Native
Farm to School

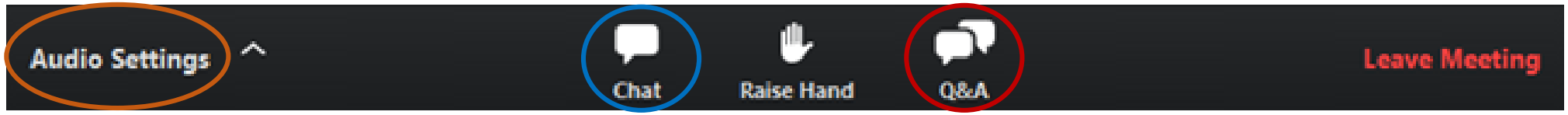
A Project of First Nations Development Institute

FINDING EDUCATIONAL AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS

OUR MISSION

First Nations Development Institute **invests** in and creates innovative institutions and models that strengthen **asset control** and support **economic development** for American Indian people and their communities.

All attendees will be **muted** throughout this webinar.
If you have questions, please use the **Q&A button** and enter your question(s) in the box.



Audio Settings: Change your audio settings. You can also click the upward arrow (^) next to change your speaker.
Chat: Send a message to the panelists or everyone (All Panelists and Attendees) in the webinar.
Q&A: Ask questions to the host and panelists or request technical help.

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POLL 1

What traditional foods do you suggest starting with when starting a farm to school program?

A. Bison
B. Corn
C. Fish
D. Berries
E. Wild Greens
F. Wild Rice
G. Nuts
H. Squash
I. Seaweed
J. Taro

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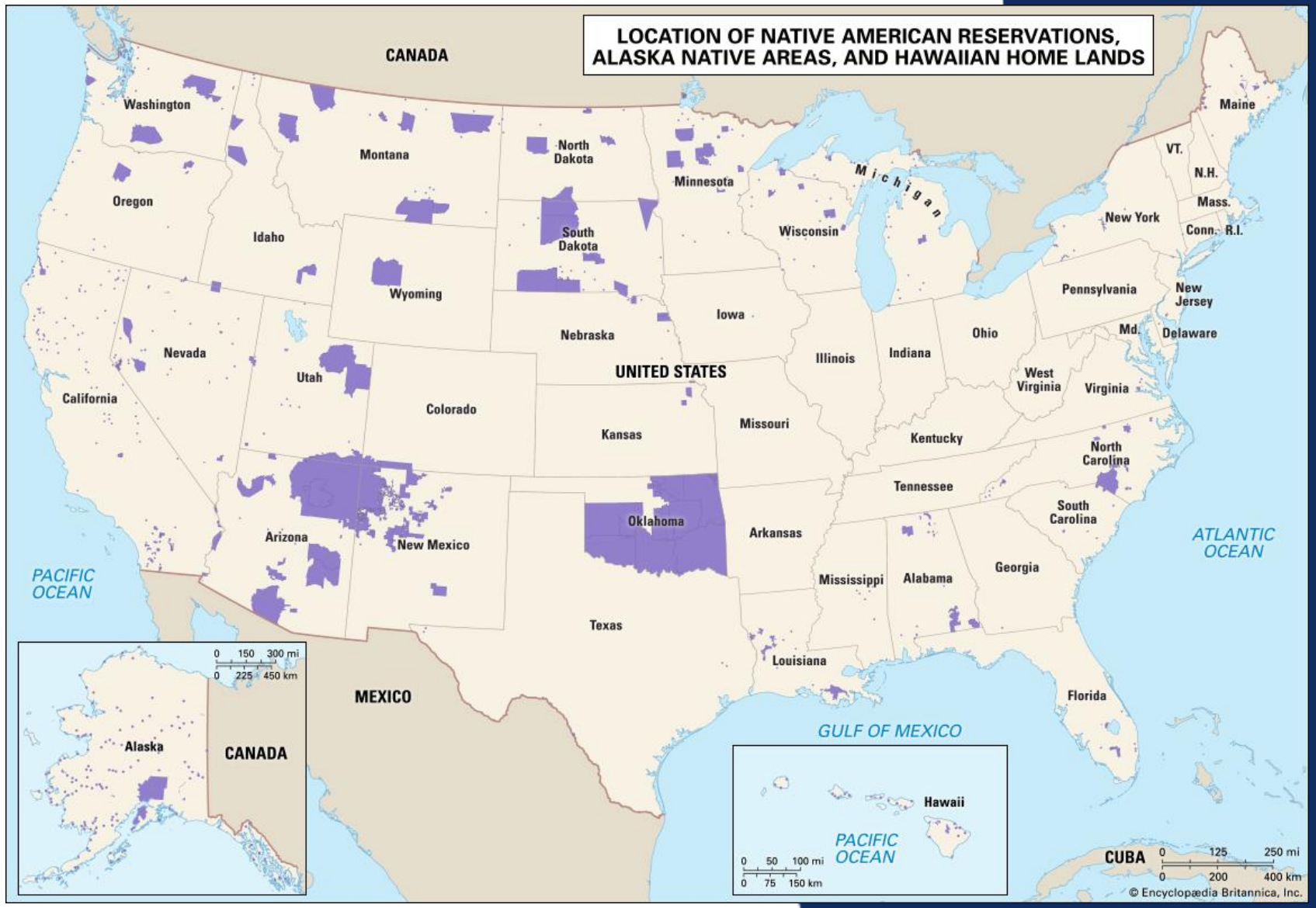
NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL OVERVIEW

NATIVE TRIBES AND NATIVE LAND BASE

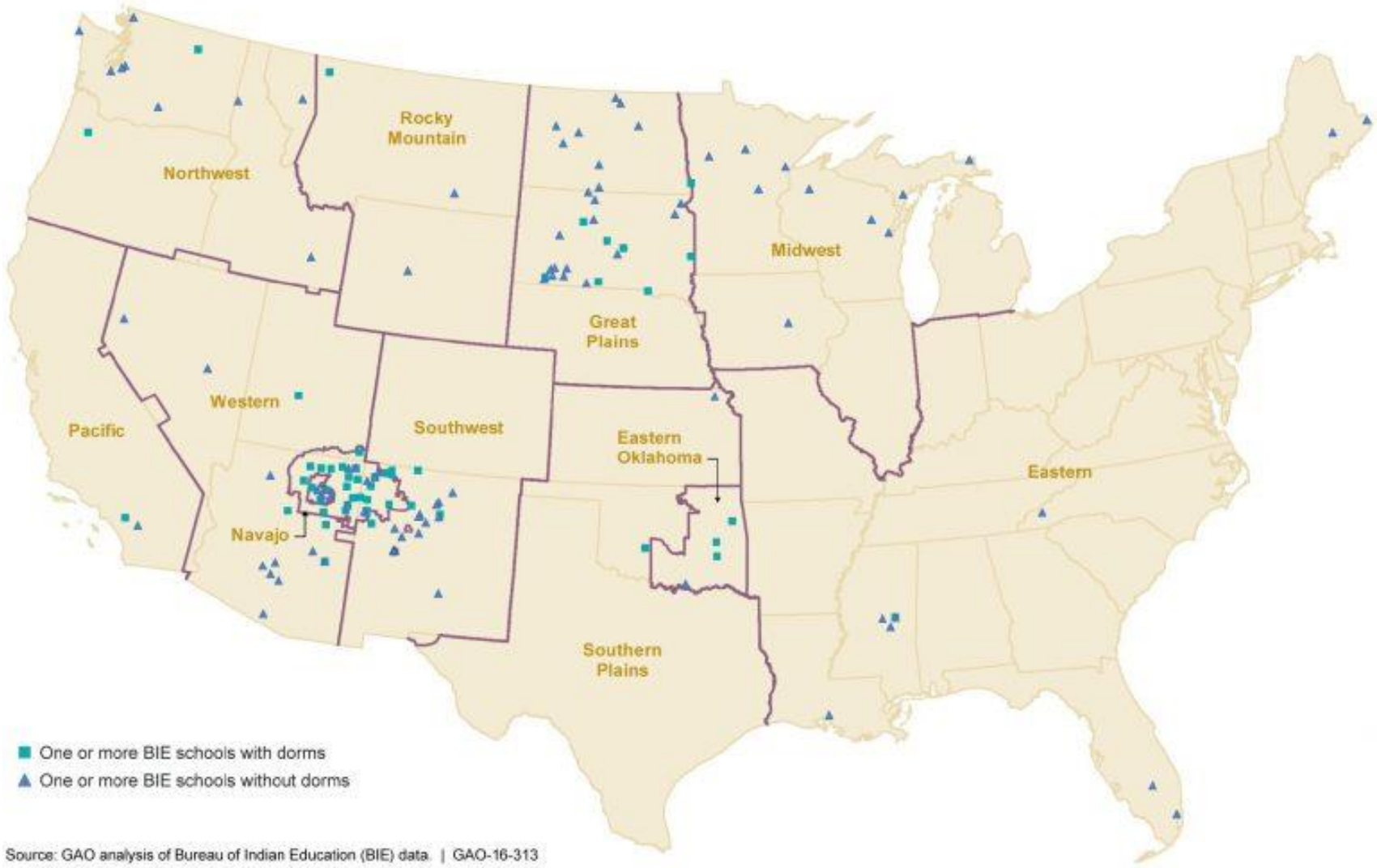
- Federally Recognized Tribes 574
- State Recognized Tribes 63
- Unrecognized Tribes 245
- Tribal Land Base 56.2 Million Acres (3%)



SCHOOL AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Public Schools
- BIE Schools
- Charter Schools
- Immersion Schools/programs
- Afterschool programs
- Nonprofits with Educational Programs

Figure 1: Locations of Bureau of Indian Education Schools by Bureau of Indian Affairs Region



Source: GAO analysis of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) data. | GAO-16-313

Note: The points on the map were plotted using zip codes for BIE's 180 school locations. Individual schools that are co-located and/or reside in the same zip code were grouped together.

AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL ERA

US Federal Government funded off-reservation boarding schools starting in 1879.

- Goal: Assimilation
- Tough History with lasting negative effects
- Schools can encourage cultural education. Not destroy it.

SCHOOLS FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Q:
What does food sovereignty looks like at my school?

NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL BOOKLETS

EPA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEW MEXICO GRANTEES

PUEBLO OF ZIA

NACA
Growing Together.

ANCESTRAL LANDS CONSERVATION CORPS

SANOSTEE DAY SCHOOL

PUEBLO OF ZIA

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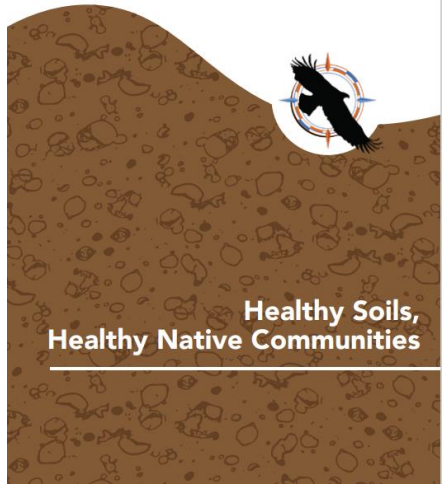


PUEBLO OF ZIA

Good nutrition is crucial. Native school-aged children battle social and health issues such as poor nutrition, childhood obesity, and minimal nutritional knowledge. Education can provide various ways fruits and vegetables are essential components of the diet and give the human body antioxidants, energy, fiber, minerals, and vitamins. Healthy produce begins with healthy soil. Growing healthy soil allows for a healthy garden and community. It's as easy as adding compost and other organic amendments to your soil. Compost is the dark, earthy material naturally produced by decaying plants and animal waste. This mix of living and dead organic matter supports an intricate web of soil life, which in turn keeps your soil loose, moisture-holding, fertile, and well-drained.

Soil Analysis reveals several things like nutrient content, composition, fertility, or the soil's expected growth potential, which shows nutrient deficiencies. It can also detect potential toxicities from excessive fertility and inhibitions from the presence of non-essential trace minerals and other characteristics such as acidity or pH level. To achieve successful soil analysis, follow the steps below.

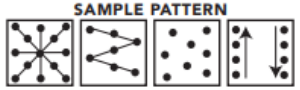
1 PREPARATION FOR SOIL COLLECTION

Be sure to clean the tools used to collect the soil sample thoroughly. (e.g., trowel, bucket, soil spade, garden shovel, and soil probe)

2 SOIL COLLECTION

In the planting area, dig a minimum of 5 holes 6 to 8 inches deep. Collect samples from different regions that will be growing similar plants.

SAMPLE PATTERN



Take a 1/2-inch slice along the side of a hole and place it in the bucket. Repeat this process for all spots.

Mix the soil in the bucket and spread on a newspaper to dry out. Collect a pint for a sample.

3 SOIL SAMPLE SUBMISSION

After mixing samples, remove 1 pint of soil per area. Place this sample in a clean and labeled container. Next, download and fill out a Chain of Custody form from iaslabs.com. Once complete, ship your soil collection to a testing lab for analysis.

4 SOIL ANALYSIS RESULTS

Once soil analysis is complete, the laboratory will provide a Soil Analysis Report.

5 RECORD KEEPING

Soil Analysis Reports are a part of record keeping. We recommend re-sampling every three years and creating a chart of what is planted yearly to compare Soil Analysis.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

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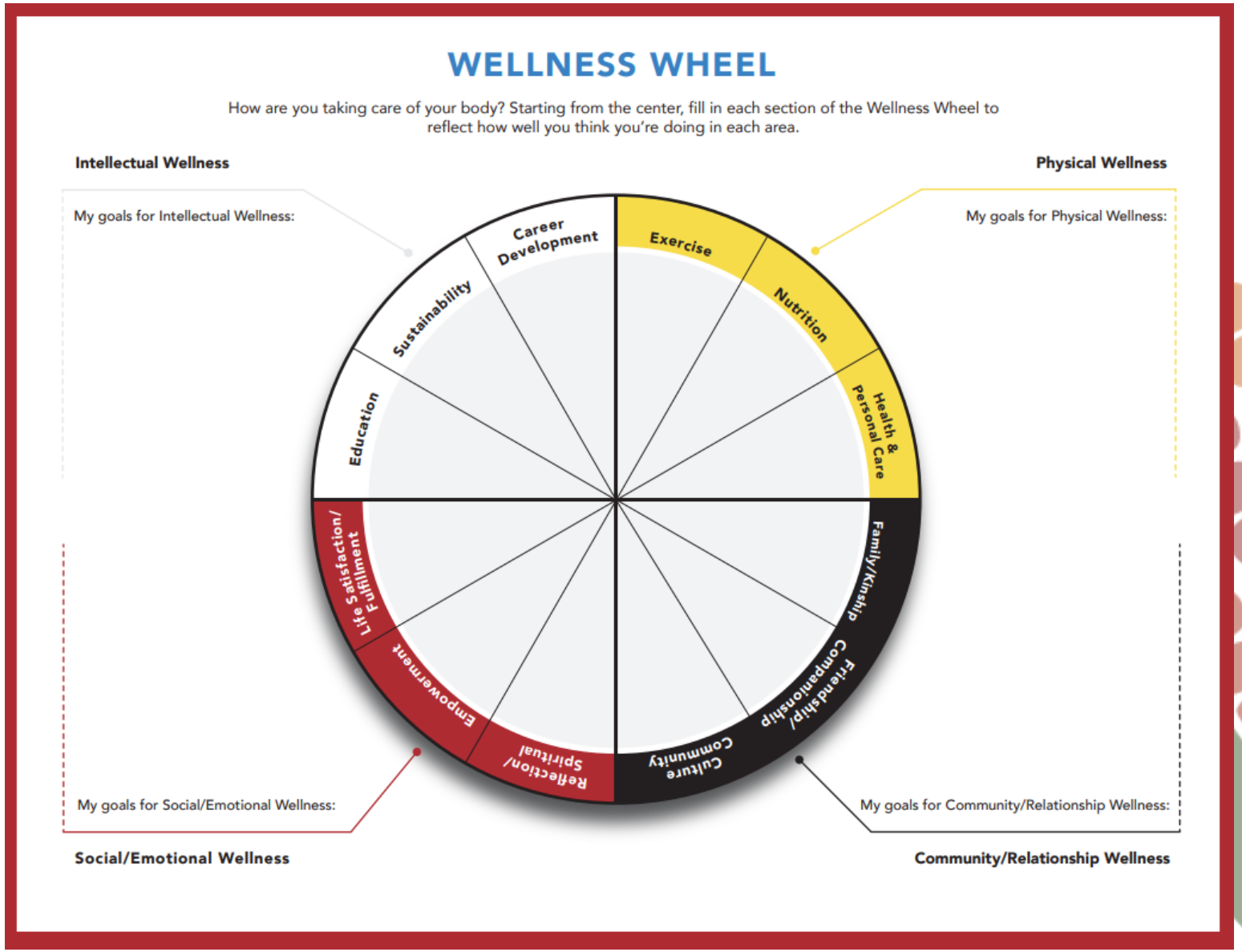
Native Wellness Wheel

NACA
Growing Together.



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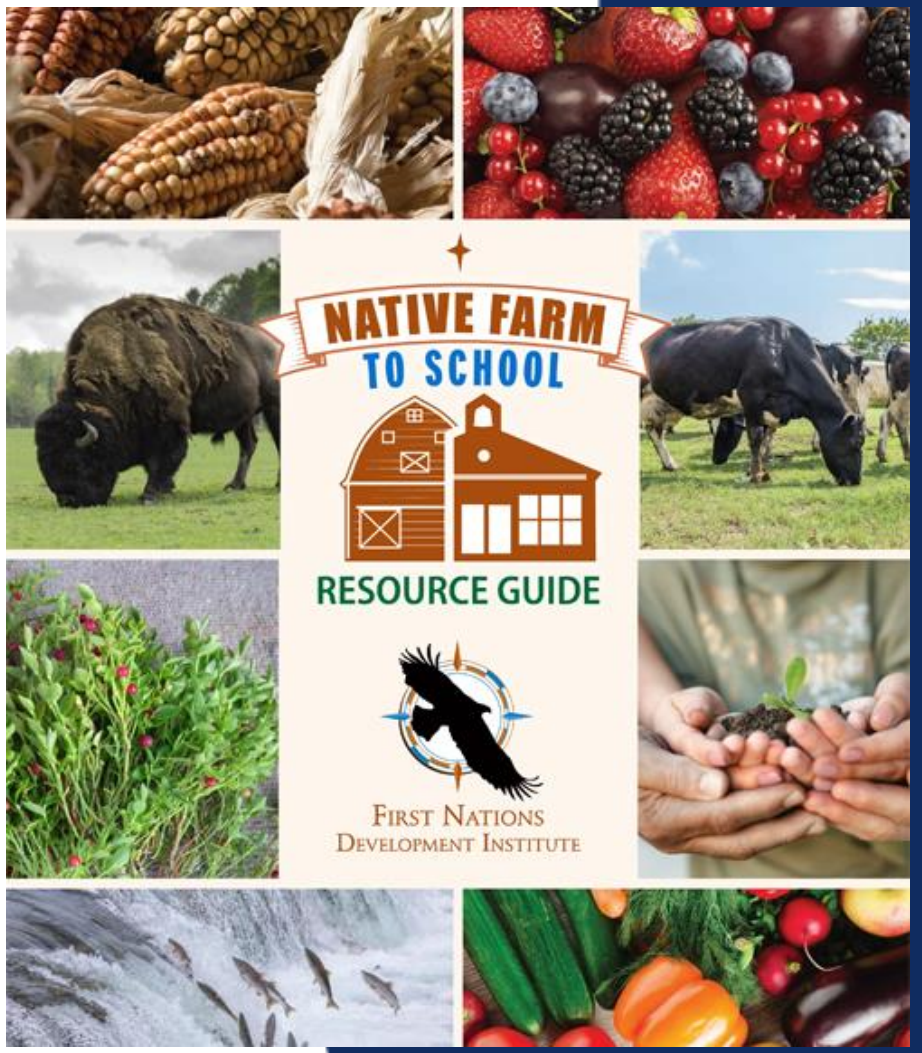
NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE

BACKGROUND ON THE NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE

With USDA support, First Nations published a Native Farm to School Resource Guide in 2018.

Involved analysis of Native and non-Native Farm to School programs to identify:

- Best practices
- Lessons learned
- Biggest challenges
- Case studies of successful programs



NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL GUIDE: CONNECTING TRADITIONAL FOODS, STORIES, LANGUAGE, AND COMMUNITY

Funded in 2019 by Environmental Protection Agency and USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Goals:

- Build the capacity of Native Farm to School programs
- Engage community
- Expand on environmental curriculum
- Update resources and references
- Address cultural relevancy

NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE 2021

Interviewed community organizations, school administrators, teachers, and staff, and tribal program staff.

- Identified elements and best practices that uphold Native values and traditions.
- Provide examples that demonstrate and inspire.
- Provide resources to connect.

"We must build schools, education programs, community gardens, and experiences that allow our children to experience the world that begins with the taste of our community, environment, connections, and history."

A-dae Romero-Briones,
Director of Programs Native Agriculture and Food Systems at First Nations Development Institute

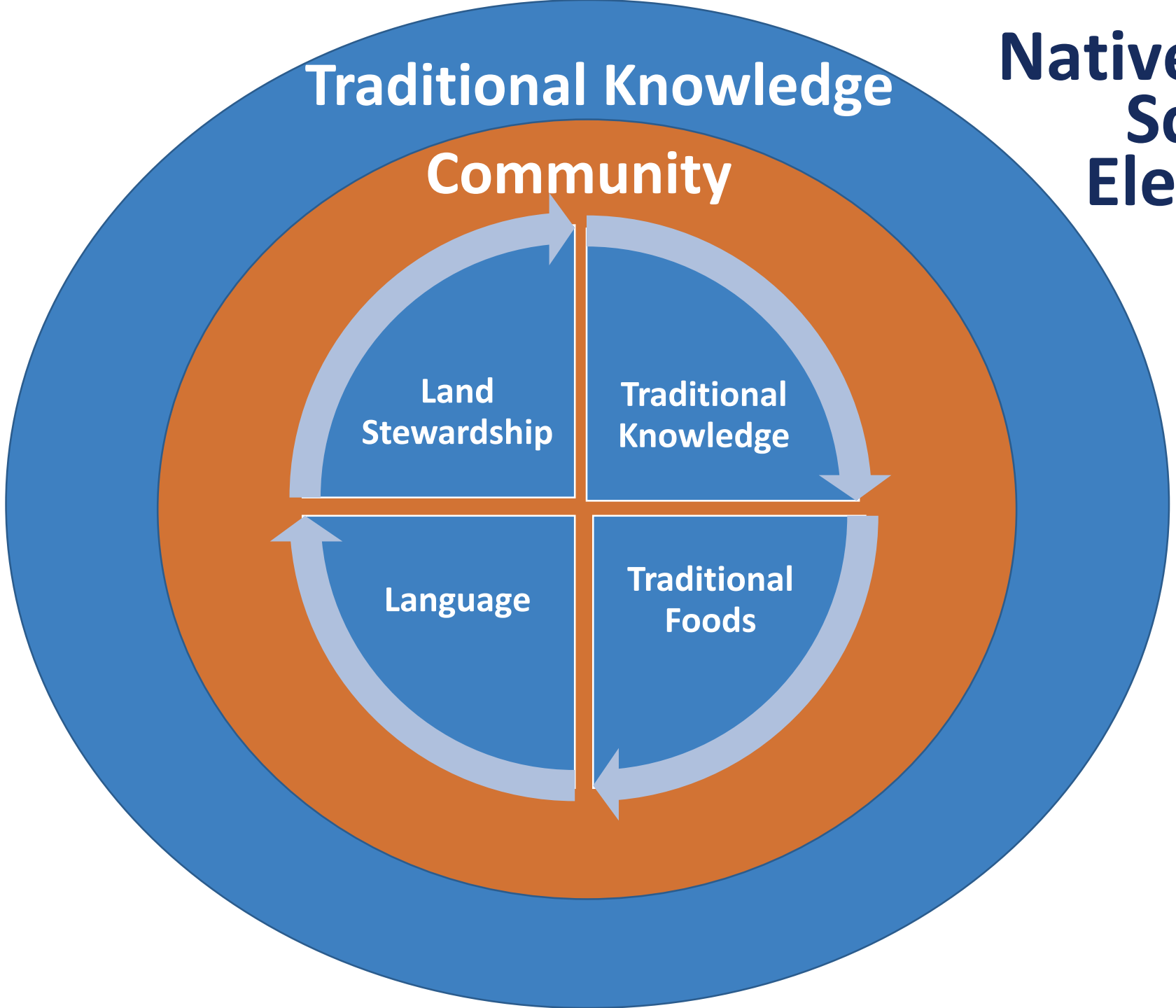
FARM TO SCHOOL

School Nutrition

School Gardens

School Education

Native Farm to School Elements



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Considerations:

- ❖ Advocate for Change
- ❖ Evaluate Curriculum
- ❖ Create Resources
- ❖ Incorporate Traditional Ways of Learning
- ❖ Diversify Teaching Materials
- ❖ Rethink Learning Outcomes
- ❖ Embrace Language
- ❖ Communication & Messaging

COMMUNITY

Community Groups

- Non-profits/Business
- Senior Center
- Health Center

Community Members

- Elders
- Tribal Producers
- Spiritual Leaders

Families

- Students
- Parents/Guardians
- Grandparents
- Siblings

Tribe

- Leaders
- Staff
- Youth Services

School Staff

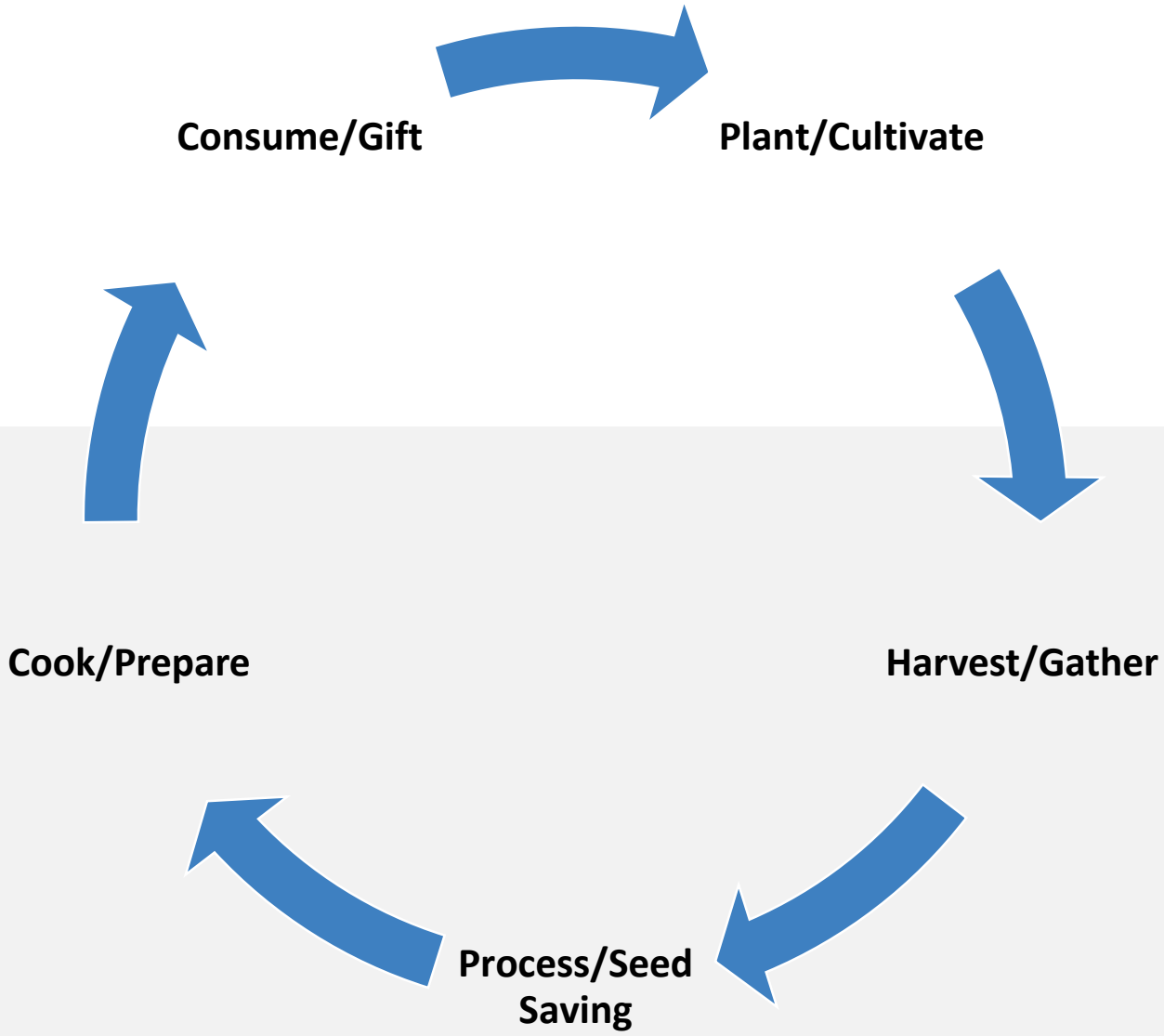
- Teachers
- Lunch staff
- Administrators

TRADITIONAL FOODWAYS

Beyond the School Garden

- Gathering
- Fishing
- Maple Sugaring
- Hunting

TRADITIONAL FOODWAYS



TRADITIONAL FOODS

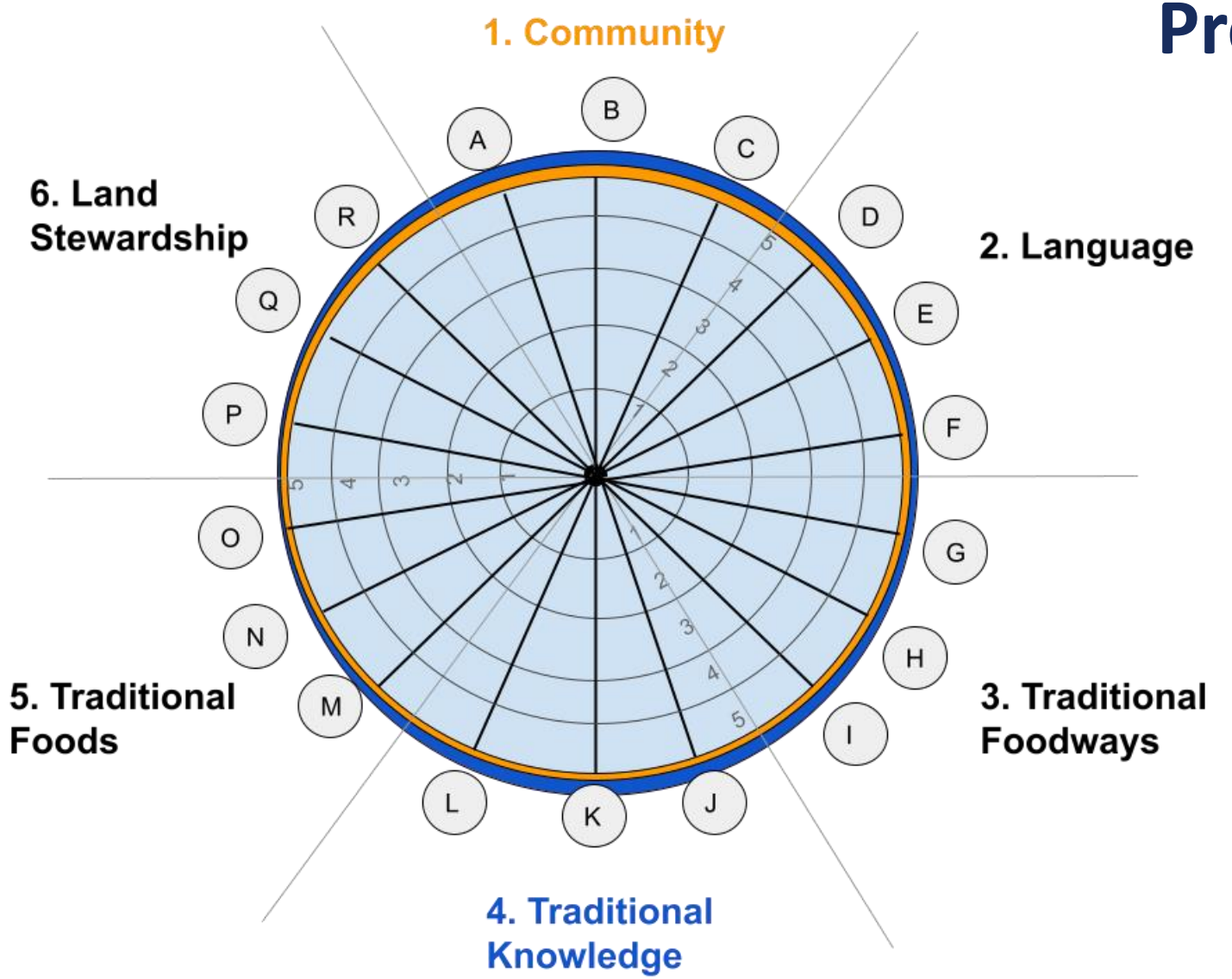
Best Practices for Incorporating Traditional Foods:

- Establish relationships with Native producers
- Consider hunting and gathering to diversify access to traditional food sources.
- Incorporate seasonal traditional foods that are sourced locally
- Consider substituting traditional foods as key ingredients
- Ask students to taste-test items and provide input on menu
- Work with elders and community members
- Integrate school staff

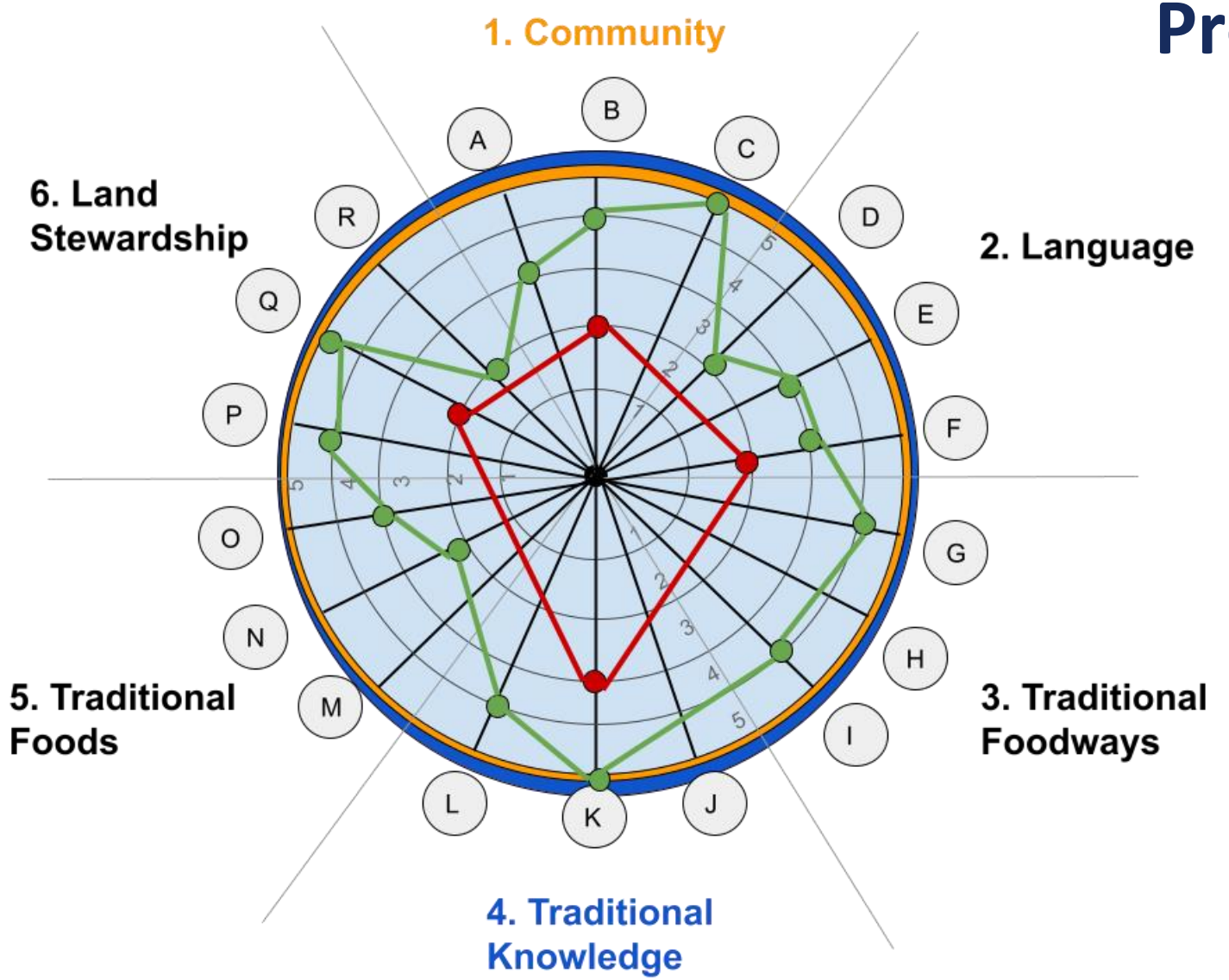
LANGUAGE

- Expresses idea and thoughts
- Improves self-esteem
- Preserves connections to community
- Affirms cultural identity

Native Farm to School Program Planner



Native Farm to School Program Planner



Beginning Program with Fewer elements

Evolved Program Many elements

GROWING YOUR PROGRAM

Mentorship

Afterschool Program

Career Pathways

Participatory Research

BUILDING YOUR PROGRAM

Partnerships

- FoodCorps
- Cooperative Extension

Funding Sources

- First Nations Development Institute
- USDA Farm to School Grant Program
- US EPA Education Grants

Other Resources

- Community Assessment
- Evaluation Tools
- Wellness Wheel
- Example Curriculum

STAY TUNED!

Native Farm to School Guide: Connecting Traditional Foods, Stories, Language, and Community

Native Farm to School Educational Booklets

Coming this Spring 2021

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THE EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

EDUCATION GRANTS SPECIALIST- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Michael Band is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Education Grants Specialist. He is responsible for coordinating operations for the Office of Environmental Education's national competitive grant program. Prior to joining EPA, Michael spent nearly five years at the U.S. Department of Education where he was a member of a bilingual team within the Office of Communications and Outreach. His career in the federal government began in 2011 as a Peace Corps Volunteer where he served as a Teacher Trainer in Colombia. Michael has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Wittenberg University and a master's degree in Global Environmental Policy from American University.

WHAT WE WILL COVER TODAY

- Overview of the Act
- EPA's EE Grant
- Native Farm to School Programs and Environmental Education
- EE Resources
- Additional EPA Resources and Funding Opportunities

NOTE

Disclaimer: This presentation provides a general overview of the EE Grants Program and the federal grant application process. Please consult each Request for Application (RFA), when published, for the most complete and current details.

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

POLL 2

Have you applied for the EPA Environmental Education grant opportunity in the past?

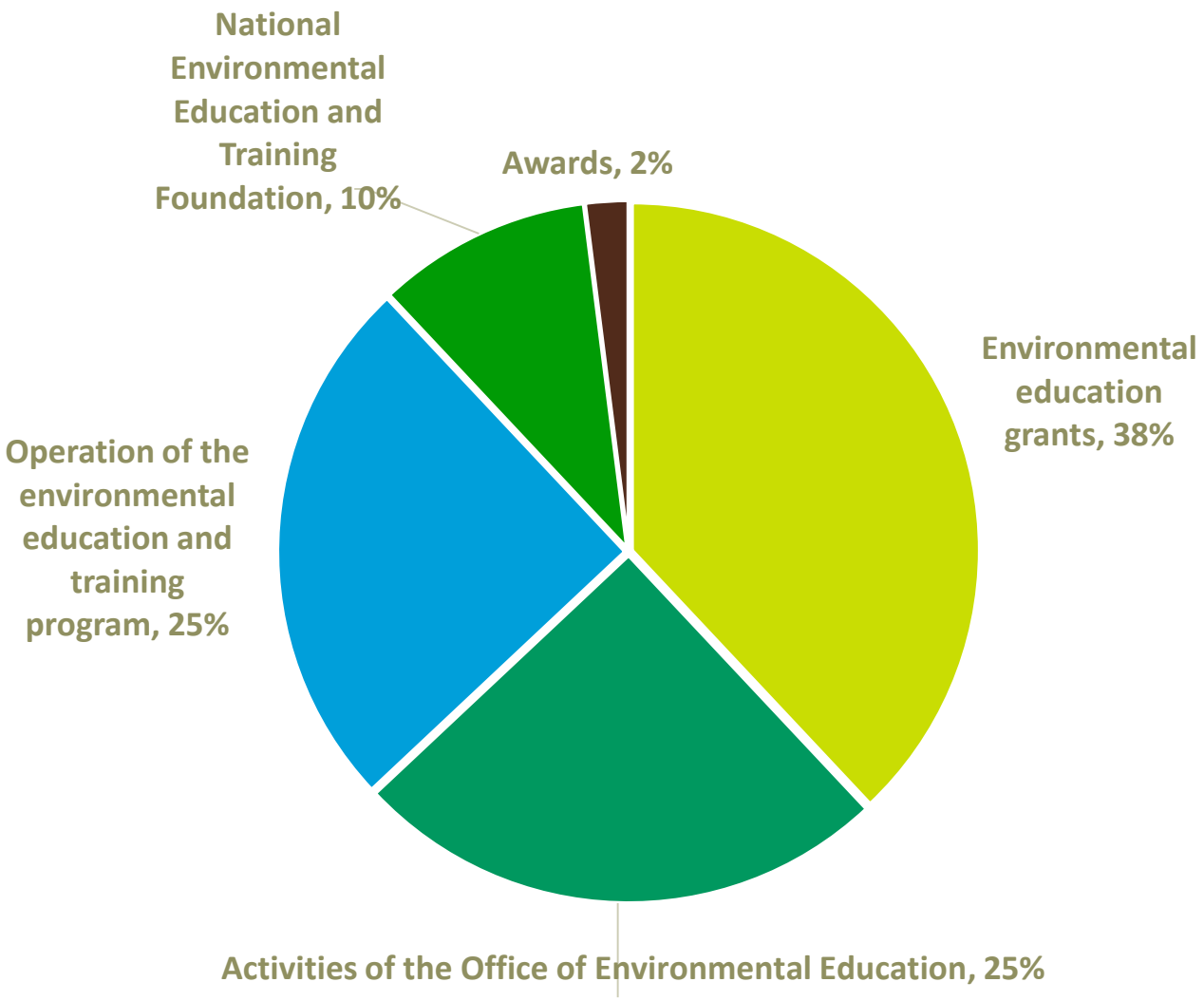
A. Yes

B. No

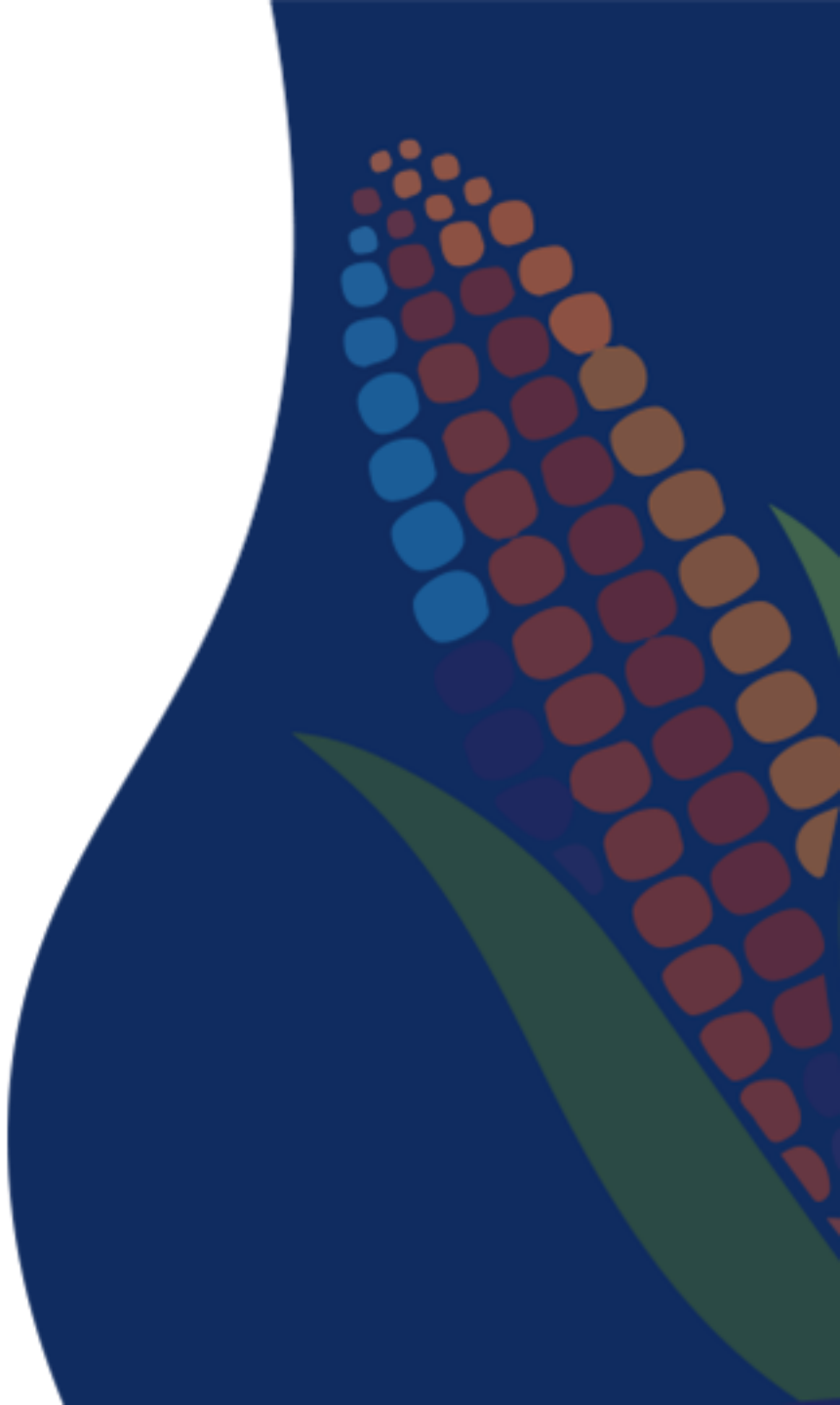
C. Unsure

THE NATIONAL EE ACT OF 1990: BRIEF HISTORY

NATIONAL EE ACT: BUDGET BREAKDOWN

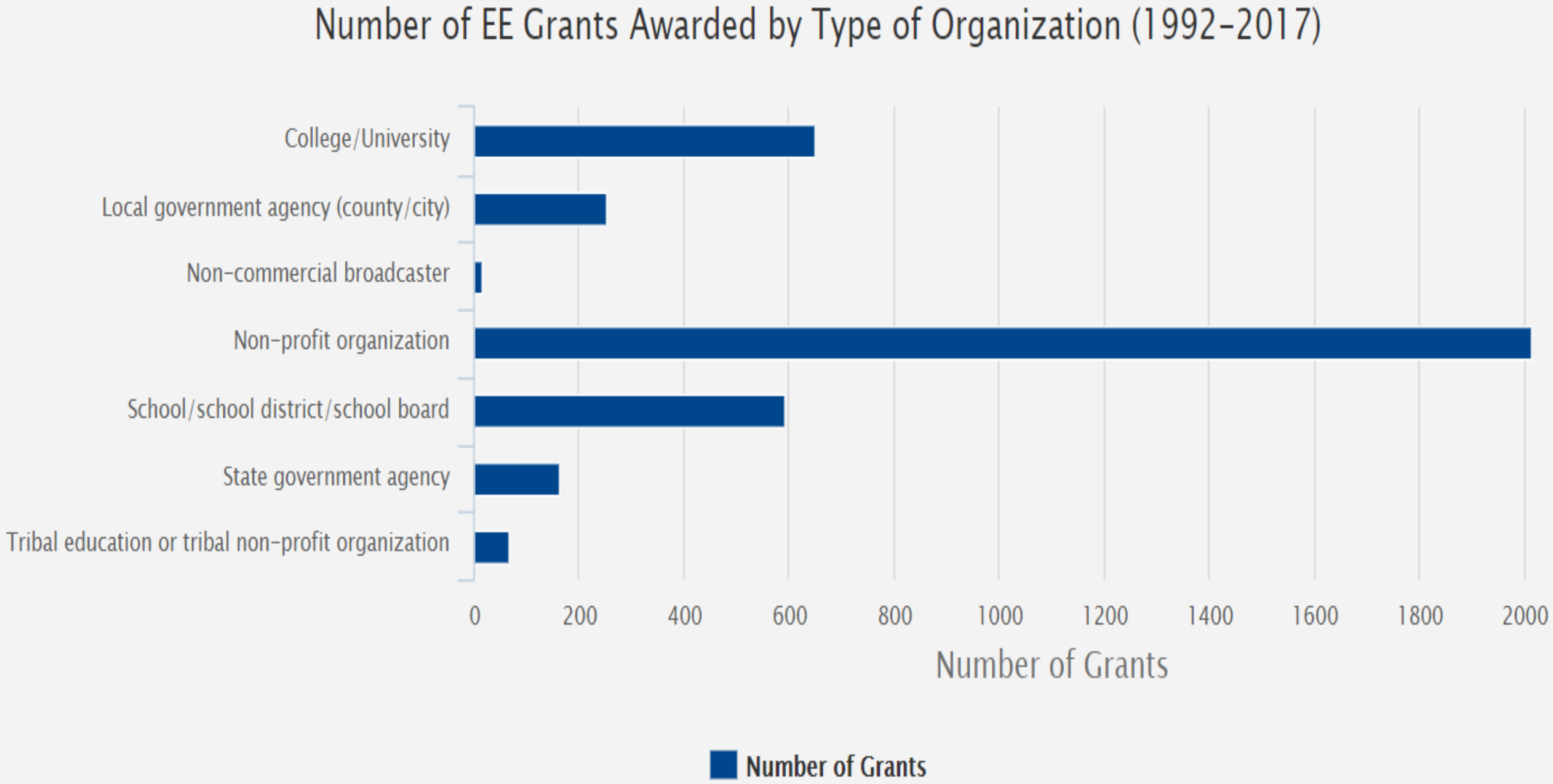


What's Happened Since 1992?

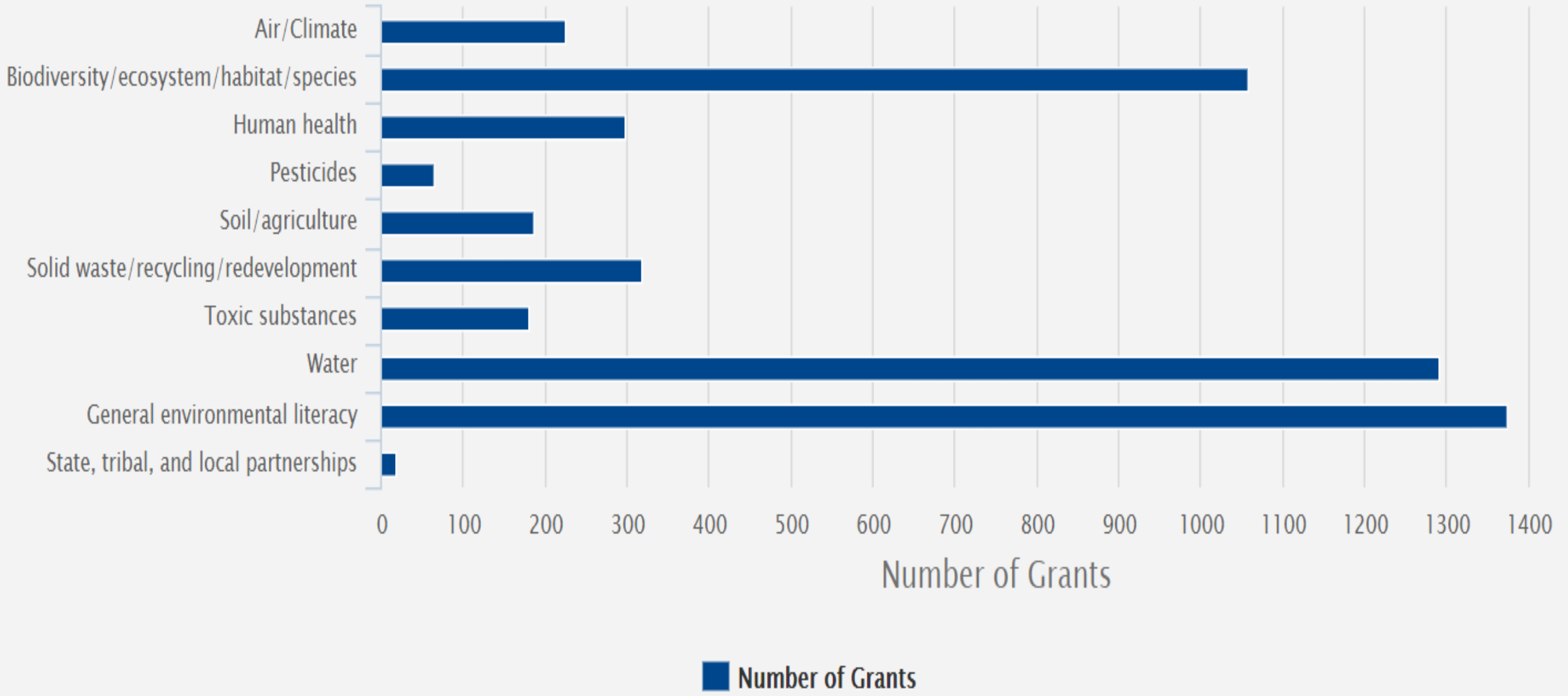


SINCE 1992

- **3,824** grants awarded-ranging from $1,000 to $250,000
- Approximately **$76M** total funding
- 25 percent required match—another **$19M**
- Largest # of applications in a year: **1,500**
- **307** applications for 2020


Number of EE Grants Awarded by Type of Organization (1992-2017)
College/University
Local government agency (county/city)
Non-commercial broadcaster
Non-profit organization
School/school district/school board
State government agency
Tribal education or tribal non-profit organization
0
200
400
600
800
1000
1200
1400
1600
1800
2000
Number of Grants
Number of Grants

Number of EE Grants Awarded by Environmental Issue (1992–2017)



EE GRANTS PROGRAM

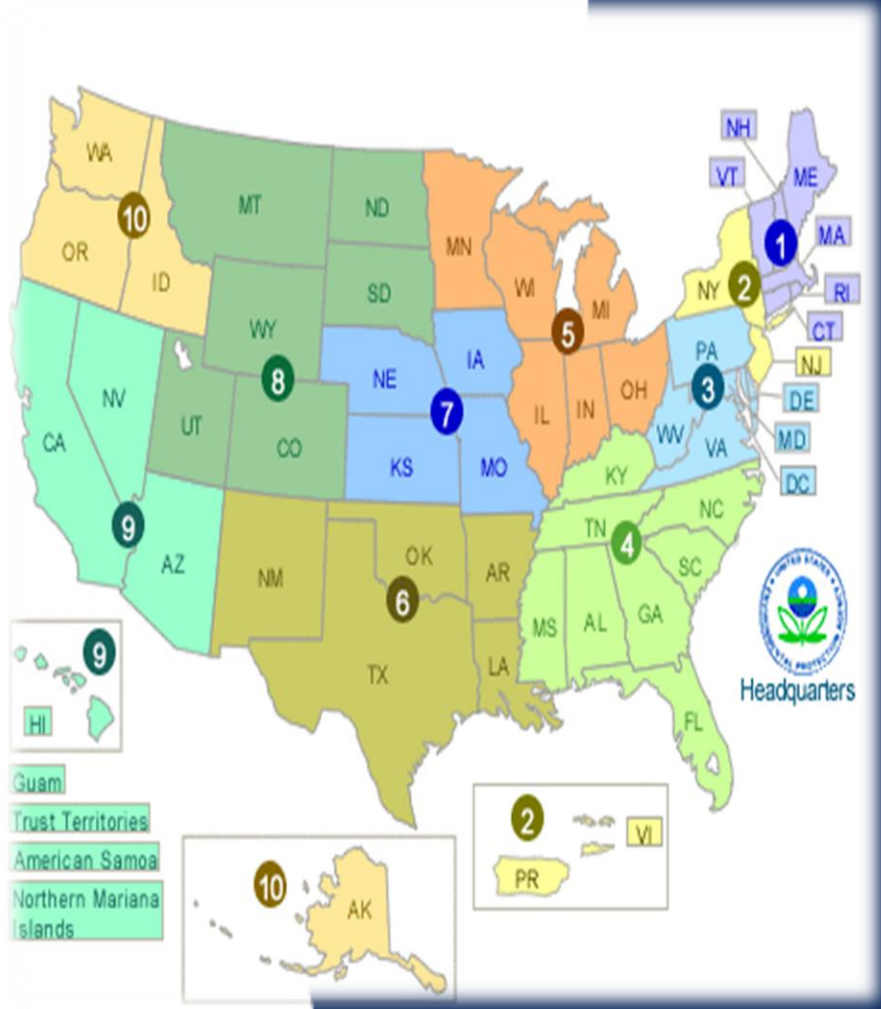
Support projects to design, demonstrate, or disseminate practices, methodologies, or techniques related to EE and training

BASIC EE GRANT INFORMATION

- 10 RFAs released
- 3 or 4 awards anticipated from each of EPA's RFAs. 30 - 35 awards total
- Grant Awards: no less than $50,000 and no more than $100,000
- Local focus
- Proposals must include both educational and environmental priorities
- Innovative ideas that reach diverse and underserved communities

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Local Education Agency
- State Education and Environmental Agencies
- Tribal Education Agency*
- College/University
- NGO – 501(C)(3)
- Noncommercial educational broadcasting entity
- Organizations located in the United States or in U.S. Territories



THIS YEAR'S EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Educational

1. Agricultural Education
2. Community Projects
3. Career Development

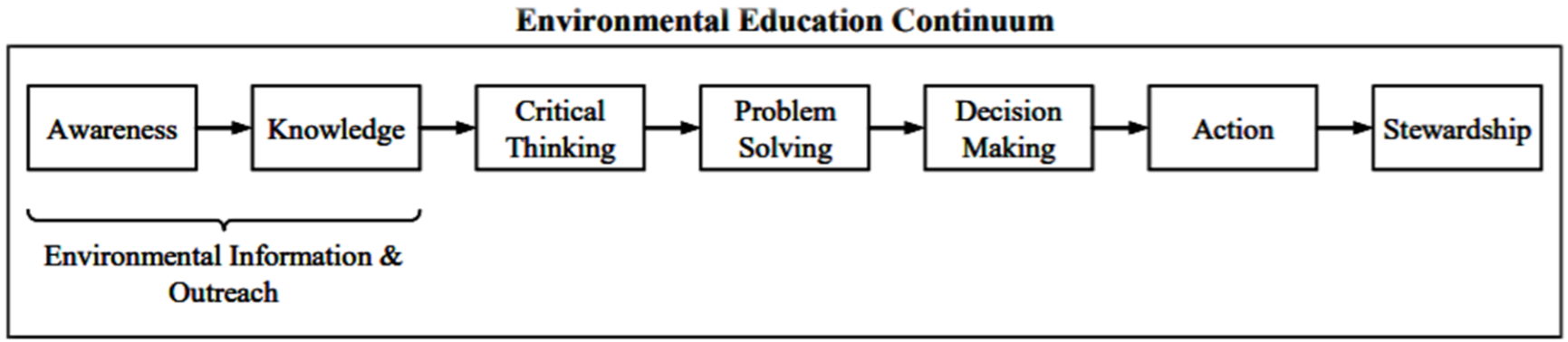
Environmental

1. Improving Air Quality
2. Ensuring Clean and Safe Water
3. Ensuring the safety of chemicals
4. Revitalize land and prevent contamination

DOES THIS GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORT CURRENT FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS? YES!

The EE Grant Program currently funds several projects that aim to get more local foods into school systems and to increase student knowledge of nutrition and sustainable agriculture. These projects teach their targeted audiences to weigh various sides of environmental issues through critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills.

Visit our Environmental Education Grant Descriptions webpage to read summaries of current and past grants.



HOW CAN THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY SUPPORT FUTURE NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS?

- Apply as **Prime Recipient** $50,000-$100,000
  - Tribal Education Agencies, Native non-profits, Local government agency
- Receive a **subawards** of $5,000 or less to perform tasks integral to a project's goals
- **Partner** with prime applicant to help in the development, design and implementation of a proposed Native Farm to School Program.

HELPFUL EE RESOURCES

https://www.epa.gov/education | https://www.epa.gov/schools | https://www.epa.gov/students

Resources and Publications

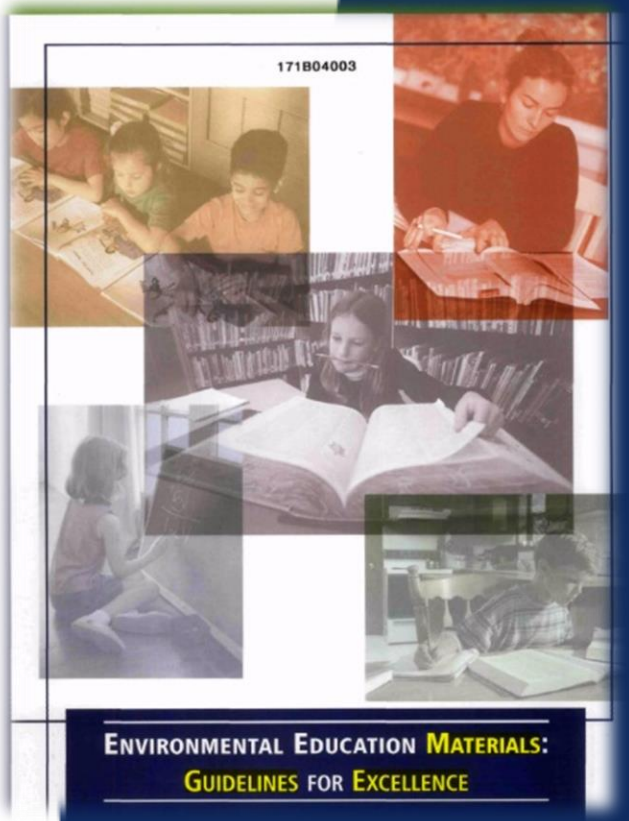
- Lesson plans, videos, project ideas, student awards and more
- EE guidelines
- Supporting Healthy Houses of Worship - Effective, affordable measures to protect the health of congregations and staff.

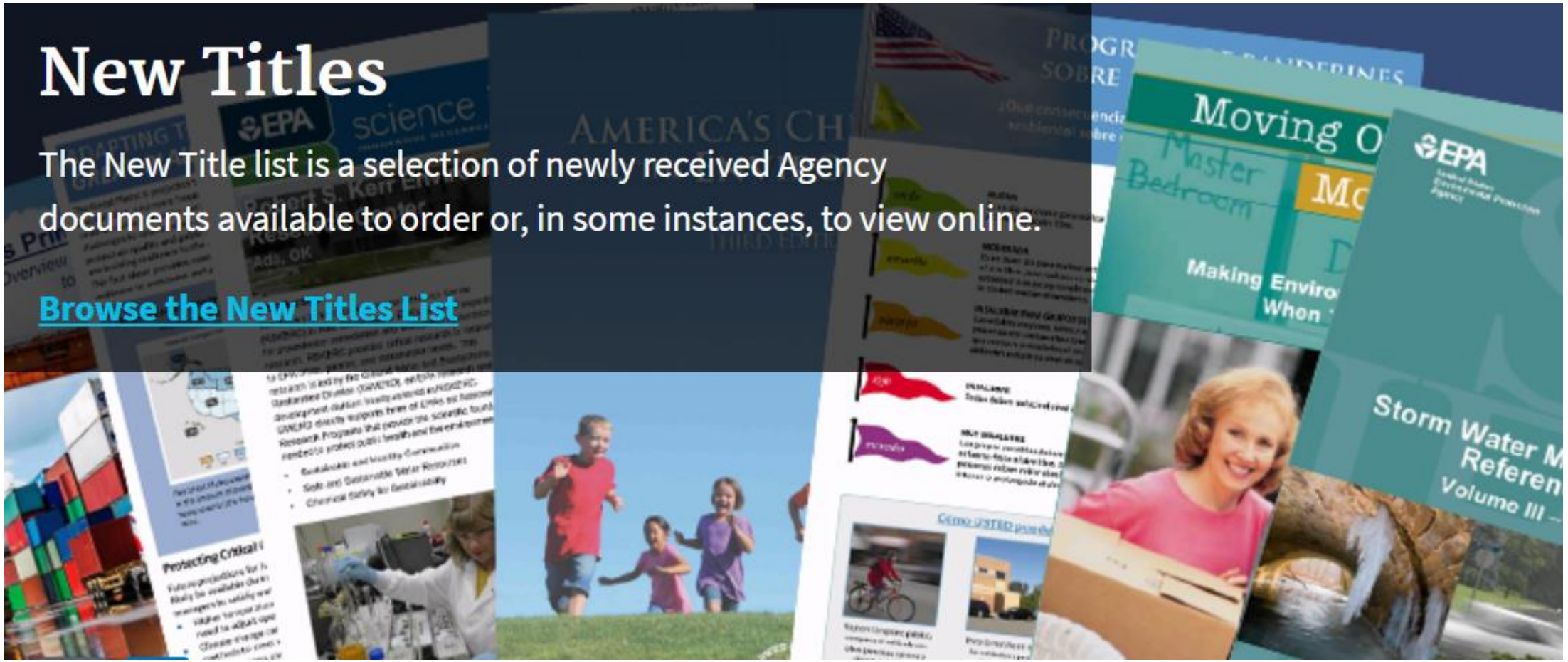
Healthy School Environments

- Support healthy and productive learning environments
- Learn about children's health and the environment

MORE HELPFUL EE RESOURCE

- If you are training educators:
  - *Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators.*
- If you are developing materials:
  - *Guidelines for Excellence in EE* series of publications.
- Both available at: http://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-publications
- When you set up an evaluation of your project:
  - My Environmental Education Evaluation Resource Assistant (MEERA) at: http://meera.snre.umich.edu/





NATIONAL SERVICE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

You can search, retrieve, download, print, and order EPA technical, scientific, and educational materials from this site – **all free of charge!**

https://www.epa.gov/nscep

EPA ENVIROATLAS: HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/ENVIROATLAS

- EnviroAtlas provides geospatial data, easy-to-use tools, and other resources related to ecosystem services, their chemical and non-chemical stressors, and human health.
- Website Features:
  - ✓Training and Tutorial Videos
  - ✓K-12 Lesson Plans
  - ✓National Data Sets
  - ✓And much more!

EPA'S NATIONAL AGRICULTURE CENTER: HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/AGRICULTURE

- EPA is committed to a strong partnership with the agriculture community to assist in fulfilling our mission of protecting human health and the environment
- Website Features:
  - ✓A-Z Agriculture Topics
  - ✓News and Alerts
  - ✓Regional Ag contacts
  - ✓And much more!

SENSIBLE STEPS TO HEALTHIER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS:

HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/SITES/PRODUCTION/FILES/2017-06/DOCUMENTS/SENSIBLE_STEPS_FINAL_MAY2017_WEB.PDF

Cost-effective, affordable measures to protect the health of students and staff.

- *Features:*
  - ✓*Quick Assessment (For Schools)*
  - ✓*Top Ten Ways to Make Your School Healthier*
  - ✓*Additional Resources*

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY: HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/TRIBAL

- Website Features:
  - ✓ Grants for Tribes
  - ✓ List of Tribal Program Managers
  - ✓ Consultation and Coordination
  - ✓ Environmental Programs
  - ✓ Laws, Regulations and Policies that Affect Tribes
  - ✓ In Your Community - In Indian Country
  - ✓ Topics of Interest

ADDITIONAL EPA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research.

Types of Brownfield Grant Funding

- ❖Cleanup Grants
- ❖State and Tribal Response Program Grants
- ❖Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Grants
- ❖Multipurpose (MP) Grants

https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding

THANK YOU!

Michael Band
EEGrants@epa.gov
https://www.epa.gov/education

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS IN THE Q&A BOX

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The recorded webinar can be accessed on our website under the First Nations Knowledge Center at https://www.firstnations.org/fnk

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NEXT WEBINAR

Title: Virtual Seed Saving Workshop

Presenter: Aaron Lowden, Ancestral Lands

Date: Tuesday, February 23rd at 12 pm MST

Where to Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i_rxXjW0T8KLC2cT8wYHig

Webinar Series Questions?

Contact: Leiloni Begaye at lbegaye@firstnations.org

Contact: Richard Elm-Hill at relmhill@firstnations.org

AHE’HEE
YAW^KO
THANK YOU!