

NCAI Receives Tech Aid Grant From EDA

The Economic Development Administration has approved a technical assistance grant of \$75,000 to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Fund for study and eventual implementation of a proposal to establish a National Indian Economic Development Enterprise, John Belindo, Executive Director of NCAI announced last week.

Matched with \$25,000 from the NCAI Fund, the total foreseeable cost of the project is \$100,000.

"There is widespread belief in the need for new initiatives in the promotion of economic development on Indian reservations," Belindo said. "Finding sources of credit to fund Indian Indian economic development and meet the needs of tribes (and Indian entrepreneurs) is a major problem."

The first two phases of the three-part project will be devoted to selection of personnel and consultants who will determine whether, under existing law, a feasible way exists of establishing a new national organization to assist American Indian economic development.

The third phase will be devoted to implementation of the (method) recommended by the study.

"We are confident that the study will turn up at least one feasible approach to this problem," Belindo said.

The project is expected to run one year.

NCAI Fund is the tax-exempt arm of NCAI, a national Indian-directed organization, whose membership includes 105 tribes, representing over 350,000 American Indians.