



CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE

INTERNET COMMERCE: HELPING OUR PEOPLE

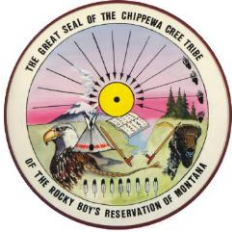
BACKGROUND

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of Montana is a federally recognized Native American tribe with about 6,000 members. The Rocky Boy Reservation is continuously overwhelmed by high unemployment rates, limited opportunities, and limited access to essential resources. While some tribes have exponentially benefited from the gaming industry, the remote location of the Rocky Boy's Reservation in north central Montana obstructs economic development through gaming.

INTERNET COMMERCE INITIATIVES: PROVIDING FOR OUR PEOPLE

The Chippewa Cree Tribe began making their own opportunities back in 2011 when they launched their installment loan product Plain Green, LLC. Through internet commerce the Chippewa Cree have provided the members of their tribe countless opportunities including: jobs, tribal services, tribal development, and economic growth. The effects are widespread and have proven critical for tribal advancement and the potential opportunities are untold:

- ❖ **Budget:** Tribal Annual Budgets with Grants, Contracts and Compact Funding as well as Plain Green's monthly distribution to the tribe;
- ❖ **Employment:** Plain Green currently has 20 employees, and is in the process of training 7 new call center representatives that will all be officially hired after training is complete; they also provide summer internships to tribally enrolled college students; Plain Green also provided critical funding to put over 350 tribal members to work
- ❖ **Social Services:** Plain Green donates to their community by: lending assistance to elders, helping with family medical costs, contributing to the costs of the annual Holiday food baskets which are given to every family on the reservation, and hosting an annual youth basketball tournament to raise money for the local head start program;
- ❖ **Infrastructure:** Plain Green has sponsored the renovations to the new baseball/soccer field that is open to all community members; they also provide funding to help with costs of the new Chippewa Cree Health Center, as well as the construction to the remodeling of the tribe's Northern Winz Casino;
- ❖ **Education:** Plain Green annually contributes to the Stone Child College scholarship fund, and worked closely with EverFi to implement a new financial literacy program at Box Elder High School;
- ❖ **Tribal Services:** Plain Green offers Call Center Training programs with help from the local tribal college; provided financial assistance to tribally



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enrolled senior citizens; and assist with both family medical and funeral costs.

INTERNET COMMERCE AND THE FUTURE

Internet commerce initiatives do more than just support the basic needs of the Chippewa Cree Tribe; they give the tribe a chance to move beyond fundamental needs for tribal operations and services. For the Chippewa Cree, internet commerce is a legitimate opportunity for economic prosperity. Ultimately, the tribe hopes these initiatives will provide widespread employment for the Chippewa Cree people so that they may become more financially stable and proud of the work they do to provide for their families.