



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



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

CARRYING THE
SEEDS of
TOMORROW
2025 IMPACT REPORT



Advocacy

34

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

306

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

10

FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

3

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE SUPPORTED

36

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE PARTICIPANTS

Financial Support

288

GRANTS AWARDED

\$1,116,250

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND STIPENDS AWARDED

\$14,822,537

GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

Knowledge Sharing

153

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS HELD

Includes capacity-building trainings, webinars, and convenings

1,000,000+

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS

16

PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR PRODUCED

3,133

PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Planting HOPE, Nurturing RELATIONSHIPS



Across five strategic areas, First Nations invests in the strength and ingenuity of Native communities. We provide direct support to tribes and Native-led organizations that are advancing Native resource stewardship, knowledge and culture, food systems, and economic justice. Together, we are reaffirming our rights as Native peoples, respecting our lands, revitalizing our languages, and returning to our traditional ways.

We are committed to this long-term work because Tribal Nations have saved and planted seeds, and we continue to plant seeds today that will take root. They will grow and blossom for generations to come.

The Mission of First Nations Development Institute: **Uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing**

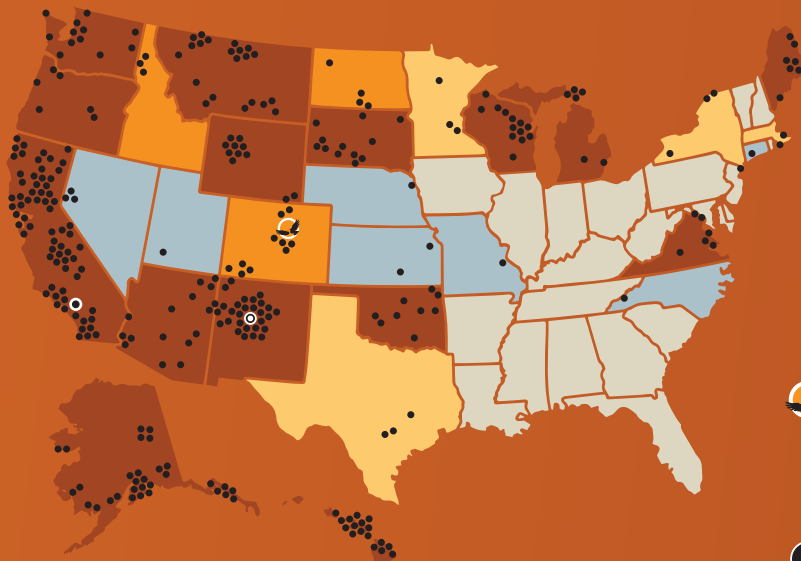
3 NATIONAL CONVENINGS HOSTED

- Luce Indigenous Knowledge All-Fellowship Convening – *Gila River Indian Community, Arizona*
- Native Arts Convening – *Gila River Indian Community, Arizona*
- Shared Horizons Alaska: Navigating Tribal Co-Stewardship and Co-Management Opportunities – *Anchorage, Alaska*

2025 UNMET NEED

In 2025, First Nations was able to fund only 23% of the competitive grant applications we received.

Our Grantee Community Partners



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

- Up to \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$299,999
- Over \$300,000

In 2025, First Nations made **346 grants** to Native-controlled nonprofits, tribal government programs, and Native individuals – a total investment of **\$15,651,286.85**.

 First Nations Headquarters
LONGMONT, CO

 California Office

 Albuquerque Office

HEALING THE SOIL

First Nations knows that the return of buffalo is a return of balance. Our work with our partners is rooted in healing soils, restoring grasslands, and rebuilding. We know that the return of buffalo is a return of balance.

In Cannon Ball, North Dakota, First Nations community partner Wozu Inc. is leading the charge in this healing journey. Wozu, meaning “to plant and grow,” is regenerating 780 acres of Native land, transitioning fields away from extractive agriculture, and nurturing a buffalo herd that will expand from 16 to more than 100. With every new buffalo relative, the soil responds, grasses revive, biodiversity increases, and the land becomes more resilient.

This traditional knowledge is reaching the next generation. In other efforts, with support from First Nations, young women from Tribal Nations across the Great Plains gathered for the first-ever Young Women’s Buffalo Harvest at the DuBray Buffalo Ranch. Guided by community knowledge-keepers, they learned from the buffalo, the land, and one another, building community and honoring tradition.



The DuBray Buffalo Ranch provides the ideal setting for place-based learning.

“Each step with the buffalo is a step toward regeneration and resilience for our people and the land we call home.”
— Dave Archambault, CEO, Wozu Inc.



CULTIVATING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) are revitalizing the sacred Pacific lamprey, weaving together tradition, resilience, and environmental stewardship to reclaim a vital piece of their cultural and ecological heritage. And, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are restoring culturally relevant white oak tree stands through the reintroduction of cultural fire. The tribe is using traditional practices to protect these culturally significant trees from invasive species, and redefining what forest management means through a Native lens.

First Nations invests in these communities and hundreds of others, providing financial and technical assistance, as well as tools to amplify their efforts, protect the land, and carry forward a legacy of stewardship.

This year, First Nations produced four films highlighting models of successful tribal stewardship practices. The films raise awareness of the imperative work happening across Indian Country, with visual and dynamic stories that will increase interest, acknowledgment, and support.

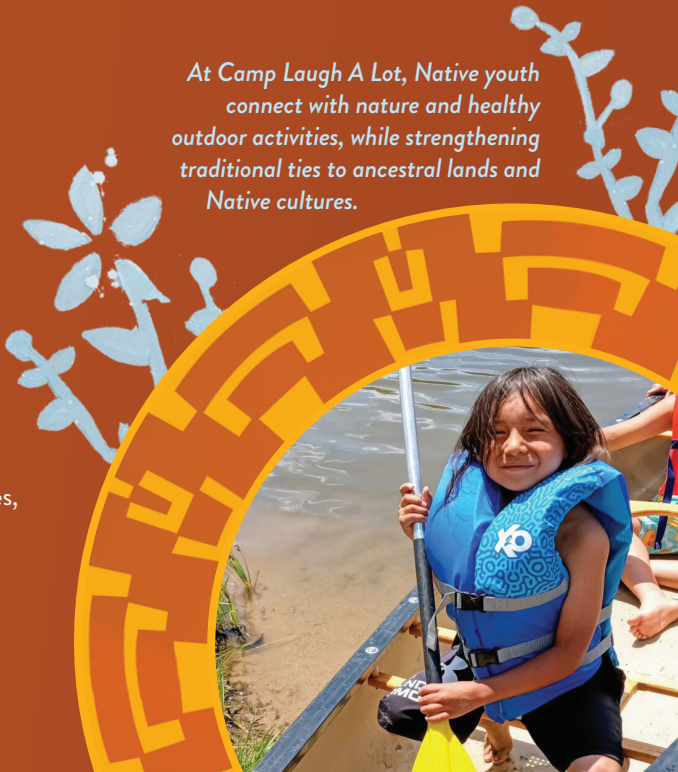
CARRYING US INTO TOMORROW

On the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Camp Laugh A Lot welcomes home over 150 Oglala Lakota youth to their ancestors’ land in the Black Hills each summer to swim, canoe, and ride horses, all while being immersed in the Lakota language. Counselors teach the Lakota words for plants and animals, provide space to practice Lakota, and encourage campers to read Lakota books every evening.

And, at the annual Yuchi Language Project day camp in Glenpool, Oklahoma, young campers craft, play traditional games, and prepare for ceremonies. The Yuchi language is a key component of the program, and campers learn the names of traditional medicines, use Yuchi words as they are taught how to care for horses, and are instructed on both Yuchi and Plains Indian Sign Language by elders.

“This is our first Yuchi land base where people can come together and do the activities that we’re re-learning. A lot of these things haven’t been done in generations.” — Halay Turning Heart, Administrator, Yuchi Language Project

At Camp Laugh A Lot, Native youth connect with nature and healthy outdoor activities, while strengthening traditional ties to ancestral lands and Native cultures.



Together, we are planting the seeds for the future.

Join us in uplifting Native communities.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

This year's Impact Report features "Vispismal" by Paul Molina. "Vispismal" is the Maricopa Tribe word for "hummingbird," which symbolizes positivity and confidence with a sense of renewal, hope, and faith leading toward a higher path. Paul is Akimel O'otham, Pee Posh, Quechan, Pawnee, and Hispanic from the Gila River Indian Community. Learn more about Paul's work at PaulMolinaDesigns.com.



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100% of our board members are Native. For a complete list of board members and biographies, visit firstnations.org/about/board

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Vice President, Policy & Research, California Tribal Fund, and Native Agriculture and Food Systems Investments



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Learn More About Our Impact

And download information on our financial position and transparency: firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information

Our Commitment to Responsibility and Transparency

As part of our Guiding Principles, First Nations treats the resources entrusted to us as sacred, exercising a high level of responsibility in their care, recognizing that these values belong to Indian Country, not us. We nurture trust and responsibility with our funders, supporters, and community partners by exercising transparency, high ethical standards, and accurate and timely communications.



Four stars since 2013



In 2025, we again earned this highest level of recognition offered by Candid (formerly GuideStar)



Excelling in governance, oversight, effectiveness, finances, fundraising, and donor privacy



Recognized with a Top-Rated Award every year since 2023