We believe...

when armed with the appropriate resources, Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual and cultural well-being of their communities.
believe that traditional Indigenous knowledge holds crucial solutions for
the future, not only for Native communities but
for society at large. We feel that unique Native
perspectives can help address some of this
country’s most pressing issues. The Native
American commitment to Native culture,
traditions and languages; staying connected
to and caring for our families and community
members, whether rich or poor, strong or weak;
and returning to a healthy precolonial diet are
all important values that can sustain us well
into the future.

Against that backdrop, First Nations has always
been exclusively committed to Native control
of tribal assets, and to restoring control and
promoting culturally compatible stewardship of
those assets. We work closely and in partnership
with Native nations and communities to achieve
those aims.

ASSET-BUILDING DEFINED
A positive and collaborative approach, asset-
building focuses on cultivating traditional
knowledge and practices, and creating new
ones to build Native capacities, capabilities
and communities.

WHY ASSET-BUILDING WORKS
Native nations are uniquely knowledgeable
about their own communities. They know the
strengths, challenges and needs of their
communities better than outside agencies.
Asset-building models strengthen the
effectiveness of Native nations to create
solutions and allow them to best leverage
their resources on their own terms. In brief, in
the long term, asset-building works because it
helps protect and enhance tribal sovereignty.
Our STRATEGIES

How change happens

Our strategies are designed to support the entire ecosystem of transformative change in Native communities and to build a network of grantee partners that ultimately leads to asset-building in Native communities:

- Direct financial support through grantmaking
- Technical assistance and training
- Movement-building
- Policy and research
- Advocacy

Our Core Programs

- Nourishing Native Foods and Health
- Investing in Native Youth
- Achieving Native Financial Empowerment
- Advancing Household and Community Asset-Building Strategies
- Strengthening Tribal and Community Institutions

Our Grantee Community Partners

In 2017, First Nations made grants to 157 Native-controlled nonprofits and Tribal government programs.

Our headquarters are located in Longmont, Colorado. We have a field office in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Community investment:

- Up to $50,000
- $50,001-$100,000
- $100,001-$200,000
- Over $200,000

GRANTS WE FUNDED 157
21% $2,310,554
79% $8,838,767

UNMET NEED

GRANTS WE COULD NOT FUND 360

First Nations Headquarters
LONGMONT, COLORADO

Field Office
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
We are proud that for the sixth year in a row, First Nations has received the highest rating of Four Stars from Charity Navigator. Only 5% of the charities it rates in the U.S. achieve this highest distinction for six or more consecutive years.

Our GOVERNANCE

100% of our board members are Native American.

Our board is led by

Benny Shendo Jr. | Jemez Pueblo

For a complete list of our board members, visit www.firstnations.org/about/board.

WHO WE ARE

Through integrity, accountability, passion, humility, simplicity and a focus on success, we have created a vibrant organizational culture where ideas can blossom, people can thrive and success can flourish. We use these values to guide our decision-making process in all aspects of our work. We are committed to seeing these values manifested in everything we do. They define who we are as grantmakers and are reflected in the 1,412 grants totaling $29.8 million that we have made so far (through year-end 2017).

Our ACCOUNTABILITY

...to OUR SUPPORTERS and the COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

You can be sure every donation is used effectively and wisely to promote strong, healthy, and culturally vibrant Native communities.

86% of your dollars donated to First Nations goes directly to our programs and the communities that need this support the most.

We encourage you to view our most recent complete audit and full annual report, available at www.firstnations.org.