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.
Michael Band
Education Grants
Specialist
Environmental Protection Agency

Mary Adelzadeh
Consultant
First Nations Development Institute

Richard Elm-Hill
Program Officer
First Nations Development Institute

Leiloni Begaye
Project Coordinator
First Nations Development Institute
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
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.
Q: What does food sovereignty look like at my school?
EPA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
NEW MEXICO GRANTEES
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.

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 laablab.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

WELLNESS WHEEL

How are you taking care of your body? Starting from the center, fill in each section of the Wellness Wheel to reflect how well you think you’re doing in each area.

My goals for Intellectual Wellness:

My goals for Physical Wellness:

My goals for Social/Emotional Wellness:

My goals for Community/Relationship Wellness:
BACKGROUND ON THE NATIVE FARM TO SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE


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
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
Traditional Knowledge

Community

- Land Stewardship
- Language
- Traditional Knowledge
- Traditional Foods

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
Beyond the School Garden

- Gathering
- Fishing
- Maple Sugaring
- Hunting
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
❖ Expresses idea and thoughts
❖ Improves self-esteem
❖ Preserves connections to community
❖ Affirms cultural identity
Native Farm to School Program Planner

1. Community
2. Language
3. Traditional Foodways
4. Traditional Knowledge
5. Traditional Foods
6. Land Stewardship

Beginning Program with Fewer elements
Evolved Program Many elements
# BUILDING YOUR PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnerships</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FoodCorps</td>
<td>First Nations Development Institute</td>
<td>Community Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Extension</td>
<td>USDA Farm to School Grant Program</td>
<td>Evaluation Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US EPA Education Grants</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Example Curriculum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STAY TUNED!

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

Native Farm to School Educational Booklets

Coming this Spring 2021
Native Farm to School
A Project of First Nations Development Institute

THE EPA’S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM
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.
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

- Environmental education grants, 38%
- Operation of the environmental education and training program, 25%
- Activities of the Office of Environmental Education, 25%
- National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, 10%
- Awards, 2%
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

Number of Grants

- College/University: 600
- Local government agency: 200
- Non-commercial broadcaster: 10
- Non-profit organization: 2000
- School/school district/school board: 600
- State government agency: 200
- Tribal education or tribal non-profit organization: 10
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 (MEEERA) at:
    http://meera.snre.umich.edu/
New Titles

The New Title list is a selection of newly received Agency documents available to order or, in some instances, to view online.

Browse the New Titles List

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 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](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
SPEAKER CONTACT

Michael Band
Environmental Protection Agency
Band.Michael@epa.gov

Mary Adelzadeh
First Nations Development Institute
madelzadeh@firstnations.org

Richard Elm-Hill
First Nations Development Institute
relmhill@firstnations.org
CONTACT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

First Nations Development Institute
2432 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Longmont, Colorado 80501
www.firstnations.org
Tel: 303.774.7836
Email: info@firstnations.org

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

@FirstNationsDevelopmentInstitute
@FirstNationsDevelopmentInstitute
@FNDI303
@FNDI303
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!