

Land Acknowledgement: District of Columbia

The ancestral homelands of the
Nacotchtank, Anacostan and Piscataway People

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on. It's also a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in the past tense or through historical context. Colonialism is a current, ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of the role we play in it.

NeighborWorks America's headquarters in Washington, D.C. is located in the ancestral homelands of the Nacotchtank, Anacostan and Piscataway people. According to historians, there was a large trading center known as the [Indian village of Nacochtank along the riverbank](#). This place, marked by the convergence of two major waterways — the Anacostia River and Potomac River — is significant. Native people collected plants, herbs and vegetation here, often trading them for medicinal purposes. We acknowledge that many sovereign tribal nations come from across the United States to this great city to continue building their nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government.

As part of its commitment to Native communities, NeighborWorks has developed a [Native partnerships and strategy program](#). Through this program, we seek to deepen our impact in Native communities as we work with and alongside them to help establish safe, affordable homes.

We encourage you to learn more about land acknowledgements and the indigenous people of your area, and to make a concerted effort to educate others. Educational resources are included below.

Resources on Land Acknowledgement

- [Acknowledging the land on which we stand](#).
- [Honor Native land: A guide and call to acknowledgement](#) from the U.S Department of Arts and Culture.
- [Interactive map to identify an area's Indigenous peoples](#).

- [NDN Collective](#), an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power.
- [IllumiNative](#), a Native woman-led organization dedicated to increasing the visibility of – and challenging the narrative about – Native peoples.
- [Indian Land Tenure Foundation](#), a national, community-based organization focused on American Indian land recovery and management.
- [More than just a statement: Why land acknowledgements are so important \(video\)](#).
- [American Indian Removal: Does It Make Sense?](#) (Video for young people from the National Museum of the American Indian.)