In 2023, NEFE conducted a poll through Survey USA targeted to members of Indigenous communities in the United States, asking about their perceived experiences within the financial sector and their feelings of financial well-being.

Native Communities’ Financial Well-Being Deep Dive

How do you identify?

- 11% Native Hawaiian
- 21% Indigenous American
- 6% First Nations/Inuit
- 5% Alaska Native
- 73% American Indian

1/3 Native respondents say they have experienced bias in the financial services sector.

Over the past 12 months:

- 30% cashed a check elsewhere other than a bank or credit union
- 20% used a money transfer service like WesternUnion, MoneyGram, or Walmart Money Center
- 10% took out a payday or payday advance loan

Banking status in native communities

- 80% say there is someone in their household who has a checking or savings account
- 17% say no one in their household does

Of this 17%, 32% are the only adult in their home and 29% are not working due to a permanent disability.

70% agree that regardless of their financial situation, there are people who appreciate them as a person.

- Strongly Agree (43%)
- Somewhat Agree (27%)
- Neutral (19%)
- Somewhat Disagree (5%)
- Strongly Disagree (6%)