Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative

Gather Food Sovereignty Grant Opportunity

Introduction and Q&A

Thursday, December 16, 2021
10:00 a.m MST
Webinar Format

• All participants will be muted for this webinar
• If you have questions during the webinar, please “raise your hand” using the hand button or enter your question(s) in the Question box.
About First Nations Development Institute

Native-Led Nonprofit  
Founded in 1980

Based in Longmont, Colorado

31 Staff Members

1993: Grantmaking Program Launched

Grantmaking to date: 2,276 grants, $46 million

Constituent Base: Tribal Programs, Native-Led Nonprofits & Community Orgs
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 leads to asset-building in Native communities.
OUR IMPACT
As of FY 2021

41 Years of grantmaking

2,276 Grants Awarded

37,592 People educated through convenings, webinars, and conferences in 2020 alone

4,861 Publications downloaded from our online knowledge center in 2021 alone

$46 MILLION Dollars invested through grantmaking
NAFSI’s Strategy

Native Food Sovereignty

Health
Increasing access to locally produced healthy foods will reduce diet-related diseases and improve the health of Native peoples.

Economic Development
The development and cultivation of food markets and businesses foster the entrepreneurial spirit of Native peoples that leads to economic development.

Culture
Traditional agriculture practices revitalize ceremonies of planting seasons, build the social bonds of the production process, and strengthen the relationship of Native peoples to the land that sustains us.

Native Nationhood
Native communities create policies and programs aimed at Native food-system control and build strong Native institutions and governance capacity.
First Nations NAFSI Project Team

A-dae Romero Briones
Director of Programs - NAFSI

Jackie Francke
Vice President of Programs

Richard Elm-Hill
Program Officer

Ethan Gallegos
Program Associate

Leiloni Begaye
Program Officer

Rana LaPine
Lead Program Officer
**2021 Gather Food Sovereignty Grant Information**

First Nations will award up to seven grants of approximately $32,000 to organizations in Native communities with the goal of promoting food system policy activity and development. The grants will support work contributing to building a national movement that will fulfill a vision of Native communities and food systems that are self-directed, well-resourced, and supported by community policies and systems. This opportunity is targeting emerging projects focused on developing Tribal Food Sovereignty.
Grant Information:

- Grant Award Ceiling: $32,000
- Grant Term: begins on March 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023
- Application Deadline: January 13, 2022
- Award or Declination Information: Expected February 24, 2022
- Grant will require a grantee orientation, a verbal progress report, and a final verbal report
Grantee Eligibility

Federal- and state-recognize tribal governments

Native-controlled 501(c)(3) non-profits

Native-controlled* community organizations with fiscal sponsorship

Native 7871 Organizations
Selection Priorities

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate:

• That they can help strengthen Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian communities

• Proper alignment with funding priorities and eligibility guidelines

• Ability and/or experience necessary to successfully accomplish the proposed project

• Strong leadership reflecting the community served

• Feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability of proposed projects or programs

• Strategic plans for collaborating and forming partnerships.

• A clear plan of action with specific, measurable, and realistic goals and objectives
Examples of allowable activities under this funding opportunity include, but are not limited to:

• Conducting a community food assessment to examine the economic impact of food system assets and plan next steps
• Projects aimed at increasing local food system control, including increasing access to fresh, healthy foods.
• Increasing local food distribution and marketing to end-use institutions and larger markets
• Strategic community planning around food sovereignty projects
• Increasing the capacity of food producers to manage environmental, community, and social/political impacts of policy on their food system

Selected grantees under this opportunity must use funding to support work contributing to building a national movement that will fulfill a vision of Native communities and food systems that are self-directed, well-resourced and supported by community policies and systems. Emerging projects are encouraged to apply.
Unallowable Activities

Examples of unallowable activities under this funding opportunity include:

• Lobbying
• Entertainment
• Capital Construction
• Funding of individuals
• Development campaigns
• Endowments
• Scholarship or tuition assistance
Grant Requirements

• Post-Award Grantee Orientation Webinar
• A mid-way verbal progress report in September 2022 summarizing grant activities, budget expenditures, quantifiable outputs, challenges, and lessons learned
• A final verbal progress report in February 2023 summarizing grant activities, budget expenditures, quantifiable outputs, challenges, and lessons learned
Proposal Requirements

• A brief history of your organization or tribal program
• A description of the project and whom it will serve
• At least three specific and measurable objectives to be accomplished during the project year
• A summary of project activities and how they will be implemented
• An overview of project evaluation activities
• An estimated budget for the project
• A list of the board of directors and key staff, including tribal affiliation
Objectives

Specific: What, exactly, in detail, do you want to achieve?

Measurable: How will you know when you’ve reached your goal? Quantify it!

Achievable: What resources are needed – do you have them? (including time)

Realistic and Relevant: What is the outcome – the change – you’re expecting?

Timed: Break it into steps. When will each step be completed?
Application Attachments

**Tax Status Documentation:** A copy of the organization or fiscal sponsor’s IRS Determination Letter if the applicant is a 501(c)(3) organization or a community organization using a fiscal sponsor. Tribal programs and governments may submit proof that they are a federal- or state-recognized tribe.

**Budget:** An estimated budget for the proposed project. Please note that these will be general operating support grants.

**A description of the Board of Directors and Key Project Staff:** Native-controlled nonprofits should submit a list of their Board of Directors and key project staff who will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the proposed project. The list should include tribal affiliations (if applicable). Community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of their leadership team, with tribal affiliation of each team member (if applicable). Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of their Tribal Council in lieu of a Board of Directors.
Online Application System

• All applicants must complete First Nations’ online grant application, including submission of necessary attachments, no later than Thursday, January 13, 2022, by 5 pm 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 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 Gather Food Sovereignty grant program. 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

First Nations website: [https://www.firstnations.org/](https://www.firstnations.org/)

Questions
Gather Food Sovereignty Grant Opportunity

Contact Information

Ethan Gallegos
• Project Associate
• Email: egallegos@firstnations.org
• Phone: 303.774.7836

Jacque Demko
• Grants Officer
• Email: jdemko@firstnations.org
• Email: grantmaking@firstnations.org
• Phone: 303.774.7836

Rana LaPine
• Lead Program Officer
• Email: rlapine@firstnations.org
• Phone: 978.790.1704