

FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS PROUD TO SHARE...

Moving *Forward*

IMPACT
REPORT
2021

10 YEARS IN A ROW



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

We believe... Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual, and cultural well-being of their communities.

| GUIDING PRINCIPLE |

Our Approach



ASSET-BUILDING

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.

Our CORE Strategies

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE



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

FEATURED PROJECT

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 services Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk tribes

2021 Fellowships & Communities of Practice

676 Fellowship Applications Received

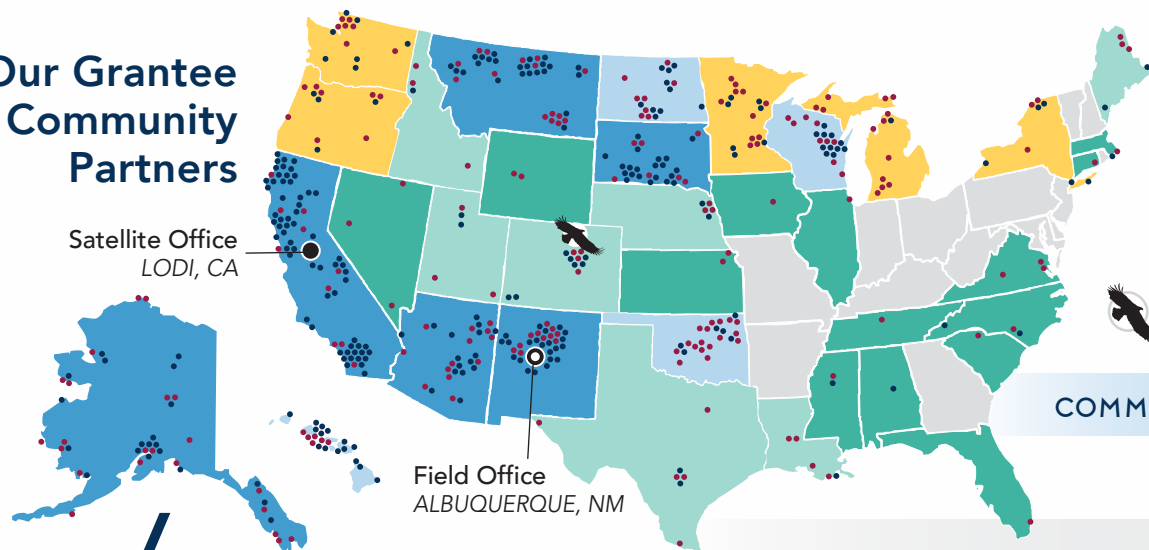
13 Fellowships Awarded

\$975,000 Fellowship Funds Awarded

85 Community of Practice Participants

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

Our Grantee Community Partners



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



First Nations Headquarters
LONGMONT, CO

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

- Up to \$50,000
- \$50,001-\$150,000
- \$150,001-\$300,000
- \$300,001-\$450,000
- Over \$450,000

Program Grants ●

COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants ●

/mpact → 2021

128

Technical Assistance Support Sessions

Includes capacity-building trainings, webinars, and convenings

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

\$8.4M

Total Amount Invested

\$5.8M Program Grants | \$2.6M COVID-19 Emergency
Response Grants

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%.**

IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

Native Fundraisers Community of Practice

67

Grants Submitted
by 2021 Participants

\$6.4M

Total Funds Solicited

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

Our *Commitment* TO TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

100% of OUR BOARD MEMBERS are NATIVE

A Message from First Nations' Board Chair...

At First Nations, we treat the resources entrusted to us as sacred — exercising a high level of responsibility with the gifts and resources in our care.

We are proud to share that for the 10th year in a row, First Nations received the highest rating of **Four Stars from Charity Navigator**. Only 3% of charities evaluated receive this highest distinction for at least 10 consecutive years.



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



Benny Shendo | Jemez Pueblo
CHAIR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marguerite Smith | Shinnecock
VICE CHAIR

Susan Jenkins | Choctaw
TREASURER

Shyla Sheppard | Mandan/Hidatsa
SECRETARY

For a complete list of board members and biographies, visit:
firstnations.org/about/board

LEADERSHIP TEAM



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