GREAT
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:
 - Thank you
 - This program is a great opportunity and I hope it continues
 - This program is awesome
 - Glad I participated in the financial education course
 - Thank you so much for providing this program. It is very much needed and appreciated
 - Thank you for the podcast on Natives on a Budget, it was highly informative
 - Thank you for providing an opportunity to help start saving in a difficult time for everyone
 - I think that what you are doing is great, and it will help me out tremendously
 - I think this is a great program to encourage Natives to make smart choices with their money. This is greatly needed

ONAC also completed three annual surveys that participants took voluntarily online through SurveyMonkey. ONAC incentivized participation in the survey with a raffle prize.

After personal information was entered, there were 8 additional questions on ONAC's survey; fifty (50) respondents provided the following information (not every respondent answered each question):

- 1) Hopes for you and your family's future in relation to the ESA (expectations for use)?
 - Use it to pay for emergency family expenses and/or unexpected costs (25)
 - If not used in a year, I will use it for my child's schooling (1)
 - Help with college tuition and expenses (9)
 - Make a down payment on a home (3)
 - To survive and be well (1)
 - To be more independent and financial stable (1)
 - Take care of my family as much as possible (1)
 - Give me better opportunities in life (1)
 - Help with bills, if needed (2)
 - Learn to save money and develop greater discipline (1)
 - Save enough money to cover three to six months of expenses (safety net) (2)
 - Family will become more stable (1)
 - Giving my kids more opportunities (1)
 - No Response (1)



- 2) Have you deposited additional money in your emergency savings account?
 - Yes, I have deposited additional funds (27)
 - No, I have not deposited additional funds (21)
 - No Response (2)
- 3) If you have deposited, or do deposit additional money into the account, how frequently?
 - More than once a month (1)
 - Monthly (15)
 - I deposit yearly (15)
 - No response (19)
- 4) If you have made additional deposits, how much have you deposited?
 - \$34 (1)
 - \$50 a month (1)
 - \$50 to \$100 a month (1)
 - \$60 (1)
 - \$100 (3)
 - \$120 (1)
 - \$140 (1)
 - \$200 (3)
 - \$300 (3)
 - \$400 (3)
 - \$500 (2)
 - \$600 (2)
 - \$700 (1)
 - \$750 (1)
 - \$900 (1)
 - \$1,300 (1)
 - None or no response (13)
- 5) If you have not made deposits into the account, do you plan to in the future?
 - Yes (31)
 - Hope to in the future (7)
 - No response or not applicable (6)
- 6) If you have used the funds in the account to pay for one or more emergencies, what kind of emergency expenses were they? (some respondents listed more than one answer)
 - Vehicle repair (2)
 - Hot water tank (1)
 - New tires (5)
 - Medical (2)
 - Had niece and nephew placed with them and had to pay for necessities (1)
 - Rent (4)
 - Car tag (1)
 - Internet for remote learning during pandemic (1)
 - Groceries (4)
 - Bills (2)
 - Plumbing (1)



- College costs (1)
- Utilities (4)
- Have not yet used for emergencies (21)
- 7) Do you have any questions or feedback for ONAC?
 - None (19)
 - Thank you for the help starting an emergency fund (15)
 - I just think it's a good thing to educate about savings. It's hard to do living paycheck to paycheck but even more so important when you do (1)
 - Really helped and has made me more aware of ways to make financial adjustments to start adding to account for emergency use only (1)
 - It's a great program and I'm super thankful that I went to the financial sessions and learned more about how I can be more responsible with my money (1)
 - Thank you for assisting fellow Natives in need (1)
 - I greatly appreciate this program and the assistance it has provided. Sometimes all it takes is help with the first step to make positive changes. Thank you (1)
 - Blessings only (1)
 - The financial education has helped me budget and save more money (1)
 - Thank you for your investment in me and my family's future (1)
 - Are more funding programs available? (1)
 - This is an amazing program (1)

As of May 2020, ONAC provided free financial coaching (including credit counseling, homebuyer education, and basic money management) to those receiving ONAC ESAs funded with ANA grant funding. The Wells Fargo Foundation is providing funding to ONAC to be used for offering financial coaching.

ANA project partner tribes, parents and elders in partner tribes, and other tribal members, have expressed great interest in ONAC continuing to offer these accounts, and other asset-building programs, linking them with financial education and counseling. There is great demand for these types of accounts among the tribes and other Native-led nonprofit partners that ONAC serves.

Key Lessons Learned by ONAC Regarding Implementation of the ANA Social and Economic Development Grant Include the Following:

- Through the implementation of this and all supported asset-building projects that ONAC administers, ONAC has found that project results are improved if ONAC remains in regular contact with tribal ESA partners, and other asset-building project partners – especially related to project specifics, and is available for them to contact ONAC with any questions or concerns they might have. Consequently, ONAC contacts ESA partners regularly.
- Applicants have responded that they appreciate the Native-specific financial education provided by the tribal partners and ONAC.
- From a “closing the women’s wealth gap” perspective, we can say that the ANA ESAs we have funded to date have been opened more by women than men. Through year three of the grant, 81% of the ANA-funded ESAs have been opened by women. We did not collect the same gender-



related data under the W. K. Kellogg grant for the ESAs, but ONAC is collecting gender specific data under the ANA and Wells Fargo Foundation grants.

- The pandemic changed ONAC's ability to do in-person account opening events for 2020. ONAC developed an online account application as partners were not able to open their offices, and to support efforts of social distancing with program applicants. As possible, ONAC tried to pair emergency savings accounts with Bank On account opening efforts and Children's Savings Account openings (also now online).

ONAC Wells Fargo Foundation-Funded Emergency Savings Accounts (2018 to Present):

ONAC's third source of emergency savings account project funding was first received from the Wells Fargo Foundation in 2018– 2019 (a one-year grant). With this support, ONAC awarded the following mini-grants for ONAC partners to support their Native-led ESA efforts. From November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019, grantees supported the following ESAs for tribal citizens:

- Sequoyah Fund, Inc., serving the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina opened and funded 15 Emergency Savings Accounts at \$175 per account.
- The People's Partner for Community Development, in Montana, opened 32 Emergency Savings Accounts at \$175 per account.
- Seldovia Village Tribe, in Alaska, funded 21 Emergency Savings Accounts at \$175 each.

As a follow-up to their 2019 funded mini-grant, the Seldovia Village Tribe distributed surveys to the 21 youth ESA program participants and their families. On June 11, 2020, they reported that they received responses from 19 respondents. They asked two questions:

1. Since opening the account have you had to withdraw funds for an emergency situation? If so, please explain the nature of the emergency.
 - All 19 said "No"
2. Since opening the account, have you deposited additional funds?
 - Yes (7)
 - No (12)

Through a second grant awarded to ONAC from the Wells Fargo Foundation (2019-2020), ONAC directly funded and administered 20 more ESAs at \$300 per account.

- Number of accounts opened:
 - 20 accounts have been opened
 - 16 accounts were opened by females and 4 accounts were opened by males
- Age range of participants:
 - 19 to 60
 - Median age of participants is 34
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:



- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe, Cherokee Nation, Shawnee Tribe, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Tonkawa Tribe, and Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database), @ \$300 each:
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma = 18
 - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (serving students from a variety of tribes) = 1
 - Ponca Tribe Head Start = 1
- Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:
 - 15 participants
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
 - To be able to fund emergencies when they arise
 - To save emergency money
 - Savings (8)
 - I am hoping to use the opportunity to use the Emergency Savings Account to help myself get ahead and become more self-sufficient so that one day I will be able to provide for myself without the assistance of outside sources
 - Pay bills (7)
 - Be able to have a cushion when we fall short on being able to pay our bills
 - Will use the money for necessities
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:
 - Thank you! This is a great program
 - Thank you so much for providing this for us
 - Very informative
 - I will use the opportunity with the funds to add more money to the account. I would like to become more self sufficient
 - I'm hoping that I can save this money for as long as possible and be able to live more efficiently

Additionally, through the same grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, ONAC awarded the following mini-grants for ESAs in 2020:

1. Wyandotte Nation in Oklahoma funded 12 ESAs at \$300 each, with financial education provided.
2. People’s Partner for Community Development in Montana funded 40 ESAs at \$175 each, with financial education provided.

In 2021, through an additional grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, ONAC awarded the following mini-grants for ESAs:

1. People’s Partner for Community Development in Montana funded 40 ESAs at \$175 each, with financial education provided.



Through the same 2021 grant, ONAC funded 40 more ESAs at \$300 per account.

- Number of accounts opened:
 - 40 accounts have been opened
 - 33 accounts were opened by females and 7 accounts were opened by males
- Age range of participants:
 - 15-82
 - Median age of participants is 39
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:
 - The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
 - Wyandotte Nation
 - Cherokee
 - Seneca-Cayuga Nation
 - Miami Nation
 - Peoria Tribe
 - Ottawa
 - Eastern Shawnee
 - Muscogee Nation
 - Cheyenne and Arapaho

- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database), @ \$300 each:
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes-5
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma-12
 - Osage Financial Resources, Inc.-3
 - ONAC Financial Coaching referral-1
 - The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing-19
- Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:
 - 38 participants
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
 - To have a portion of funds available for emergencies and unexpected expenditures
 - Pay bills
 - Hopes that I can grow it
 - Savings in a time of need
 - To have a little bit of money to save in case of an emergency, like a car breaking down
 - That, as a single parent, I can finally begin the process of securing an emergency savings account to ensure the stability of a single income home
 - To have more stability
 - To build on the money and save more



- I hope to have a savings account that can cover three months of expenses
- Hope to use it as a rainy day fund
- To be able to start paying off debt and still have a savings account with a little bit of breathing room so we can pay debt but still have back up funds if something should happen
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:
 - N/A

Additionally, through the same grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation, ONAC awarded the following mini-grants for ESAs in 2021:

1. Seldovia Village Tribe funded 28 ESAs at \$175 each, with financial education provided.
2. People's Partner for Community Development in Montana funded 40 ESAs at \$175 each, with financial education provided.

In November 2021, ONAC was awarded a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to fund 229 additional ESAs.

- Number of accounts opened:
 - 229 accounts have been opened
 - 194 accounts were opened by females and 35 accounts were opened by males
- Age range of participants:
 - 18-72
 - Median age of participants is 38
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:
 - Cherokee
 - Choctaw
 - Shawnee
 - Peoria
 - Quapaw
 - Miami
 - Ottawa
 - Osage
 - Eastern Shawnee
 - Chickasaw
 - Citizen Potawatomi
 - Sac and Fox
 - Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
 - Kickapoo Tribe
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
 - Seminole Nation
 - Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
 - Stockbridge-Munsee



- Tejon Indian Tribe
 - Tonkawa
 - Oglala Sioux
 - Navajo Nation
 - Klamath
 - Chippewa Cree
 - Comanche
 - Lummi Nation
 - Wyandotte
 - Seldovia Village Tribe
 - Cheyenne and Arapaho
 - Walker River
 - Navajo
 - Muscogee (Creek)
 - Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe
 - Eastern Band of Cherokee
 - Pawnee Nation
 - Fort Sill Apache
 - Mechoopda Indian Tribe
 - Caddo
 - Absentee Shawnee
 - The Tigua Indians of Texas
 - Quinalt Indian Nation
 - Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
 - Crow
 - Prairie Band Potawatomi
 - Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
 - Ho-Chunk Nation
 - Eastern Shoshone
 - United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
 - Chickasaw
-
- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database), @ \$300-\$500 each:
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes-0
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma-69
 - Osage Financial Resources, Inc.-5
 - ONAC Financial Coaching, down payment assistance, or CSA referral-155
 - The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing-0
 - Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:



- 218 participants
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
 - Not to live check to check and to prepare for emergencies
 - To be prepared for emergencies
 - My hope is to save a little bit each month
 - To be more money conscious
 - An emergency fund to rely on
 - That I will be able to learn that just because I have money doesn't mean I have to spend it
 - To have it if an emergency should happen, we will be better prepared
 - To manage and save money
 - This money will be used to keep my family going until I can get my disability
 - To be able to get caught back on my bills and do less stressing
 - I hope that it will be easier to catch up
 - To be able to have money set aside for emergencies
 - Help with rent
 - Catch up on rent (2)
 - New start, to live like a Miami Indian
 - To help offset cost (2)
 - To save as possible for emergency events such as car repair
 - My hope would be that this is just the start of the beginning as well as something productively sustainable, and that as time progresses the better I become at establishing and maintaining an emergency fund
 - Create a safety net for the future if needed.
 - I hope to be able to afford unexpected emergency expenses.
 - To allow me to keep my house and live peacefully without worry.
 - Emergency food and school clothes for my girls.
 - I want to start one.
 - That we can save this money for a rainy day.
 - To have funds for emergency situations or just continue to save for my daughter in the event she needs something in the future.
 - Become better person at saving money.
 - Extra savings for in case of emergency.
 - That I can build up 8 months of an emergency fund.
 - Use this money as a starting point to build an emergency savings, adding to it monthly.
 - To hold savings for anything in regards to our homestead.
 - Put it back in savings for emergency expenses.
 - Home break downs that occur unexpectedly.
 - To start a financial cushion for my family.
 - To save for true emergency down the road.
 - My hopes are that we are diligent about saving money and not spending it on unnecessary things.



- To further prepare for expenses of my children as I am now a single mother.
- To be able to save and have that in case of an emergency instead of always being in a bind.
- Emergencies that may arise for my college freshman who is attending school out of state.
- Help me with food.
- To have extra money set aside in the event of a future emergency.
- My hopes is that I am financially able to keep adding to it.
- Help save money for future emergencies.
- To lower stress levels knowing I have it if needed.
- To have something to fall back on in case of an emergency.
- To be self-sufficient in case of emergency.
- I hope that we can continually add to the account and build it up for a long period of time.
- Being able to build it up so that when something does happen that we didn't plan for, we don't have to rob Peter to pay Paul and have something fall behind or us go in the red in our checking account.
- Helping with college for our daughter.
- To know we have money put up if an emergency comes up.
- Hold money in our savings in the case we have an emergency.
- Peace of mind.
- I hope to be able to save the money and add to it for future we expenses.
- More savings in the event of an emergency.
- To have it for when I need money for emergencies whether it be for my house, medical, or financial hard times.
- To not live in fear when the unexpected happens.
- To be able to maintain a safe place to live.
- To be able to put some money aside for the future and for my children.
- With rising costs, I've really been struggling to pay for groceries, gas, etc. My hope is that this allow me to start savings for increases such as costs.
- To use for an emergency.
- To have funds set aside in case of any emergencies.
- My hopes are to be able to teach both my girls how to save money in case an unexpected situation comes up and they have the money to fall back on.
- We always need maintenance done to our vehicles. So I plan to keep savings account open for those emergencies.
- Continue improving my financial decisions.
- Being able to breathe when paychecks come up short.
- To be able to contribute more to the savings account and be able to have some extra money in case of an emergency.
- The hope for my family is to build a comfortable size emergency fund to reduce the amount of panic and stress in the event of an emergency.
- To become self-sufficient and add to the emergency savings account.
- To help when I am in need.



- Emergency vehicle repairs.
- To be able to have funds in case of emergency.
- My goal is that I will be able to grow it so if something arises I will have the money to cover it. I hope to one day not have to rely on getting a loan if I need new tires, home repairs and want to end being in the vicious cycle of juggling my debt to get our needs met.
- To have some financial relief on the higher fuel increase and tot aid in the \$600 electric bill we have this month.
- To help out with any cost.
- Help me keep better on savings.
- I'm hoping to just be able to pay for food and rent. Prices of everything have been increasing and I haven't been able to earn enough to get out of living pay check to pay check
- To have a safety cushion started to be able to utilize if needed
- My hope is to build towards at least \$1000 to have in emergency savings
- Build an emergency fund so that when unexpected events happen they would not hinder our financial goals
- Purchase my home in the near future
- To put towards savings fund for a home
- I struggle with saving for the future, I start to build a decent savings and something comes up and it takes me awhile to restart the savings plan.
- Get caught up on bills and buy the girls something.
- That I will be more motivated and consistent in putting back money into savings for emergencies and to help get through our off season.
- To save more.
- To help my family in any way.
- Necessities.
- Helping move to a safer and better living conditions.
- This will give us a sense of relief that we need to ensure our family is prepared for anything.
- To let sit and add to it for emergencies.
- I want to become self-sufficient and not have to worry in case of an emergency.
- To be able to utilize the savings in an emergency for my daughter, we have no other help.
- First, I hope to build an emergency fund of \$1,000. Second, I hope to build a savings that will enable me to buy a house.
- To help with bills and secure a more stable financial future.
- To begin a nest to be able to pay for future expenses such as new appliances, tires, unforeseen medical bills, etc.
- Funding for need only.
- To be able to have a safety cushion for emergencies
- Help build up our savings
- Hope to save as much as possible. Try to stay ahead.



- I have an account setting aside \$150 per pay period in cases of emergency (last time it was used to purchase a fridge for our new house)
 - Peace of mind
 - To continue adding to the ESA until it is at least 3 times my monthly income
 - Creating a down payment on a home
 - That if needed for winter heating expense, money will be available
 - To not have to use the \$ for Christmas. Now that I have a 2nd job that's a good possibility. I'd like to build on it.
 - I am always trying to keep up with my fixed expenses each month; I know that I need to create a budget and spending plan.
 - To start an account and attribute funds each month to build in case of an emergency situation.
 - To have a chance to get ahead of things like car repairs.
 - Development of saving money and planning ahead.
 - To have a rainy day fund started for emergencies
 - I hope to have the money as a rainy day fund for emergencies, such as for car repairs or healthcare bills that may arise.
 - To add to it and have funds available should we need for an emergency
 - To use for unexpected expenses if any happen this year and build back up my savings in case I move next year
 - To build on this and have the stability of financial freedom
 - Being able to start a savings account to start saving money
 - To save enough for emergency or anything that we may need
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:
 - N/A

Key Lesson Learned From the Third Source of ESA Grant Funding: The Wells Fargo Foundation, Includes the Following:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, ONAC has changed its outreach strategy and stopped offering in-person account opening events and distributing paper applications. Instead, ONAC works with tribal and Native-led nonprofit partners to provide a link to an online ONAC ESA application. Thus far, ONAC has still been able to reach applicants. The online application includes information about Native Bank On ONAC to help applicants access information about financial institutions offering safe and affordable bank accounts. Also, the online application includes links to financial education resources.

In December 2022, ONAC was awarded a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to fund 225 additional ESAs.

- Number of accounts opened:



- 14 accounts have been opened
- 9 accounts were opened by a female and 5 by a male
- Age range of participants:
 - 15-64
 - Median age of participants is 21
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:
 - Osage
 - Muscogee (Creek)
 - The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database), @ \$300-\$500 each:
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes-12
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma-0
 - Osage Financial Resources, Inc.-2
 - ONAC Financial Coaching, down payment assistance, or CSA referral-0
 - The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing-0
- Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:
 - 14 participants
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
 - Help to save for an emergency
 - Help to find a place to live with my wife
 - That we never have to use this money
 - So in case of emergency we can always know we can open it but only if an emergency is present
 - To save
 - Hope I never have to use the money for emergencies
 - It could help when we would need it
 - Being able to have money stored away in case I actually need it
 - They can always rely on when an emergency
 - To get things for my family
 - My hopes are that this will help when I absolutely need it
 - To always have money for emergencies
 - That this will always be my back up account in case of my bills are hurting or not
 - Hopefully to save up for an apartment and a car
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:
 - N/A

Key Lesson Learned From the Third Source of ESA Grant Funding: The Wells Fargo Foundation, Includes the Following:



In December 2021, Verizon donated \$10,000 to ONAC to support the funding of 33 ESAs.

- Number of accounts opened:
 - accounts have been opened
 - accounts were opened by females and _ accounts were opened by males
- Age range of participants:
 - 37-__
 - Median age of participants is __
- Tribal Affiliation of participants:
 -
- ESA spread of participants among tribal project partners (in order of partner data recorded in database), @ \$300 each:
 - Wichita and Affiliated Tribes-__
 - Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma-__
 - Osage Financial Resources, Inc.-__
 - ONAC Financial Coaching referral-
 - The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing-__
- Number of participants who stated with unequivocal “yes” responses that they planned to put more than the initial deposit in their accounts:
 -
- Summarized comments on “Hopes for the accounts” (main savings incentives):
- Summarized comments on feedback to ONAC:

Key Lesson Learned From the Fourth Source of ESA Funding: Verizon, Includes the Following:

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