



NATIVE ARTS, LANGUAGE, AND KNOWLEDGE

2027 Stage 1 Application Q & A

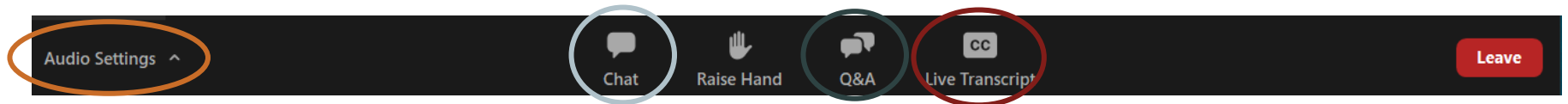
Thursday, March 19, 2026
2 – 3 PM MDT



Webinar Format

All attendees will be **muted** throughout this webinar.

If you have questions, please use the Q&A button and enter your question(s) in the box.



Q&A: Ask questions to the host and panelists or request technical help.

Chat: Send a message to the panelists or everyone (All Panelists and Attendees) in the webinar.

Audio Settings: Change your audio settings to phone or computer audio. You can also click the upward arrow (^) next to change your speaker.

Live Transcript: Show subtitles for the webinar, view the full transcript or change the subtitle settings.





WEBINAR AGENDA

01 Overview of Fellowship Partners

02 Fellowship Program & Experience

03 Walk-through of online application process

04 Question & Answer



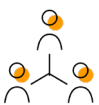
ABOUT FIRST NATIONS



Founded in 1980, First Nations began our national grantmaking program in 1993. Through mid-year 2025, we have successfully managed grants totaling \$99.7 million to Native American projects and organizations.



Our mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing.



We envision a world in which Tribal Sovereignty is upheld, and Native ingenuity and knowledge are honored and respected.



COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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:



Four stars for 13 years in a row



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



Recognized for the third year with a Top-Rated Award



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





OUR CORE PROGRAMS

We provide grants, technical assistance, and research and policy advocacy across five program areas



NATIVE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS INVESTMENTS

Advancing Native food sovereignty and security, strengthening Tribal food economies, and supporting the living relationship between community, place, and foods.



STEWARDING NATIVE LANDS

Financial resources, training, technical assistance, and research and advocacy to help Tribes and Native communities regain and restore their lands.



CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FUND

Support for California-based, California-Native-led nonprofits and tribal programs for controlling and protecting their land, water, food systems, and culture.



NATIVE ARTS, LANGUAGE, AND KNOWLEDGE

Strengthening and sustaining Native communities and knowledge-holders through intergenerational connections and the transference of arts, languages, and knowledge.



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR NATIVE ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Research, tools, resources, and opportunities for Native communities, policy makers, and funders to invest in and advance Native economic justice.





MISSION

The mission of this program is to invest in the sustainability of Native communities and **knowledge holders**, who perpetuate **Native lifeways** through intergenerational connections and the transference of arts, languages, and knowledge.



STRATEGIC FOCUSES



Native Language Immersion Initiative

Supporting Native language immersion education programs in tribal communities



Native Arts

Investing in Native-led arts and cultural hubs working to preserve and advance traditional Native arts



Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship

Providing multi-year fellowships and learning cohorts to support the exceptional creativity and progressive and critical thinking of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers



Native Fundraisers Community of Practice

Strengthening the long-term sustainability of Native nonprofits and tribal programs working in community and economic development



Native Youth and Culture Fund

Supporting Native youth through programs for Native language learning, leadership building, and intergenerational mentoring



NATIVE ARTS, LANGUAGE, AND KNOWLEDGE STAFF



CATHERINE BRYAN

Vice President, Grantmaking,
Communications, Administration, and
Native Arts, Language, and Knowledge



ABI WHITEING

Director



SABRINA WALKER

Lead Program Officer



Rana LaPine

Associate Director



Jennifer Himmelreich

Senior Program Officer



Molly Baker

Program Associate



IMPORTANT DATES

| Date | Activity |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| March 30, 2026 | Deadline to apply for exemption to online application system. Please email grantmaking@firstnations.org to request. |
| <u>April 6, 2026</u> | <u>Stage 1 applications are due at 5:00 p.m. MDT.</u> |
| Late May/Early June | Notifications sent regarding the status of Stage 1 applications. Up to 100 applicants will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application. |
| Late June | Deadline for Stage 2 application and required attachments. Q&A webinar will be held prior to the Stage 2 deadline. |
| Mid August | Notifications sent regarding status of Stage 2 applications. 20 candidates will be invited for in-person interviews |
| October 19 - 22, 2026 | Interviews will occur in-person with the Advisory Committee. First Nations will cover all travel and accommodation expenses for semifinalists. Location TBD. |
| Early December | Candidates will be notified of final selections. |
| January 1, 2027– December 31, 2028 | Fellowship period for Cohort 8 fellows. |





Fellowship Partners & Background

- Established in 1980, **First Nations Development Institute** is a Native nonprofit that works to restore Native American control and culturally-compatible stewardship of assets – be they land, human potential, cultural heritage or natural resources – and to establish new assets for ensuring the long-term vitality of Native American communities.
- Established in 1936, the **Henry Luce Foundation** is a private independent foundation that seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding.

In 2019, First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) in partnership with the Henry Luce Foundation launched the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship to honor and support Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they work to further Indigenous knowledge creation, dissemination and perpetuation in Indigenous communities.

For more information about each organization please visit:

www.firstnations.org and www.hluce.org



Advisory Committee

First Nations and the Luce Fellowship are guided by an Indigenous Advisory Committee who provides guidance and recommendations during the fellowship selection process.

Advisory committee members are selected based on their deep experience within Indian Country, Indigenous knowledge fields and expertise, and experience as (or working with) Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers.

Similar to the fellowship cohort, the Advisory Committee also represents a diversity of tribes and knowledge areas.



Fellowship Purpose and Goal

The goal of the fellowship is to support exceptional leaders, knowledge holders and knowledge makers who are doing noteworthy work to advance Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems in diverse fields.

The fellowship is intended to support individuals who are working to make broad, transformative impact and change in their diverse knowledge fields and within Indigenous communities.

More specifically, the fellowship is designed to support the growth, development, knowledge and networks of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers. This fellowship will provide knowledge producers with the resources to match their existing knowledge, passion and drive to achieve their personal and/or community goals.

This fellowship is open to experienced leaders from a wide range of fields including, but not limited to agriculture, food systems, youth leadership development, natural resource management, climate change, economic development, journalism, language and cultural revitalization, traditional and contemporary arts.





Guiding Selection Criteria

KNOWLEDGE

Candidates must be **actively engaged in the creation, dissemination and/or perpetuation** of Indigenous and/or Western knowledge. They must have a **cultural grounding and connectedness to community.**

EXPERIENCE

Candidates must be engaged in relevant work that seeks to grow and advance knowledge. **They must demonstrate a record of success of working and collaborating with Indigenous people and communities,** and preserving and perpetuating Indigenous knowledge systems.

POTENTIAL

Candidates must demonstrate continuing promise in their field of endeavor. **They must embody exceptional creativity, progressive and critical thinking, and the potential to significantly move forward their field** in ways that will ultimately lead to broad, transformative impacts for Indigenous peoples.

VISION

Candidates must clearly articulate how the fellowship will support or accelerate their work. **They must develop a unique plan of action that details their vision for preserving and perpetuating Indigenous knowledge** in either reservation and/or urban community settings.



Fellowship Eligibility

Tribally-affiliated with a Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community*

Actively engaged in the creation, dissemination and/or perpetuation of knowledge in your field

Experience or expertise within the knowledge field/area you are pursuing

At least 18 years old

U.S. citizen or permanent resident

Applicants may self-apply or individuals may nominate others for the fellowship.





Nominations

Nominators will use the same online application form as those who self-apply.

Nominators should work collaboratively with the individual they are nominating.

Nominees must fill out a Consent Form indicating they have granted permission for the application to be submitted and that they agree to the terms of the fellowship program.

- Consent Form must be attached to the submitted application to be considered complete.
- This form is available on the RFP page and within the online application in the Attachments Tab.



Fellowship Experience

FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The fellowship period is January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2028.

The \$75,000 award is released in several installments throughout the fellowship period.

FELLOW WORK

Fellows will work in their respective knowledge fields and communities toward their overarching vision and goals.

COHORT GATHERINGS

In person convenings will be held and designed in collaboration with fellows during the course of the fellowship with the intent to create a collaborative cohort of connected Indigenous knowledge holders to advance Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems for community benefit.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Fellows have access to \$5,000 in additional support for resources or professional development to grow their capacity as knowledge holders and knowledge makers.





Use of Fellowship Funds

The goal of this fellowship is to provide **flexible funding**. It is intended to allow emerging and experienced knowledge holders and knowledge makers to determine their own goals and decide how their funds are best used to make a positive impact in their communities.

Applicants **do not have to design or complete a project** to be eligible or selected.

Generally, the fellowship may be used for a wide range of costs including: living expenses, tuition, conference registration, equipment, travel and childcare, etc.

The fellowship itself **cannot be redirected to another person or organization**. You can still use funds to support use of consultants and honoraria to elders, etc.

The **fellowship funds are considered taxable income**. Fellowship recipients are responsible for all related taxes resulting from this award.



Application Process

First Nations typically uses a two-stage process when a high volume of applications are anticipated. The Stage 1 form consists of an abbreviated application form. The Stage 2 application allows for a full proposal.

1. Stage 1 Application Form – Due Monday, April 6 at 5:00 p.m. MDT

Consists of: 1) Applicant contact information, 2) Two brief essays, and 3) Resume/CV/Biographical Sketch

Additional information required for nominations: Nominator's contact info, Consent Form

2. Stage 2 Application Form – approximately up to 100 applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal in June

Consists of: 1) Expansion on Stage 1 essays, 2) Use of funds statement, 3) Acknowledgement of required convenings and potential date conflicts, 4) Three letters of reference, 5) One photo, and 6) Up to three additional supporting documents

20 candidates will be selected from the Stage 2 applicant pool for in-person interviews with the Advisory Committee. After interviews, 10 fellows will be selected for the 2027 fellowship cohort.





Stage 1 Application – Pages 1 & 2

Contact Information & Knowledge Area

Contact and demographic information for the applicant and nominator (if applicable) and primary knowledge area.

Statement of Community Impact:

In 500 words or less, please share more about your personal and/or professional work as it relates to your knowledge field and Native communities. Please describe the body of work you have created around your knowledge field and address how you have been actively engaged in the creation, dissemination and perpetuation of your knowledge area, and how your work supports Native peoples and communities.

Vision for Fellowship Period:

In 500 words or less, please describe the personal and/or professional goals you hope to achieve during the fellowship. Please make sure to address any plans for creating, disseminating, and perpetuating knowledge within your community or to Native peoples at large. Please include clear and specific goals for how the fellowship will support your work to advance your leadership or further contributions to your community and/or knowledge field.





Stage 1 Application – Page 3

Resume/CV/Biographical Sketch:

All applicants must submit a detailed, up-to-date resume, CV or biographical sketch that summarizes their background in their knowledge field(s) and experience working with Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings.

Consent Form (Required for Nominations):

Nominators submitting applications on behalf of another individual must upload a signed consent form from the nominee. This form indicates that the nominee consents to working with the nominator to complete the fellowship application. It also indicates that the nominee has reviewed and agreed to the terms of the fellowship.



Online Application System

All applicants must complete the Stage 1 application, including submission of all necessary attachments, no later than **Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.**

- Should you encounter any technical issues please contact grantmaking@firstnations.org ASAP and prior to the deadline.
- Please allow for up to 4 business days for Grantmaking to respond to support requests.

To access the online application system, you must go to First Nations' website and go to the online RFP page for this opportunity: [Luce-Indigenous-Knowledge-Fellowship-2027-Cohort-8-RFP](#)





Online Application System

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 on or before April 6 in advance of the deadline by submitting an email request to grantmaking@firstnations.org.

Please include your name, contact information, and indicate you are applying for the fellowship program. 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.



Contact Information

Program Questions

Email: NALK@firstnations.org

Phone: (303)-774-7836

*Ask for the NALK team

Application Technical Support

Email: grantmaking@firstnations.org

Phone: (303) 774-7836

*Ask for the Grantmaking team

For more information about the Fellowship program and history, please see the fellowship project page at:

<https://www.firstnations.org/projects/native-intellectual-leadership-fellowship-program/>

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Questions?

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