



**California Tribal Fund –
Food Sovereignty and Local Control of Food Systems
Application Deadline: May 31, 2023, 5:00 PM PST**

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 \$55 million to tribal and community institutions across Indian Country. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

The California Tribal Fund was created to support California-based, California-Native-led nonprofits and tribal programs in controlling and protecting their food systems, water, languages, traditional ecological knowledge, and land. The fund is currently operated as a project of First Nations Development Institute. For more information visit <https://www.firstnations.org/california-tribal-fund/>

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

First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) is now accepting applications under our Food Sovereignty and Local Control of Food Systems grant opportunity within the California Tribal Fund.

First Nations expects to award **10-12 grants averaging \$40,000** to California-based tribes or tribally-controlled non-profit organizations as they work towards building a statewide movement

that will fulfill a vision of California Native communities and food systems that are self-directed, well-resourced and supported by community policies and systems.

This grant is made possible through the generous support of the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, the Elizabeth R & William J Patterson Foundation, the Sierra Health Foundation, and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.

Grant Period

The grant period for this funding opportunity will be eighteen months, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2025.

Grant Award Ceilings

Total requests for project budgets within this funding opportunity should not exceed \$40,000.

Grant Submission Deadlines

All applicants must complete the First Nations [online grant application](#), including submission of necessary attachments.

- Proposals will be due Wednesday, May 31, 2023 no later than 5 p.m. PST.

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 requested 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 funding opportunity 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 [here](#).

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.

Please allow yourself enough time to submit a complete application before the deadline, as the system will shut down automatically at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on May 31, 2023, and no data may be entered thereafter. We do not accept partial, faxed, emailed or mailed applications. Applications that are not received on time due to user error will not be considered.

Eligibility

Organizations eligible to apply include California located, Native American-controlled, nonprofit 501(c)(3), tribal organizations, and Native §7871 organizations. First Nations considers “Native-controlled” to mean that the majority (more than 50%) of the organization’s Board of Directors is tribally affiliated.

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

- California based Federal and State Recognized Tribal Governments
- Native-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofits
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship
- Native §7871 Organizations
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship

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

Application & Required Attachments

Proposal Requirements:

- A brief **history of the organization**, its mission and current and primary programmatic focus related to food sovereignty and/or local control of food systems
- At least **three specific goals/objectives** to be accomplished with the funding.
- A **summary of project activities** describing how they will be implemented.
- A **project budget** that describes how funding will be utilized by category.

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

- **Tax-Status Documentation.** A copy of the organization 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. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.
 - **Description of Board of Directors.** Native-controlled nonprofits should submit a list of their Board of Directors, with tribal affiliation clearly listed next to each director name where applicable. Community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of their leadership team, with tribal affiliation of each team member where applicable. Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of their Tribal Council in lieu of a Board of Directors. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.
- Description of Key Leadership Staff.** Native-controlled nonprofits and community organizations with fiscal sponsors should submit a list of key staff who will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the proposed project. Tribal programs and governments should submit a list of key staff responsible for overseeing and implementing the proposed project. This document should be uploaded as a PDF file.

- **Budget.** ([Download Required Budget Form](#)) An estimated budget for the proposed project with a detailed cost breakdown of how general operating support will be spent. This form must be uploaded as an Excel file.

All applicants must complete a proposal in the First Nations online grant application, including submission of necessary attachments, no later than **Wednesday May 31, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.**

Selection Criteria

Selected grantees under this opportunity must use funding to support work contributing to building a statewide movement that will fulfill a vision of California 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.
- Strategic Community planning around food sovereignty projects.
- Projects aimed at increasing local food system control, including increasing access to fresh and healthy foods.
- Increasing local food distribution and marketing to end-use institutions (eg: schools or local and tribal businesses) and larger markets.
- Support for capacity building including creation or revision of policies and procedures, strategic plans, etc.

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

- Capital construction projects (which includes the construction, purchase, renovation, and/or furnishing of facilities)
- Scholarships or tuition assistance
- Films, television and/or radio programs
- Endowments
- Development campaigns
- Funding for individuals
- Purchase of Real Estate
- Support of lobbying activities or drafting legislation
- Support of litigation

Grant Expectations and Requirements

Grantee Orientation: Selected grantees must participate in a mandatory Grantee Orientation Webinar, which will be held the week of July 10, 2023. First Nations will email selected grantees with registration information for this webinar on or after July 3, 2023. During this webinar, First Nations will provide grantees with an overview of grant requirements and deadlines.

Evaluation and Reporting: Program staff will schedule a check in call in lieu of a mid-grant progress report. A final report, including a financial expenditure report, will be required at the end of the grant period. This call and report will enable First Nations to (1) gain further understanding on your program (2) tell grantee stories, including accomplishments, challenges, impact, and programming practices; and (3) measure the impact of funding support on grantee programs.

First Nations L.E.A.D. Conference Attendance: First Nations L.E.A.D. Conference Attendance: All applicants should include at least \$2,000 in their proposed application budgets for travel to send at least one individual to attend the biannual L.E.A.D. Conference which will take place September 26-28, 2023. More information will be forthcoming regarding the location of the conference. However, the travel funds should be included in the proposed program budgets.

Help

First Nations Development Institute will hold an informational webinar to discuss the RFP process and address any questions on the following date:

- **Monday, May 15, 2023, 10:00am – 11:00am Pacific Time**

Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7858443130755611478>

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 one or both of the calls.

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.

Additional Questions

Should you have any additional questions about the call for applications or this specific funding opportunity, please contact Rebecca Tortes by email at rtortes@firstnations.org or by phone at 303-774-7836.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 5 p.m. PST