



FIRST NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



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

# NATIVE VALUES, NATIVE VOICES

## 2022 IMPACT REPORT

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





# OUR APPROACH: ASSET-BUILDING

## FIRST NATIONS EMPOWERS NATIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUR CORE STRATEGIES:

- **Direct Financial Support** through Grantmaking
- **Technical Assistance** & Training
- Advocating for **Systemic Change**

For over 42 years, we've worked alongside Native nations and communities to take back control of tribal assets and ensure they're managed in a way that aligns with Native values and cultures.

We focus on using traditional knowledge and practices to build strong, healthy Native communities. We take 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.



### IMPACT HIGHLIGHT: Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani

Nestled in the lush green 'Āo Valley of Maui, Hawaii, lies a school like no other: Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani — a private, independent, and nonprofit Hawaiian language and culture immersion school.

At Ke Kula 'o Pi'ilani students are fully immersed in Hawaiian language, culture, and values. They spend much of their days outdoors in nature's classroom doing cultural activities.

First Nations is proud to support these efforts and in 2022 awarded the school a Native Language Immersion Initiative grant of \$45,800 to help further develop curriculum themes and create a head teacher (Po'o Kumu) position. This funding will also help the school attract and retain highly qualified teachers fluent in Hawaiian and dedicated to the school's values and mission.



### FEATURED PROGRAM: Stewarding Native Lands

Thanks to support from First Nations' donors and allies, the number of people reached through our programs grew substantially in 2022. This can be attributed to growth across our programs, especially Stewarding Native Lands. Through this program, First Nations invests in large regional efforts that advance tribal sovereignty and Indigenous-led solutions to climate change. In 2022, we were proud to support these projects with population-level impacts:

- Climate resiliency planning
- Coalition-based approaches to protecting marine resources in the Bering Sea of Alaska
- Green jobs in sectors like energy sovereignty, transportation, waste management, manufacturing, and disaster preparedness



The artwork featured in this year's Impact Report was created by **CHRISTOPHER SWEET (HO-CHUNK/OJIBWE)**. To learn more about Christopher's work, visit [indigenousfirst.org/chris-sweet](https://indigenousfirst.org/chris-sweet).



## 410 GRANTS AWARDED

to Native-controlled nonprofits and tribal government programs.

**283** Program Grants

**127** COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants

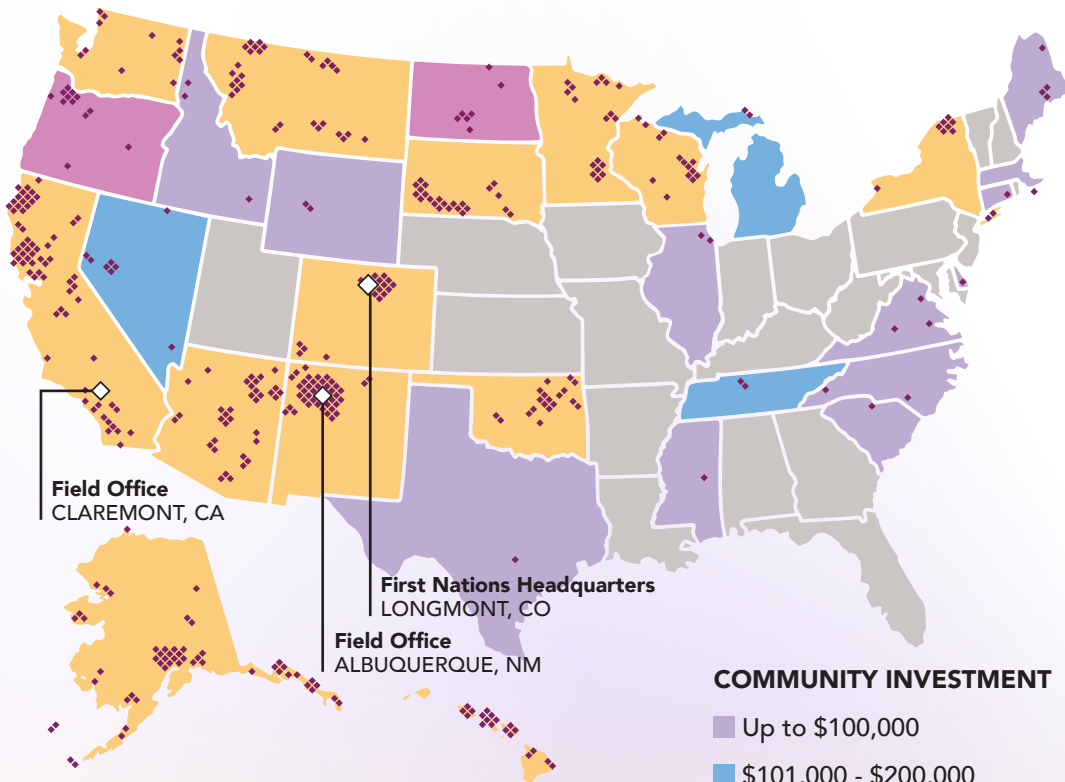
## \$12.5M INVESTED

**\$10.1M** Program Grants

**\$1.6M** COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants

**\$750K** Fellowship Funds Awarded

## OUR GRANTEE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Learn more about the organizations First Nations\* supports at [firstnations.org/grantee-directory](https://firstnations.org/grantee-directory).

## 2022 IMPACT

**191** Technical Assistance Support Sessions  
Includes capacity-building trainings, webinars, and convenings

**140,202** People Reached  
through Programs

**29** Academic Scholarships  
Provided to Students

**42** Publications Authored  
or Produced

**4,741** Publications  
Downloaded  
from Online Knowledge Center

### 2022 FELLOWSHIPS & COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

**300** Fellowship  
Applications Received

**10** Fellowships Awarded

**14** Participants Supported  
in the Indigenous Food  
Systems Community of  
Practice

### 2022 UNMET NEED

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



# OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

A Message from First Nations' Board Chair

At First Nations, we view the resources entrusted to us as sacred and take great responsibility in how we use them. We are proud to meet the criteria of top charity watchdogs:

➤ **Charity Navigator:** The highest rating of Four Stars for 11 consecutive years

➤ **GuideStar:** 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered

➤ **Better Business Bureau:** First Nations meets all 20 Standards of the Wise Giving Alliance

➤ **GreatNonprofits:** New in 2022, First Nations was honored with a Top-Rated Award

Learn more about our impact and the financial position of our organization at: [firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information](https://firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Benny Shendo**  
Jemez Pueblo | *CHAIR*

**Marguerite Smith**  
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**Susan Jenkins**  
Choctaw | *TREASURER*

**Shyla Sheppard**  
Mandan/Hidatsa | *SECRETARY*

100% of our board members are Native. For a complete list, visit: [firstnations.org/about/board](https://firstnations.org/about/board)

## OUR LEADERSHIP



**Michael E. Roberts, M.B.A.**  
Tlingit | *PRESIDENT & CEO*



**Raymond Foxworth, Ph.D.**  
Navajo | *VICE PRESIDENT, GRANTMAKING, DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS*



**Jackie Francke, B.S.**  
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