



**United States Department of the Interior**  
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS  
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CONTACT: Genevieve Billia  
EMAIL: [Genevieve\\_Billia@ost.doi.gov](mailto:Genevieve_Billia@ost.doi.gov)  
PHONE: (202) 768-4076

## New Year's Resolution Didn't Work Out? You Can Still Learn New Financial Habits to Improve Your Year

*The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians offers financial literacy training to the Tulsa, OK metro area.*

WASHINGTON, DC –The Office of the Special Trustee’s (OST) now offers in-person training in the Tulsa metro area from the office’s Director of Financial Education, Brian Ross. Indian trust beneficiaries in Northeastern Oklahoma hoping to implement better financial habits in 2017 have many resources available through the U.S. Department of the Interior.

“A lot of people set the goal of improving their finances as part of New Year's resolutions,” says Ross. “At OST, we have the tools to empower you to improve your own financial health as well as those in your community.”

Ross also serves on the Advisory Council of the Alliance for Economic Inclusion (AEI) of Northeastern Oklahoma. AEI is the FDIC's national initiative to establish broad-based coalitions of financial institutions, community-based organizations and other partners to help bring unbanked and underserved populations into the financial mainstream.

“In 2016, Interior was added to the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC). This has enabled OST to partner with several financial organizations nationwide in support of our efforts to help improve financial capabilities across Indian Country,” said Ross.

OST, an office within Interior, offers financial education to Native and non-Native communities that employs a holistic approach. This approach addresses the entire lifecycle from youth to the elderly and all intermediary phases by offering workshops, classes and one-on-one financial counseling to Native communities and Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders.

To implement the financial education initiative, OST maintains field offices throughout the country staffed by Fiduciary Trust officers and others trained to provide financial education and information to Indian trust beneficiaries regarding their trust assets. These field offices connect Native communities and beneficiaries to OST and the services it provides. In addition to financial education, OST also provides information to beneficiaries on the status of beneficiary land ownership, leasing and income from these activities, appraisals, and Interior’s Land Buy-Back Program.

OST was created to improve the accountability and management of Indian funds held in trust by the federal government pursuant to the [American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994](#) (Public Law 103-412). As trustee, OST has the primary fiduciary responsibility to manage both tribal trust funds and Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.

The purpose of OST is to provide oversight, reform and coordination of the policies, procedures, systems and practices used by various agencies to manage Indian trust assets. This effort is integrally related to DOI's goal of meeting its trust responsibilities to American Indians.

OST carries out its mission in pursuit of the following three goals:

- To protect and preserve Indian trust assets by receipting and accurately accounting for income due to beneficiaries;
- To provide all tribal and IIM account holders with information on their trust accounts that is timely and accurate; and
- To engage beneficiaries in the management of their trust assets to allow them to make informed decisions.

For more information about OST, it's financial education initiatives, or to bring Brian Ross to your school or organization, please contact Genevieve Billia at [Genevieve\\_billia@ost.doi.gov](mailto:Genevieve_billia@ost.doi.gov), or (202) 768-4076.

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