A Message from First Nations’ Board Chair...

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In 2021, First Nations again earned the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered.

First Nations also meets all 20 Standards of the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance. Further, 84% of donated dollars to First Nations goes directly to our programs and the communities that need this support the most.

To learn more about our impact in Indian Country, as well as the financial position of our organization, please visit:

firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information
Since 1980, First Nations has been committed to strengthening tribal assets, helping Native communities restore and retain those assets and their culturally compatible stewardship. Focused on cultivating traditional knowledge and practices to build healthy, vibrant Native communities, this approach takes a comprehensive view of assets, which include natural resources, cultural heritage, human capital, physical assets, institutional assets, social capital, legal and political assets, and creative assets.

**Direct Financial Support through Grantmaking**

**Technical Assistance & Training**

**Advocating for Systemic Change: Policy & Advocacy**

The artwork featured in this year’s Impact Report was created by 2020 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellow Hanna Sholl (Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak, Alaska). To learn more about Hanna’s work, visit fineartsbyhannasholl.com

**California Tribal Fund**

The California Tribal Fund was created to address the unique circumstances of California Native communities and the lack of philanthropic support for California Native causes. The Fund currently operates as a project of First Nations, and in 2021 it distributed $845,000 in grant funding.

One important area of the Fund includes fire and drought relief support. Here are just a few examples:

- Rapid relief to Maidu Summit Consortium and Greenville Rancheria in response to the Dixie Fire — the second-largest fire in California’s history
- Post-fire seed banking and distribution activities by Mechoopda Indian Tribe
- Funding for air scrubbers for sensitive populations sent to Native American Pathways, which serves Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk tribes

**2021 Fellowships & Communities of Practice**

- **676** Fellowship Applications Received
- **13** Fellowships Awarded
- **$975,000** Fellowship Funds Awarded

**Our Grantee Community Partners**

**Field Office**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

**Satellite Office**

LODI, CA

In 2021, First Nations made 457 grants to Native-controlled nonprofits and Tribal government programs.

**First Nations Headquarters**

LONGMONT, CO

**FIELD OFFICE**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT**

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

**UNMET NEED**

In any given year, First Nations is able to fund only a small percentage of the grant requests we receive — usually much less than 20%.

**2021 Fellowships & Communities of Practice**

- **128** Technical Assistance Support Sessions
- **73,075** People Reached through Programs
- **40** Academic Scholarships Provided to Students
- **31** Publications Authored or Produced
- **5,116** Publications Downloaded from Online Knowledge Center
- **457** Grants Awarded
- **253** Program Grants
- **204** COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants

**Total Amount Invested**

- **$5.8M** Program Grants
- **$2.6M** COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants

**2021 Fellowships & Communities of Practice**

- **67 Grants Submitted by 2021 Participants**
- **$6.4M Total Funds Solicited**

**Impact Highlight**

Native Fundraisers Community of Practice

First Nations’ Native Fundraisers Community of Practice is a year-long program in which participants learn strategies to strengthen their grantwriting and fundraising skills within a framework of narrative change and authentic storytelling. The training empowers them to identify and connect with funders, bolster their grant submissions, and ultimately build the capacity and financial sustainability of their organizations.

“Through this program I realized the challenges I faced in dealing with the philanthropic system that was not built for us was a struggle I was not facing alone. I learned to better advocate for my community...and how to approach fundraising from a cultural perspective.”

— Kristina Stanley (Ojibwe) | Operations Manager, I-Collective | icollectiveinc.org

676

13

85 Community of Practice Participants

Includes Native Fundraisers, Indigenous Food Systems, and Native Language Immersion Communities of Practice

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