Native American Credit Union Coalition

The NACUC Supporting Partner Program

A Multiyear, Unrestricted Sponsorship Proposal for Prospective Partners

Fall 2026

Who We Are

NACUC is a growing community of credit union leaders committed to strengthening financial inclusion across Indian Country by expanding culturally relevant services, elevating Native leadership, and ensuring that credit unions remain trusted partners in the economic wellbeing of tribal communities.

Launched in late 2024, NACUC is still young, and moving quickly. In August 2026 we completed our third strategic planning session, confirmed officers and committee chairs, and set a course toward two milestones that will define our next chapter: formal 501(c)(3) recognition and CDFI Loan Fund designation. We are building the infrastructure, leadership capacity, governance, and member programming such as our peer Sharing Circles and our member mixer "Campfire Chats," that a young coalition needs to become a sustainable and impactful organization for Native serving credit unions.

Of the roughly 450 minority depository institution (MDI) credit unions tracked nationally by NCUA, 10 are designated Native American MDIs, and more than 40 are MDI credit unions that serve Native communities alongside other groups. In addition, there are countless others that are not designated as MDIs and currently serve Native Americans or have Native Americans in their field of membership but do not yet intentionally reach and serve them. NACUC exists to support these credit unions and the credit union professionals so that together we can move the needle on access to capital and financial well-being in Indian country.

How We Deliver on our Mission

NACUC's work is organized around five program pillars:

- **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitating connections between Native credit unions for shared learning and strategic partnerships.
- **Resource Sharing:** Offering tools, best practices, and financial education resources to strengthen credit union operations.

- **Community Support:** Promoting initiatives that support tribal communities through financial education and access to credit.
- **Elevating Native Voices:** Elevating the voices and needs of Native American credit unions and our communities within the broader credit union movement.
- **Professional Development:** Providing training, mentorship, and leadership development for Native American credit union professionals.

As a young organization, our energy today is concentrated on the first two pillars, Networking and Collaboration and Resource Sharing, with early work underway on Elevating the Movement. Over the next several years we plan to deepen that third pillar and build out Community Support and Professional Development, including a formal mentorship program. A multiyear Supporting Partner commitment funds NACUC through exactly this arc of growth: each Supporting Partner receives an Annual Impact Report showing how the year's work tracked across these five pillars.

Why We Are Asking for Multi-year Unrestricted Support

NACUC currently has no dedicated operating funding. Our most urgent need is not a specific program, it is the core capacity to lead: a functioning Executive Director role, the governance and compliance infrastructure to complete our 501(c)(3) filings, and, eventually, the staff time to keep member programming running consistently. That kind of foundational capacity is very hard to fund through restricted, program-specific grants, and almost impossible to fund through one-time gifts.

Our 3-year operating budget puts a number on that need. Membership dues are intentionally modest, priced to keep NACUC accessible, not to fund operations, so we estimate that they will cover only about 5% or less of our core costs in any given year. The remainder is a gap we can only close through partnerships like this one.

This is why the Supporting Partner Program asks for two things at once: multiyear commitments (3 or 5 years) and unrestricted use. A multi-year pledge lets NACUC plan a budget and hire with confidence instead of re-fundraising every twelve months. Unrestricted use lets every dollar go where the organization needs it most in a given year, which, in our founding years, will primarily mean people and infrastructure, not any single program.

How This Differs from NACUC Membership

NACUC also offers formal membership, with proposed annual dues from $50 to $1,500 across four categories, Cooperatives (credit unions), Neighbors (businesses, vendors, and corporate credit unions), Friends (mission-aligned organizations), and Relatives (individuals), each carrying one vote in NACUC's governance. Membership is how an organization or individual becomes part of NACUC and has a say in its direction.

The Supporting Partner Program described in this proposal is a separate, philanthropic commitment. It carries no vote and no governance role: what it buys is recognition and access, not a voice in NACUC's decisions. We keep the two deliberately distinct so that governance is never for sale at any gift size.

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Because they serve different purposes, the two commitments are meant to stack rather than substitute for one another. A credit union can hold NACUC membership and serve as a Supporting Partner, Champion Partner, Sustaining Partner, Bridge Builder Partner, or Community Ally at the same time, and we expect many of our most engaged supporters will do both.

Supporting Partner Tiers

Every tier below can be entered on a 3-year Track or a 5-year Track.

Tier	Annual Investment
Founding Partner	$25,000+
Champion Partner	$15,000+
Sustaining Partner	$10,000+
Bridge Builder Partner	$5,000+
Community Ally	$2,500+

> *Every Supporting Partner gift is unrestricted, NACUC decides annually where each dollar is needed most. The italic line under each tier below simply illustrates what a gift at that level typically makes possible, based on our 3-year operating budget.*

Founding Partner — $25,000+ annually
Everything in Champion Partner, plus:

- Designated a NACUC “Founding Partner” this is a distinction reserved for organizations that join during NACUC's founding capital phase and commit to the 3-year commitment, permanently recognized as such in our history and materials
- Rate-lock guarantee for 3 or 5-year commitment: your annual investment is fixed for the full term, regardless of future increases to this tier's minimum
- Top-tier recognition on NACUC's home page
- An invitation to NACUC's periodic site visits and cultural immersion experiences
- An annual private briefing with the Board and Executive Director
- Co-branding at Sharing Circle convenings
- Annual gathering: a named session (for example, "Opening Circle, presented by…") with welcome remarks, plus four complimentary registrations to gatherings, once initiated
- First consideration for special events, programs, and thought leadership opportunities

Champion Partner — $15,000+ annually
Everything in Sustaining Partner, plus:

- Prominent logo placement on the NACUC website and at NACUC events
- Rate-lock guarantee for 3 or 5-year commitments
- An invitation to an annual donor briefing with the Executive Director and Board

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- Recognition at Sharing Circle convenings
- Annual gathering: an opportunity to introduce a session, plus three complimentary registrations, once initiated
- Priority consideration for speaking and thought leadership opportunities

Sustaining Partner — $10,000+ annually
Everything in Bridge Builder Partner, plus:

- Logo placement on NACUC event materials
- Recognition in NACUC's quarterly newsletter
- An annual one-on-one check-in with the Executive Director
- Annual gathering: logo placement on the event platform and in session slides, plus two complimentary registrations, once initiated

Bridge Builder Partner — $5,000+ annually
Everything in Community Ally, plus:

- Recognition in NACUC's quarterly newsletter.
- Annual gathering: logo on the shared sponsor recognition slide, plus one complimentary registration, once initiated
- An annual impact update from the Executive Director.
- First consideration for special events, programs, and thought leadership.

Community Ally — $2,500+ annually

- Digital recognition on NACUC's Supporting Partner page on our website.
- Recognition in NACUC's Annual Impact Report.
- Annual gathering: Name on the shared sponsor recognition slide and an invitation to attend at a discounted rate, once initiated.

Choosing A Commitment Term

5-Year Track
Reserved for partners joining during NACUC's founding phase. In exchange for the longer commitment, Founding Track partners receive a locked-in rate for the full five years and the permanent "Founding Partner" recognition described above, at whichever tier they choose. This is the track NACUC most needs right now: it is what lets us budget for a stable Executive Director role rather than a series of short-term contracts.

3-Year Track
A strong entry point for organizations that want to commit multiyear support without the founding-era designation. Sustaining Track partners receive the full benefits of their tier, including a locked-in rate for the full three years.

Payment Options

Commitments may be paid annually. All multi-year commitments are confirmed through a simple pledge agreement.

What Your Partnership Makes Possible

- Executive Leadership and Consulting — sustaining a full-time Executive Director role instead of relying on volunteer bandwidth.
- Governance and compliance infrastructure — completing our 501(c)(3) filing and CDFI Loan Fund designation, the two milestones that unlock further grant and pass-through funding for our member credit unions.
- Member programming — Sharing Circles, peer mentorship, and convenings that connect Native-serving credit union leaders to one another.
- Outreach and growth — building relationships with the Native American MDIs and Native-serving credit unions who don't yet know NACUC exists.

A Note on Tax Exempt Status and Commitments

NACUC's 501(c)(3) determination is currently in process. Organizations recognized as tax-exempt within the IRS's standard filing window are typically able to treat contributions received during the pendency period as deductible retroactive to the filing date once determination is granted. We will notify all Supporting Partners promptly once determination is granted and provide the documentation needed for your records. We encourage prospective partners to confirm treatment and timing with their own tax or compliance advisor.

Next Steps

We would welcome the opportunity to talk through which tier and term make sense for your organization, and to answer any questions your board or compliance team may have. To move forward, please reach out directly, or complete and return the commitment form below.

Samira Salem, Ph.D., CUDE — Interim Executive Director, NACUC

samira@nativeamericancreditunioncoalition.org

Supporting Partner Commitment Form

This form indicates your organization's intent to join the NACUC SupportingPartner Program. A formal pledge agreement will follow to confirm payment schedule and recognition details.

Organization Name	
Primary Contact / Title	
Email / Phone	
Tier Selected	
Commitment Term (3-Year Sustaining or 5-Year Founding)	
Annual Investment Amount	
Authorized Signature & Date	

Please return this form to NACUC's Interim Executive Director, Samira Salem (samira@NativeAmericanCreditUnionCoalition.org). Thank you for investing in the future of Native-serving credit unions.