

FIRST NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Strengthening Native Programs & Feeding Families Grant Round 3

Application Deadline October 5, 2023, no later than 5 pm Mountain Time

General Information

About First Nations Development Institute

For over 43 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 2023 First Nations has successfully managed 3,052 grants totaling more than \$65 million to tribal and community institutions across Indian Country. For more information, visit www.firstnations.org.

First Nations recognizes that American Indians have the highest rates of food insecurity in the United States. First Nations also recognizes that in the face of these food challenges, there are many efforts by Native communities and nonprofits that work to distribute food and decrease the rate of hunger and food insecurity in their communities. First Nations will ensure that Native nonprofits and tribal programs have resources for the long term and immediate distribution of food to Native people. Focuses include: general support for infrastructure building, supporting logistical aspects of food distribution, capacity building for organizations, networking, and accessing healthy foods. First Nations hopes to have a collective of about 240,000 pounds of food moved over the life of this grant so grantees will move around 5,000 pounds each annually.

Grant Overview

With the generous support of the American Express Foundation, First Nations established the Strengthening Native Programs & Feeding Families Grant to provide support to the First Nations' Food Pantry Initiative, which aims to sustain Native American communities, organizations, and

programs addressing community needs with a particular focus on food insecurity. The food pantry initiative will respond to the fact that American Indians have the highest food insecurity in the United States. Through the *Strengthening Native Programs & Feeding Families Grant*, First Nations expects to award 12 tribes or Native-run nonprofits or Native community groups, which are addressing food insecurity through food distribution, with grants averaging \$10,000 each annually over four years. In total, the Food Pantry initiative will support 48 non-profits or Native community groups.

Grant Period

The grant period for this funding opportunity will commence November 6, 2023, to September 11, 2024.

Grant Award Ceilings

Total requests for project budgets within the Food Pantry Initiative should not exceed \$10,000.

Applicant Eligibility

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

- Federal- and State-Recognized Tribal Governments (Tribal Government Programs, such as Food Distribution, Food Services, Agriculture, Heritage Departments, Economic Development Entities, etc.)
- Native-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofits
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship
- Native 7871 Organizations

All grantees must be in the United States.

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

Application Deadlines

Applications are due **October 5, 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 that is addressing food insecurity/hunger in Native communities.

Examples of allowable activities under this funding opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- Building on needed or existing infrastructure
- Supporting logistics (e.g., food safety, food processing, packaging, transportation)
- Capacity building for the organization and staff (e.g., specialized trainings, transportation)
- Networking (e.g., for food recovery to collect edible, safe foods that would otherwise be discarded and, instead, distribute them to hungry families)
- Accessing healthy foods traditional to a Native diet

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 head
- Endowments
- Scholarships or tuition assistance

Selection Criteria

First Nations seeks projects that:

- Project serves and understands the food insecurity needs of Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian communities
- Ability to strengthen the Indigenous food system or build organizational capacity
- Provide a clear plan of action with specific, measurable, and realistic goals and objectives
- Present a logical program-implementation timeline and budget
- Ability to track, measure, and share the impact of the project
- Demonstrates the capacity or desire to source and distribute at least 5,000 lbs. of food during the grant period

Grant Expectations

Evaluation & Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit a short narrative report that includes photos of their project along with budget expenditure report. A recorded video call may take the place of a final narrative report. These reports will enable First Nations and American Express to: (1) gain a further understanding of projects addressing food insecurity within Indigenous communities; (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 October 5, 2023, at 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.

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✉ info@firstnations.org



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: 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 C: 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 hold an RFP Q&A Session to discuss the grant program:

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 2 to 3 pm Mountain Time. **Register using this link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkf-mhqjoE9awpAhGjy3YC9p4Q7sVccvX>

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.

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Questions

Should you have any additional questions about the RFP or this specific funding opportunity, please contact Brickman House at Bhouse@firstnations.org or at 360-303-3937.

Partners

About First Nations Development Institute

For over 43 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 The American Express Foundation

American Express created the American Express Foundation in 1954 to support charitable organizations. They believe that strong communities enable thriving people and businesses. This shapes their responsibilities as a corporate citizen. Through their philanthropic and community work, they seek to strengthen communities by serving and supporting the people and organizations that are tackling some of society's toughest challenges. The Foundation's focus is in three areas: developing leaders, engaging citizens, and sustaining communities. For more information, visit <https://about.americanexpress.com/>

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