Native Farmer and Rancher Apprenticeship Network
2021 Application Q & A

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
12-1pm MT
Webinar Format

All attendees will be muted throughout this webinar.

If you have questions, please enter them in the Question box.

Audio Tab: Choose Computer audio to use your computer microphone and speakers. Change your microphone and speaker options using the dropdown menu. Choose Phone call to dial using the information provided to switch to phone audio.

Questions Tab: Ask questions to the staff and panelists about the webinar material or request technical help.
Webinar Topics of Discussion

Introduction – First Nations Development Institute

Apprenticeship Network & Experience

Walk-thru online application process

Question & Answer
About First Nations Development Institute

Native-Led Nonprofit Founded in 1980

Based in Colorado Satellite offices in New Mexico and California

30 Staff Members

Grantmaking Program Launched in 1993

2021 Grantmaking to date: 396 grants, $6,998,000

Serving Tribal Programs, Native-Led Nonprofits & Community Organizations
STRENGTHENING
American Indian
COMMUNITIES & ECONOMIES
For 41 years

Our Mission...

to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities. We invest in and create innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities.
Our Core Programs

Achieving Native Financial Empowerment
Native financial and investor education, consumer protection and financial fraud education, combating predatory lending and research.

Nourishing Native Foods and Health
Native food systems, food security, health and nutrition and food sovereignty efforts.

Advancing Household and Community Asset-Building Strategies

Investing in Native Youth
Native Youth and Culture Fund, college scholarship/internship programs, and youth-oriented financial education.

Stewarding Native Lands
Financial and technical assistance to support Native ecological stewardship and Native control of ancestral lands and resources.

Strengthening Tribal and Community Institutions
Nonprofit capacity-building activities, support for Native arts, Native language immersion, professional development and coalition building.
OUR APPROACH
First Nations has always been exclusively committed to Native control of tribal assets and to restore control and promote culturally-compatible stewardship of those assets.

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. It strengthens the effectiveness of Native nations to create solutions to their own challenges and allows them to best leverage their resources on their own terms. In brief, in the long term it 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 build a network of grantee partners that ultimately lead to asset-building in Native communities.
First Nations Project Team

Jackie Francke, Navajo
Vice President of Programs and Administration

Richard Elm-Hill, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
Program Officer

Jacque Demko, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation
Grants Officer

Leiloni Begaye, Navajo
Program Officer
Apprenticeship Network Purpose and Goal

Purpose and Goal:

The goal of the First Nations Native Farmer and Rancher Apprenticeship Network is to provide training and technical assistance as well as networking opportunities to a cohort of 30 selected Native American Beginning Farmer and Ranchers (BFRs) to expand their business capacity and strengthen land management strategies.
Apprenticeship Eligibility

Applicants must be a tribal enrolled member of a federally and state recognized tribe in the Great Plains and Southwest.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher with 10-years or less of experience.

Proof of access to land includes: Private, Grazing Permits, and Leases.
Guiding Selection Criteria

• Applicants should be willing to commit to a 30-month apprenticeship, which will involve traveling to regional in-person trainings, participating in virtual webinars and fieldwork, and networking with other producers.

• Applicants should have an interest in building their business capacity and agricultural management of their operations to increase local production of and community access to food, conservation plan development, business plan development, marketing/branding, Native agricultural traditions, and natural resources management.
2022-2024 Fellowship Experience

Apprenticeship Award
- The fellowship period is **February 1, 2022 to July 31, 2024**.
- The **$7,500 incentive** is released in four installments throughout the apprenticeship period.

Cohort Convenings
- Quarterly video check-in calls with apprentices.
- Apprentice will participate in one 1.5-day training (one in each region) on conservation plan development.
- Apprentice will participate (together) in one 1.5-day convening to learn from each other and showcase their models at a First Nations event.

Capacity-Building Support
- Apprentices have access to $500 capacity building fund for each Native BFR for additional training and certification.
## 2022-2024 Fellowship Experience

### Work/Activities

- Apprentices will participate in First Nations’ Business of Indian Agriculture curriculum online.
- Apprentices will participate in six educational webinars.
- Apprentice will participate in one 1.5-day training (one in each region) on conservation plan development.
- Apprentice will participate (together) in one 1.5-day convening to learn from each other and showcase their models.
- First Nations will provide individualized technical assistance in business plan development from a subject matter expert(s).
- Quarterly check-in video calls with apprentices.
Apprenticeship Incentive

• **Award Amount:** $7,500

• Incentives will be released in four payments contingent on participation in the cohort convenings, work and activities.

• **The apprenticeship funds are considered taxable income.** Apprenticeship recipients are responsible for all related taxes resulting from this award.
Application Process

This application process is a one-stage competitive process.

Application Form – Due December 22nd at 5pm MT

Consists of: 1) Applicant contact information, 2) eligibility, 3) intake questions on the Business of Indian Agriculture and Conservation Planning Training, and 4) two short essays
Application Questions

**Applicant & Information Eligibility:** Contact and demographic information for the applicant, and a section to determine eligibility.

**Business of Indian Agriculture:** (in 50 words or less) Please provide a brief description of your agribusiness. Example: Farm to School, meat supply chain, etc.

**Conservation Planning:** Please share if you are currently farming or ranching and if you have completed a conservation plan.

**Experience:** (in 200 words or less) Please share more about your knowledge of farming and ranching background and how you have been actively engaged in the knowledge area(s).

**Vision for Apprenticeship:** (in 200 words or less) Please explain how you will use the apprenticeship to advance your personal and business goals.
Online Application System

• All applicants must complete First Nations’ online grant application, no later than **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021, at 5pm Mountain Time**.
  • Should you encounter any technical issues please contact **grantmaking@firstnations.org** ASAP and **prior** to the 5pm deadline.
• Some of our most rural and remote applicants may have limited access to high-speed Internet. Any exceptions to use of the online system must be made at least two weeks (**on or before December 8**) in advance of the deadline by submitting an email request to **grantmaking@firstnations.org**.
  • Please include your name, contact information, and indicate you are applying for the Native Farmer and Rancher Apprenticeship Network. If you do not have access to email you can call our office at (303) 774-7836 and ask to speak with a member of the Grantmaking Department.
Online Application System

To access the online application system, you must go to First Nations’ website and go to the online RFP page for this opportunity: https://www.firstnations.org/rfps/native-farmer-and-rancher-apprenticeship-network/
### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 12, 2021</td>
<td>• Application portal opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 12pm MT</td>
<td>• Q&amp;A session will be held prior to the application deadline for applicants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 8, 2021</td>
<td>• Deadline to apply for exemption to online application system. Please email <a href="mailto:grantmaking@firstnations.org">grantmaking@firstnations.org</a> to request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 22, 2021, by 5pm MT</td>
<td>• Deadline for application and required attachments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid January 2022</td>
<td>• Notifications sent regarding status of applications.</td>
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<td>• Selected apprentices will be notified by January 14, 2022.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1, 2022 – July 31, 2024</td>
<td>• Apprenticeship year</td>
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Upcoming Office Closure

First Nations offices will be closed from December 24, 2021 to January 3, 2022. Staff will be available to answer general questions about the apprenticeship network and application process on or before the deadline.
Questions

Please submit your questions in the question box
This webinar will be recorded and can be accessed on our website under the First Nations Knowledge Center at https://www.firstnations.org/fnk
Apprenticeship Network
Contact Information

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www.firstnations.org | Tel: 303.774.7836

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Richard Elm-Hill, Second Point of Contact
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Jacque Demko, Application Troubleshooting
Grants Officer
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Email: grantmaking@firstnations.org
Thank You!