



# Possible Activities for Financial Literacy Month

There are many ways to celebrate Financial Literacy Month in your Native community – starting with celebrating the great work already happening. Here are some ideas for free ways to raise the profile of financial literacy in your community, starting in April, Financial Literacy Month, and continuing through the year.

- ▶ **Identify Financial Education Opportunities.** You might already know of great programs through schools, housing programs, your Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), or in a tribal department. But some great programs might not get noticed. Ask your staff or community members to bring you stories of people or programs that helped them manage their money, understand budgeting, or otherwise become financially educated. Share information about your successful programs with other Native communities. You can submit your best practices online at [www.ncai.org/initiatives/nativefinancial-ed/nfec](http://www.ncai.org/initiatives/nativefinancial-ed/nfec).
- ▶ **Consider New Tribal Policies.** A number of tribes issue proclamations designating April as Financial Literacy Month or select a certain day as Financial Literacy Day. As sovereign nations, tribes can do much more. Some tribes have instituted policies requiring financial education for tribal employees and providing the training opportunities. Explore ways to provide consumer protections to tribal citizens by enacting a tribal consumer protection code. Please visit [FirstNations.org](http://FirstNations.org) to see this code. Look for other ways to expand financial capability by making financial education a mandatory pre-requisite of certain benefits such as emergency financial assistance, payroll deduction loans, or per capita distributions. Consider what might have a real impact in your Native community.
- ▶ **Invest in Native Financial.** When you find out about your local programs, consider strategies to support them. Look for ways to incorporate them into your broader economic development efforts. By investing in entities that provide financial education such as Native CDFIs, for example, tribes can enhance tribal citizens' financial capabilities and expand their access to capital to start new businesses or become homeowners. For more information please visit: [www.nativecdfi.net](http://www.nativecdfi.net).
- ▶ **Talk about Financial Education.** As you go about tribal life and business, find ways to talk about the importance of being financially educated. Experience tells us that the more people hear about things like keeping a budget, managing their money, and making solid financial choices, the more likely they are to incorporate them into their lives. The whole community benefits when its members are more financially secure. Examples of key messages you can talk about appear in Key Financial Education Messages for Tribal Leaders.
- ▶ **Write about Financial Education.** Do you have a tribal newsletter or website? Consider adding a column about financial education. Go to [Consumer.gov](http://Consumer.gov) to see 17 topics you can start with. Simply cut and paste the text on the “What to Do” tab and you have a ready-made article.
- ▶ **Distribute the Tip Sheet.** The Native Financial Education Coalition has created a short tip sheet to help people become financially empowered. It's included here, and also available at [www.ncai.org/initiatives/nativefinancial-ed/nfec](http://www.ncai.org/initiatives/nativefinancial-ed/nfec). Print or copy this one-page tip sheet to hand out at meetings, or make available in your offices. You also can share it with the financial education groups you identify.