



Gather Food Sovereignty Grant

Application Deadline: February 26, 2023, no later than 5 pm Mountain Time

General Information

About First Nations Development Institute

For 42 years, First Nations Development Institute (First Nations), a Native-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has worked to strengthen American Indian economies to support healthy Native communities by investing in and creating innovative institutions and models that strengthen asset control and support economic development for American Indian people and their communities. First Nations began its national grantmaking program in 1993. Through mid-year 2022, First Nations has successfully managed 2,702 grants totaling more than \$54.7 million to tribal and community institutions across Indian Country. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

First Nations recognizes that Native food systems are important assets to Native communities. As a result, First Nations has long supported Native communities as they fortify traditional food systems, seek to increase access healthy and fresh foods, increase awareness of and involvement with where food comes from, and expand knowledge of the linkages between foods, Native cultures and/or contribute to tribal economic growth and development of entrepreneurially related food ventures.

Grant Overview

With the generous support of [NoVo Foundation](#), First Nations' Gather Food Sovereignty Grants 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 targets emerging projects that focus on developing Tribal Food Sovereignty. In this round of the **Gather Food Sovereignty Grant**, First Nations expects to award up to seven grants averaging \$32,000 to support Native American-led food sovereignty work.

First Nations Development Institute | 2432 Main Street, 2nd Floor | Longmont, CO 80501
Tel. 303-774-7836 | Fax 303-774-7841 | Website: www.firstnations.org



Grant Period

The grant period for this funding opportunity will commence March 1, 2023, and end February 28, 2024.

Grant Award Ceilings

Total requests for project budgets within this funding opportunity should not exceed \$32,000.

Applicant Eligibility

Types of eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Federal- and state-recognized tribal governments (tribal government programs, such as tribal arts programs, heritage departments, economic development entities, etc.)
- Native-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofits
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship
- Native 7871 organizations

Please refer to the Grantmaking [FAQ](#) section for further insight regarding applicant eligibility.

Application Deadlines

Applications are due **Wednesday February 26, 2023, no later than 5 pm Mountain Time.**

Unfortunately, First Nations cannot make any emergency exceptions to application deadlines. Partial applications, incomplete applications due to user error, or faxed/emailed/mailed applications will not be considered unless they have received prior approval.

Allowable Grant Activities

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.



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
- Developing projects aimed at increasing local food system control, including increasing access to traditional foods, hunting, fishing, or gathering
- Increasing local food distribution and marketing to end-use institutions (e.g., schools or local and tribal businesses) and larger markets, and/or
- 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

Examples of **unallowable activities** under this funding opportunity include:

- Lobbying
- Entertainment
- Capital construction projects (including the construction, purchase, renovation, and/or furnishing of facilities)
- Funding of individuals
- Development campaigns
- Endowments
- Scholarships or tuition assistance

Selection Criteria

First Nations seeks projects that demonstrate:

- Strengthening of Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian community food systems and food sovereignty
- A new emerging or innovative idea or an ongoing effort that substantially builds upon past success
- The ability and/or experience necessary to successfully accomplish the proposed project
- Logical and sequential development of project or program implementation
- A clear plan of action with specific, measurable, and realistic goals and objectives
- Accurate, reasonable, and consistent project or program budget
- Direct engagement of target audiences within the planning, implementation, and evaluation process

Grant Expectations



Evaluation & Reporting: Gather Food Sovereignty grantees will be required to submit two verbal or written progress reports summarizing grant activities, budget expenditures, quantifiable outputs, challenges, and lessons learned. One progress report call will take place in September 2023 and a final verbal report will take place within two weeks of the grant period end date of February 28, 2024. These reports will enable First Nations and NoVo Foundation to: (1) gain a further understanding of projects serving the field of Native health policy and advocacy; (2) tell grantee stories, including accomplishments, challenges, impact, and programming practices; and (3) measure the impact of funding support on grantee programs.

Online Application Process & Required Attachments

All applicants must complete the First Nations online grant application, including submission of necessary attachments, no later than **Wednesday, February 26, 2023, by 5 pm Mountain Time**.

First Nations recognizes that 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 application deadline by submitting an email request to grantmaking@firstnations.org. Please include your name, organization, contact information, and the name of the RFP for which you are applying. 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.

Download instructions for First Nations' Online Application System [here](#).

Access First Nations' Online Application system to begin a new application [here](#).

The following attachments must be uploaded during the online submission process:

- **Attachment A: Budget.** An estimated budget for the proposed project with a detailed cost breakdown that is reasonable and directly related to proposed grant activities. ([Download Budget Template](#))
- **Attachment B: Timeline.** A detailed project timeline that documents important project goals, milestones, and benchmarks. The person or people responsible for the steps and when they will be completed should be included.
- **Attachment C: Tax-Status Documentation.** A copy of the organization's 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.



- **Attachment D: Leadership & Staff List.** Native-controlled nonprofits should submit a list of their Board of Directors, with tribal affiliation (if applicable), and key staff. Community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of their own leadership team (not the fiscal sponsor's), with tribal affiliation (if applicable), and key staff. Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of their Tribal Council in lieu of a Board of Directors.

Application Q&A Sessions

First Nations will host an optional Question & Answer (Q&A) Session for interested applicants prior to the application deadline. This Q&A session will provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the application, selection criteria, guidelines, or other related questions. Participation is NOT mandatory; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the call.

The Application Q&A Session will be held on:

- **Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 2 pm Mountain Time**

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEufuyspj8tHNOdyi54S5vMaRh7jLcxlSPW](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Grant Writing Resources

First Nations has compiled a number of free resources related to the grant writing process. Whether you are a small organization new to grants or an organization with extensive experience, these resources will help with development of your application to First Nations.

Please click [here](#) to access First Nations' free grant-writing resources.

Questions

Should you have any additional questions about the RFP or this specific funding opportunity, please contact Brickman House by email at bhouse@firstnations.org or by phone at (920)264-6209.



Partners

About First Nations Development Institute

For 42 years and through a three-pronged strategy of educating grassroots practitioners, advocating for systemic change, and capitalizing Indian communities, First Nations has been working to restore control and stewardship of tribal assets to Native communities — be they land, human, cultural, economic, or natural resources. First Nations serves American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

About NoVo Foundation

Established in 2006, NoVo Foundation supports initiatives that promote a holistic, interconnected and healing vision for humanity. Their mission is to create a more balanced world through collective imagination. Jennifer and Peter Buffet look at the big picture, and address root causes to maximize their philanthropy’s lasting impact. With this in mind NoVo looks for ways to support changes that foster greater collaboration and partnership in all spheres of life. For more information, visit <https://novofoundation.org/>