



NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

2025 REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS WEBINAR

HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS



- Submit questions via the Questions box
- We will do our best to answer all questions in the time allotted
- Additional resources will be provided following the Q&A session for those that are not able to have their questions answered today



ABOUT NAAF

Keepseagle v. Vilsack settlement

Private charitable trust created in 2018

Expires in 2038

NAAF Grants 2021

Fast Track 2022

2019 - RRF 2023

2020 2024



Tulsa, Oklahoma

NAAF's 2023 Grantee Convening

MISSION

To provide business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture.



Kingston, Washington

Courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation

2025 RFA OVERVIEW





ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 501(c)(3) organizations
- Educational organizations
- Community Development
Financial Institutions
- Tribes and their
instrumentalities

Bismarck, North Dakota

Courtesy of United Tribes Technical College



IMPORTANT NOTICE



To ensure accountability and timely reporting, existing grantees who are not in compliance, such as those behind on quarterly, annual, and final reporting and updates relating to past grant awards and projects, will be ineligible to apply for 2025 funding.

- We also commit to working closely with each grantee who needs help bringing their existing projects into compliance.

NAAF encourages start-up nonprofit organizations that have applied for 501(c)(3) status from the IRS but not yet received a favorable determination to apply through a fiscal sponsor who can also provide important technical support for proposed project activities.

If fiscal sponsors are used, the fiscal sponsor must be an eligible 501(c)(3) organization and should follow the guidance in NAAF's fiscal sponsor information.

Note: The relationship between grantees and the fiscal sponsor is not managed by NAAF and are the sole responsibility of the grantee.



**IMPORTANT:
FISCAL SPONSOR**

Ravenswood Market Stand

Courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation



Ramona, California

Courtesy of Mesa Grande

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

- Access to capital was at the core of the Keepseagle case
- A conversation on access to capital is available on our website
- Applications that don't address access to capital will not be funded in 2025

TARGETED PROJECTS - 501C3 ORGANIZATIONS



General Focus: Business Assistance, Ag Education, Technical Support and/or Advocacy Services



Special Focus:

Infrastructure and Land Stewardship

Available pool - \$ 1,000,000

Min - \$ 150,000

Max - \$ 500,000



Available pool - \$ 1,000,000

Minimum - \$ 100,000

Maximum - \$ 250,000

TARGETED PROJECTS - EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



General Focus: Business Assistance, Ag Education, Technical Support and/or Advocacy Services



Special Focus:

Infrastructure and Land Stewardship

Available pool - \$ 1,000,000

Min - \$ 150,000

Max - \$ 500,000



Available Pool - \$ 500,000

Minimum - \$ 75,000

Maximum - \$ 150,000



Hesperus, Colorado

Courtesy of Fort Lewis College

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION REMINDERS

BROAD DEFINITION

- Covers all those under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the IRS Code, including K-12 and post-secondary institutions, such as
 - Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)
 - Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs), and
 - other institutions (must have history and experience in serving Native farmers and ranchers)
 - Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- FRTEP involvement required at universities with the agents

NOTE - BIE SUPPORTED OR CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

NAAF is interested in investing in programs that provide information and guidance to Native youth interested in choosing food and ag as their future career choice, as well as specifically reaching out to Native students who attend these schools.

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools are allowed to apply for funding.





TRIBES - IMPORTANT REMINDERS

LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Required - no exceptions

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Feasibility or market studies only

TARGETED PROJECTS - TRIBES



General Focus: Business Assistance, Ag Education, Technical Support and/or Advocacy Services



Special Focus:

Infrastructure and Land Stewardship

Available pool - \$ 1,000,000
Min - \$ 150,000
Max - \$ 500,000



Available Pool - \$ 1,000,000
Minimum - \$ 100,000
Maximum - \$ 250,000

INSTRUMENTALITIES

Instrumentalities of tribes (state or federally recognized) can mean any number of things. Tribal governments have the latitude to determine which entities are instrumentalities of their governments; NAAF only needs proper documentation of that status. If an organization wishes to be considered as an instrumentality of a Tribal government, the organization must secure and submit an authorizing document from their tribal government to that specific effect. A statement from an organization other than a tribal government will not suffice for this purpose.



Kaunakakai, HI

Courtesy of Sustainable Molokai

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private charitable trust created by the 2010 settlement of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class-action lawsuit. The final settlement agreement provided for the distribution of grants to federal and state recognized Tribal governments and their instrumentalities. NAAF recognizes that Tribes are immune from suit or action as a sovereign government and that sovereign immunity is vital to the functioning of Tribes, and all of its subdivisions and subordinate bodies. The waiver of a Tribe's immunity from suit or action is occasionally required when entering into certain transactions.

Cont. →

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

The court-approved Trust Agreement that created NAAF contains a provision that requires Tribal governments to provide a limited waiver of sovereignty immunity in order to receive NAAF grant funding. The reason for this requirement stems from NAAF serving as a fiduciary of the trust funds with a duty to protect its funds from fraud or gross mismanagement.

For grant purposes, acceptable waivers of Tribal sovereign immunity are limited to the amount of the NAAF grant and to the duration of the grant relationship.

Cont.



SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

If a Tribe or Tribal entity wants to accept NAAF grant funding, it must work with the Tribe's legal counsel to adopt a waiver of sovereign immunity related to NAAF AND a resolution for the Tribal governing body.

- Tribal governments and instrumentalities must provide waivers and resolutions within three (3) months of receiving the NAAF grant award.
- Failure to submit an executed waiver and accompanying resolution in a timely manner will result in forfeiture of any award amount.
- Both documents can be pre-approved by NAAF to expedite the effort. Getting your documents pre-approved will save time during the application and post-award period.

TARGETED PROJECTS - CDFI'S



General Focus: Loan
Capital, Re-granting
Capital & Technical
Assistance/Business
Assistance



Special Focus:

Infrastructure and Land
Stewardship

Available pool -
\$ 1,000,000
Min - \$ 150,000
Max - \$ 500,000



Available Pool -
\$ 5,500,000
No minimum but
cannot request full
available pool

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

- All eligible entity types
- Note that the youth application is combined with the general application this year
- Available pool - \$1,000,000
 - Minimum - \$20,000
 - Maximum - \$200,000
- Due May 1, 2025



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Impact on Access to Capital (25% weight)
- Proposed Results/Outcomes (25% weight)
- Farmer and Rancher Demand (20% weight)



- Team/Organizational Capacity and Collaborators (10% weight)
- Evaluation (10% weight)
- Innovation and Replicability (10% weight)



APPLICATION REVIEW

COMPONENTS

- Outcome/Results Based Projects
- Access to Capital
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- Grantee Meeting
- Resume of Key Personnel
- Cover Letters
- Support Letters (optional)



COMPONENTS CONT.

IMPORTANT NOTE

**THERE ARE NOW ONLY 12 AND
24 MONTH PROJECTS**

We have decided to eliminate 18-month projects. Instead, grantees now have the choice to pursue projects lasting either 12 or 24 months. Please note that all grants retain the flexibility to complete their projects ahead of schedule.



BUDGET NOTES

- NAAF's Indirect Limit is 15%
- no exceptions
- Applicants must follow the budget guidelines and use required templates
- Applicants must abide by request minimums and maximums as listed in each category



CRITICAL DEADLINES

**NAAF 2025
GENERAL &
YOUTH RFA
CLOSES:**

May 1, 2025 at
11:59 PM CT

REMINDER:

There is no
opportunity to edit
the application after
the deadline

FOUNDANT - ONLINE APPLICATION

- Returning applicants: logon with existing credentials
- New applicants: click "Create New Account" button to access application

Logon Page

Email Address*

The Email Address* field is required.

Password*

The Password* field is required.

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Native American Agriculture Fund's Online Portal

New Users: Please "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. Completing this step will enable you to enter the application site and begin your application.

Existing Users: If you have already created an account, please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "forgot your password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone within your organization or tribe may have already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org to confirm the correct login information and receive your username and password.

Before you create an account be sure to review the following documents on our website:

- The Trust Agreement
- The Application Instructions
- The full Request for Funding Application Questions

<https://nativeamericanagriculturefund.org/grants/>

FOUNDANT - APPLICANT DASHBOARD

Native American Agriculture Fund



Apply

Applicant Dashboard

Public Profile

Applicant:



Organization:



[Contact Email History](#)

i If your organization information does not appear correct, please click the edit (pencil) icon.

Active Requests **0**

Historical Requests **1**

i You do not have any Active Requests. Click [Apply](#) to begin the application process.

FOUNDANT - HOW TO APPLY

The screenshot displays the website interface for the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF). At the top, a green navigation bar contains the text "Native American Agriculture Fund" and "SANDBOX". Below this, the NAAF logo is visible on the left, followed by a home icon and an "APPLY" button. A red arrow points to the "APPLY" button. The main content area features a "Apply" section with the heading "NAAF". Below the heading is a search bar labeled "Quick Search" with a magnifying glass icon and a close button. The primary focus is a light blue box titled "2024 Request for Applications - General & Youth" with the text "Accepting Submissions from 03/01/2024 to 05/01/2024". To the right of this text is a dark blue "Apply" button, which is circled in red. Below the title and dates, a paragraph of text describes the funding: "Apply here to seek Targeted Funding for 501(c)(3) organizations, educational organizations, CDFIs, and Tribes/instrumentalities. This includes general focus and special focus areas (Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices and Additional and Additional CDFI and Native CDFI Support)." At the bottom left of this box is a "Preview" button with an eye icon.

FOUNDANT - APPLICATION

Application c. ★ Public Profile [Copy Previous Answers](#)

Process: 2024 Request for Applications - General & Youth

Contact Info Request Documents **0**

Applicant: [Redacted] ✎ Organization: [Redacted] ✎


[Contact Email History](#)

Application [Question List](#) ⋮

i Due by 05/01/2024 11:59 PM CDT.

i Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Introduction





QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



CONTACT US

Email

grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org

Phone/Voicemail

479-445-6226

SAVE THE DATE

Last 2025
NAAF RFA Webinar

Thursday, April 10th
from 2-4 PM CT



