

Unlike many mainstream business organizations, ONABEN's programs are intentionally built around Native American cultural values, and the distinct realities of doing business in Indian Country.

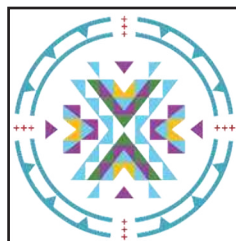
Since its founding, ONABEN has focused on removing barriers that historically prevented native entrepreneurs from accessing traditional business development resources. The original founders recognized that success in native communities requires more than standard business instruction. It requires culturally meaningful learning, trust-building, and acknowledgment of Indigenous economic experiences.

For the last three decades, ONABEN has served many native communities both across the United States and internationally. Its recognition as an innovator stems from its unique ability to design training and financial literacy programs that uplift underserved Indigenous populations while honoring community identity and sovereignty.

One of ONABEN's most notable contributions is Indianpreneurship, this is a curriculum built for native entrepreneurs. This program addresses the unique challenges native business owners often face, such as access to capital, jurisdictional complexity, and the balance between entrepreneurship and cultural responsibilities all intertwine.

The Indianpreneurship program is widely used by:

- Tribal housing authorities
- Native CDFI's
- Tribal colleges and universities



ONABEN Indianpreneurship

- Tribal enterprises, planners, and policymakers
- Native nonprofit organizations
- Small business coaches serving native communities
- Individuals seeking business opportunities

By centering native experiences, the curriculum creates an empowering environment where participants can develop critical business skills. Indianpreneurship does more than teach business planning. This program helps to build confidence, supports self-determination, and encourages long-term community wealth building.

Because the more you grow, the more your community grows with you. This caters to the community boosting others ability to seek new and independent financial paths.

ONABEN's Train the Trainer (an instructor certification) program further strengthens this impact by enabling local leaders to bring Indianpreneurship back to their own tribal communities. This two-day interactive experience equips instructors to teach the "Journey into Business" course with cultural awareness, community insight, and practical business expertise.

ONABEN has developed many flagship and signature programs, designed with native communities

in mind. These programs extend far beyond classroom training and are meant to be used as a confidence building tool for a diverse set of people.

This wide selection of signature initiatives that serve native entrepreneurs across generations, including:

- Beyond the Boots: A Veteran & Service Member Initiative
- RealChange Youth Empowerment Initiative
- Artist and Culture Accelerators
- Girl Talk
- Bridge to Success
- Entrepreneurship Training
- Financial Wellness Programs

Each program is crafted to address specific community needs and to reflect native culture, values, and economic goals. For example, the Artist and Culture Accelerator supports Native artists and individuals who often serve as cultural historians, storytellers, and tradition bearers. The RealChange program provides youth with early exposure to financial education and entrepreneurial thinking, nurturing the next generation of Indigenous leaders.

More information on these initiatives is available at, www.onaben.org/our-initiatives.

A defining feature of ONABEN's approach is its cultural responsiveness. The organization creates learning environments that build trust, encourage participation, and respect the diverse experiences of each Native American. Their training programs are flexible, often tailored in collaboration with tribal partners to meet the unique needs of each unique community.

Participants are welcomed at all experience levels. Whether they are

exploring a new idea or ready to grow an existing business. The emphasis is always on empowerment and helping to build confidence, develop skills, and turn dreams into sustainable business ventures. After all, this is a country built on the backs of dreams.

This inclusive, community-centered model ensures that ONABEN's programs remain relevant, impactful, and aligned with Native values. The success of the participants is the backbone of the overall success of the program.

ONABEN's vision is one of inclusivity, sovereignty, and economic self-determination. By focusing on Native American entrepreneurs, the organization strengthens local economies, supports cultural preservation, and promotes financial stability for present and future generations.

Through a culturally grounded curriculum, hands-on training, and signature programs designed specifically for native communities, ONABEN continues to be a force in entrepreneurial development. Its work ensures that native entrepreneurs are not only participating in today's economy but shaping and redefining it. Encouraging growth on their terms, in their voices, and in alignment with their cultural heritage.

If you or your small business would like to learn more about Our Native American Business Network, or explore their programs, you can visit their official website at www.onaben.org. Because they remain local to Portland, Ore., they can be reached by phone at (503) 968-1500.

These contact points offer direct access for Indigenous people, community partners, and members seeking support, training information, or opportunities to collaborate.

Whether you are an emerging business owner or an organization dedicated to strengthening Native economic development, ONABEN welcomes inquiries and remains committed to helping Native American entrepreneurs succeed.

2026

CTSI PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

IN-PERSON MEETINGS WILL INCLUDE A LIGHT DINNER.
A ZOOM OPTION IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEETINGS.

STARTING AT
4:30 PM

PORTLAND AREA OFFICE
FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

SILETZ TRIBAL
COMMUNITY CENTER
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2026

OUT OF AREA/ZOOM
MARCH 11TH, 2026

PLUS!

All Siletz Tribal members who fill out a Community Survey will be entered into a drawing with a **Grand Prize of \$500!**

Other cash prizes will be available. Ages 18 and older can participate.

Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88971082362>

For further information, please call 541-444-8323 or email lanK@ctsi.nsn.us

Gar "Dan" ing tips

By Daniel Alvarez

Chee-la! February is a transition month in the garden. Focus on improving soil with compost, pruning dormant plants, cleaning up winter debris, and starting long-season seeds indoors such as onions, leeks, brassicas, celery, and herbs while watching for late frosts.

Keep in mind here on the coast we have had late freezes well into the month of June. If you have a greenhouse or indoor space, you should utilize it. If you do not have the capacity to start your seeds, no problem! Reach out to us at Tel-tvm' and we will be happy to accommodate your starts. We can keep them for a time, and return them to you when it's safe to transplant into your own garden.

Have a blessed start to your growing season. Huu-cha~'
Tel-tvm' cell 541-270-2449