# ARIZONA



# NAAF GRANTEE IMPACT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK



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# ARIZONA AGRICULTURE

Arizona's oldest farmers are still farming. For generations, the state's Native Nations have grown food in the desert, from O'odham fields near Tucson to Hopi dry-farmed corn on the mesas, and today Native producers steward more than 80% of the state's farmland, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2022 Census of Agriculture.

In 2022, the state's 16,710 farms and ranches sold more than $5.2 billion in agricultural products, a 35% increase from 2017. Crops account for about 58% of those sales and livestock, poultry, and their products for about 42%. Vegetables and melons lead all commodity groups at $1.43 billion, ranking Arizona fifth in the nation, followed by milk from cows at $1.17 billion and cattle and calves at $727 million. Arizona's farms and ranches cover about 25.5 million acres, and 86% of that land is pastureland.

Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized Tribes. In 2022, Arizona counted 17,087 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) producers, second only to Oklahoma, across 10,435 farms. That is nearly six in ten producers and more than six in ten farms statewide. Together they steward 20.8 million acres, more than 80% of the state's farmland, and generate about 2.5% of its agricultural sales, or $131.6 million. Crops make up 82% of AI/AN sales and livestock 18%, led by hay and other crops at $64.8 million and cotton at $17.5 million. Sheep and goats remain central to Native agriculture in Arizona: AI/AN farms raise about 91% of the state's sheep and lambs and 81% of its goats.

| Tribal Nation | Reservation | Enrolled members (approx.) |
|---|---|---|
| Ak-Chin Indian Community | Ak-Chin Indian Reservation | ~1,300 |
| Cocopah Indian Tribe | Cocopah Reservation | 1,000 |
| Colorado River Indian Tribes | Colorado River Indian Reservation | 4,277 |
| Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation | Fort McDowell Yavapai Reservation | 950 |
| Fort Mojave Indian Tribe | Fort Mojave Indian Reservation | ~1,439 |
| Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe | Fort Yuma Indian Reservation | ~4,000 |
| Gila River Indian Community | Gila River Indian Reservation | ~21,814 |
| Havasupai Tribe | Havasupai Reservation | 639 |

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# TRIBES IN ARIZONA

Continued ...

| Tribal Nation | Reservation | Enrolled members (approx.) |
|---|---|---|
| Hopi Tribe | Hopi Reservation | 18,321 |
| Hualapai Tribe | Hualapai Reservation | 2,300 |
| Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians | Kaibab Indian Reservation | 249 |
| Navajo Nation | Navajo Nation Reservation | 427,414 |
| Pascua Yaqui Tribe | Pascua Yaqui Reservation | 21,300 |
| Pueblo of Zuni | Zuni Indian Reservation | ~13,000 |
| Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community | Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation | 10,800+ |
| San Carlos Apache Tribe | San Carlos Apache Reservation | ~15,400 |
| San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe | No reservation | 400 |
| Tohono O'odham Nation | Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation | 37,000 |
| Tonto Apache Tribe | Tonto Apache Reservation | 110 |
| White Mountain Apache Tribe | Fort Apache Indian Reservation | 12,000 |
| Yavapai-Apache Nation | Yavapai-Apache Reservation | 2,596 |
| Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe | Yavapai-Prescott Reservation | 159 |



# ARIZONA

## NAAF NATIVE AGRICULTURE INVESTMENTS

Between 2019 and 2026, NAAF invested nearly $5.5 million across 53 programs to 24 organizations in Arizona. Much of that work begins with helping producers build businesses and reach capital. In Chinle, Diné Community Development Corporation operates as a small business service center, and NAAF funding helped them serve more than 50 Navajo producers with building business plans and loan packages. Tolani Lake Enterprises puts capital directly into growers' hands through mini-grants that funded irrigation, hoop houses, fencing, and solar power across the Little Colorado River Watershed. The Southwest Indian Agricultural Association brought 150 farmers and ranchers to its annual conference and helped launch three new agribusinesses. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's Native Edge Institute reached more than 5,000 attendees and livestream viewers with sessions on capital, contracting, and accounting. And at Tohono O'odham Community College, a new Traditional Agribusiness Certificate Program pairs financial literacy with lessons from experienced traditional farmers.

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# INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT BY AND FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES

In the desert Southwest, water shapes every decision on the farm and ranch. Seeds in Common installed rainwater catchment systems for 21 farming and ranching households in the Navajo Nation's Forest Lake Chapter, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation installed a center pivot on a new field that will grow more feed for its cattle and more beef for its food bank. On the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association installed a solar-powered well pump in the Sif Oidak District.

Infrastructure also means places to gather, sell, and process food. North Leupp Family Farms built a year-round hub for producers who often travel 20 to 50 miles for internet access and trainings. On the San Carlos Apache Reservation, Nalwoodi Denzhone brought its Local Food Store to substantial completion. Near Tucson, the San Xavier District designed the Marketplace at Wa:k for food producers and small businesses.

Many Arizona grantees root this work in the foodways of their own Nations. San Xavier Cooperative Farm carries on 4,000 years of Wa:k community farming and paid community members to harvest desert foods through its Wild Foods Foraging program. The Hopi Foundation's Natwani Coalition completed a 10-year plan to reach 50% Hopi food sovereignty by 2034. Hualapai youth and families harvest prickly pear, mesquite, and piñon, Tolani Lake Enterprises is reviving the Navajo sheep economy, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Ndee Bikiyaa, "The People's Farm," is expanding access to fresh, culturally important foods benefitting the whole community, from children to elders.

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# GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

Livestock and horses remain central to rural life across the state. University of Arizona Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) agents trained ranchers across multiple Tribes in biosecurity, herd health, and emergency response. The Native American Horse Education Foundation and Tohono O'odham Community College trained new farriers, sending graduates home with the tools to start their own businesses.

The next generation is already stepping forward. Diné College's Bachelor of Agriculture program grew from seven students to 43, and the University of Arizona introduced 751 students and youth to drone technology in agriculture. On the edge of the Navajo Nation, STAR School students care for animals every day in their new 4-H livestock club, while Gila Crossing Community School students are learning to grow food year-round through hydroponics.

Arizona's producers, Tribal colleges, and community organizations are showing what is possible when investment meets leadership on the ground, and they are carrying Arizona agriculture forward.





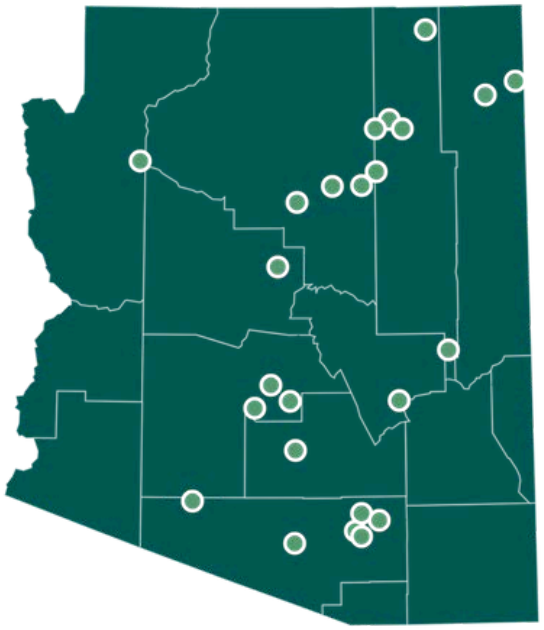


# NAAF'S ARIZONA GRANTEES

## ARIZONA NAAF GRANTEES:

Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture
Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona
Diné College
Diné Community Development Corporation
Gila Crossing Community School
The Hopi Foundation (Natwani Coalition)
Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute
Hualapai Tribe
Kayenta Unified School District #27
Ke'yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance
Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community, Inc.
The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development
Native American Horse Education Foundation
North Leupp Family Farms, Inc.
Painted Desert Demonstration Projects
San Xavier Cooperative Association, Inc.
San Xavier District of Tohono O'odham Nation
Seeds in Common
Southwest Indian Agricultural Association
Tó Nizhóní Ání
Tohono O'odham Community College
Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc.
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache Nation

## GRANTEE LOCATIONS:



## GRANTEE PRODUCER IMPACT NUMBERS:

**53** PROGRAMS FUNDED

**2,363** FARMERS SERVED

**4,918** STUDENTS & YOUTH SERVED

**2,263** RANCHERS SERVED

**286** HARVESTERS SERVED



NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**Overview:**
The University of Arizona is Arizona's land-grant university, and its College of Agriculture and Life Sciences works with communities statewide through Cooperative Extension and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP). Through its NAAF-funded work, the university develops culturally relevant livestock and equine health education, biosecurity training, and emergency preparedness resources alongside Apache, Hopi, Navajo, and O'odham communities.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $599,506

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# UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

## 2020 - General - $199,580

FRTEP agents and University of Arizona livestock and equine specialists developed culturally relevant resources and workshops to strengthen food security and sovereignty across multiple Arizona Tribes. Sessions covered large and small livestock, biosecurity, Beef Quality Assurance, and food preservation, delivered through webinar series like a Hopi horse and chicken series and in-person equine health workshops in San Carlos, Window Rock, Tuba City, and Kykotsmovi. With NAAF funding, the University of Arizona served 266 farmers, 769 ranchers, 93 community producers, and 78 students and youth.

## 2021 - Youth - $50,000

The University of Arizona introduced youth and community leaders to drone technology and its uses in agriculture. Across 24 community sessions, youth learned land mapping, farm imagery, FAA regulations, and hands-on piloting, while sessions also connected technology with culture, from native plant names in the San Carlos Apache language to traditional crop planting and seed saving. With NAAF funding, the University of Arizona served 10 farmers, 33 ranchers, 23 harvesters, 55 community producers, and 751 students and youth.

## 2023 - General - $199,960

FRTEP agents and Extension specialists gave ranchers and producers hands-on training in biosecurity, Beef Quality Assurance, vaccination, herd health, drought preparedness, and low-stress livestock handling, reinforced with Tribal Agriculture Stewardship Kits (TASKs). Working with the Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team, the team also trained producers across seven Tribal Nations on New World screwworm surveillance and emergency response. With NAAF funding, the University of Arizona served 177 ranchers and 26 community producers.

## 2025 - General - $149,966

The University of Arizona is finalizing its livestock curriculum with a growing focus on sheep and small stock, adding "train the trainers" emergency management training so communities can sustain the program, and continuing to distribute TASKs. FRTEP staff are also producing materials in the Apache, Navajo, Hopi, and O'odham languages.



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# DINÉ COLLEGE

**Overview:**
Diné College is a public Tribal land-grant college based in Tsaile, Arizona, serving the Navajo Nation across its 27,000 square miles. Founded in 1968 as Navajo Community College, it is the first college established by and for Native people and grounds its teaching in the Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón principles of Nitsáhákees (Thinking), Nahatá (Planning), Iiná (Living), and Siihasin (Assuring). As a designated land-grant institution, Diné College pairs Diné knowledge and language with agricultural research, extension, and hands-on training that prepare students and producers to advance food sovereignty and land stewardship across the Nation.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $273,210

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# DINÉ COLLEGE

## 2019 - Youth & Special Emphasis – $155,800

NAAF funding advanced Diné College's agricultural mission across three areas. Youth support pivoted from conference travel to supplying 4-H members, reaching more than 50 youth in live-animal, gardening, and leadership projects. Scholarships and supplies grew the new Bachelor of Agriculture degree from 7 students to 43. And virtual Diné Bi Chiyaa Summits and cooking demonstrations kept traditional-foods education alive through the pandemic, reaching hundreds across four campuses. With NAAF funding, Diné College served 97 farmers, 226 ranchers, seven harvesters, 923 community members, and 326 students and youth.

## 2020 - Rapid Response Fund - $37,410

NAAF's Rapid Response Fund helped Diné College protect producers' food safety through the COVID-19 lockdown. The College purchased items directly for each producer — fencing, hoop houses, produce washing stations, and cover-crop seed — and secured mobile hotspots and loaner laptops so growers could keep supplying food and join virtual trainings. Served 12 farmers, four ranchers, seven elders, and 15 community members.

## 2020 - General - $80,000

NAAF funding expanded Diné College's food safety education and resourced Navajo farm groups directly. Of 83 growers trained, 7 earned full certification through New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, opening market access for more than 35 sellers. Micro-grants to seven farm groups funded hoop houses, seeds, and tools, while new Navajo-language video training began bridging the language gap between producers and Extension educators. With NAAF funding, Diné College served 126 farmers, 36 ranchers, 48 community producers, and 14 students and youth.



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# DINÉ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Overview:**
Diné Community Development Corporation (DCDC) is a Navajo-led nonprofit based in Chinle, Arizona, that provides leadership, program, and resource development to strengthen rural communities across the Navajo Nation. Through cooperative development, financial and technical assistance, agricultural workshops, and a Youth Agripreneurship Program, DCDC helps farmers, ranchers, and emerging young producers build businesses and expand marketing and processing opportunities for local foods.

## ▶ TOTAL FUNDING: $541,595

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# DINÉ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## 2019 - General - $114,154

NAAF funding launched DCDC's Navajo Farmers & Ranchers Financial & Business Technical Assistance Program as a reservation-based "small business service center." DCDC delivered agribusiness and financial assistance to more than 50 Navajo producers — building business plans and loan packages, running workshops for farmers, ranchers, and Chapter farm boards, and supporting Chapters with strategic planning and nonprofit development. Served 54 farmers, 30 ranchers, 45 students and youth, and 150 community members.

## 2020 - Rapid Response Fund - $27,819

NAAF's Rapid Response Fund helped DCDC guide agripreneurs through COVID-19 relief, assisting six producers with emergency grant and loan applications (four funded) and 16 farmers and ranchers with business registration, EIN and DUNS setup, and online portal access. DCDC also expanded its Diné Food Sovereignty Program, releasing a video series and a Diné Food Sovereignty Learning Package that reached thousands online. Served 522 farmers, 350 ranchers, 1,165 students and youth, two elders, and 775 community members.

## 2020 - Youth - $45,000

NAAF funding carried DCDC's Diné Youth Agripreneurship Program into its second year, delivering two on-site workshops in partnership with the Cornfields and Dilkon Chapters' summer youth programs. About 35 young people completed First Nations' Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Oweesta's Building Native Communities financial literacy curricula, developing business mission statements, marketing plans, and startup budgets, then presenting their ventures to Chapter officials. Served five farmers, four ranchers, 38 students and youth, and 15 community producers.

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# DINÉ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## 2021 - General - $150,000

NAAF funding powered DCDC's Diné Farmers/Ranchers Cooperative Program, a reservation-based effort to remove barriers to cooperative development on the Navajo Nation. DCDC educated community members, officials, and agencies on the cooperative business model and delivered technical assistance to help producers organize, market, and process collectively — advancing an approach that reflects Diné values of interdependence and shared prosperity. Served 70 farmers, 50 ranchers, 42 community producers, and 5 students and youth.

## 2022 - Youth - $40,000

NAAF funding supported two youth agripreneurship workshops in the Chinle Agency — at Chinle Chapter and Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter — reaching 32 students. Using the Building Native Communities and NxLevel Guide for Agricultural Entrepreneurs curricula, DCDC taught financial education, asset building, and agriculture business planning, with in-kind speakers sharing Diné ranching history and small-business experience. Served 32 students and youth and 18 youth community members.

## 2022 - General - $164,622

NAAF funding relaunched DCDC's Diné Agribusiness Technical & Financial Assistance Program as a small business service center for Navajo agripreneurs, farmers, and ranchers. DCDC ran two agribusiness workshops covering financial literacy and record-keeping, agribusiness planning, entrepreneurial leadership, and access to credit and capital, and provided one-on-one advisory support, cooperative development assistance, and ongoing mentorship. Served 81 farmers, 60 ranchers, 12 students and youth, and 60 community members.

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# GILA CROSSING COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**Overview:**
Gila Crossing Community School is a K–8 Bureau of Indian Education Tribal school in Komatke, Arizona, serving students of the Gila River Indian Community — home to the Akimel O'otham (Pima) and Pee-Posh (Maricopa) people. For more than a decade, the school has run a hands-on agriculture program woven into its K–8 curriculum, giving students garden-based learning that carries forward the Community's deep O'otham farming traditions.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $34,690

**2026 - General - $34,690**
NAAF funding is bringing a hydroponic growing system to Gila Crossing Community School, giving students year-round food production regardless of weather, soil quality, or land availability. The project pairs hands-on agriculture with STEM learning, expanding access to fresh foods and building foundational knowledge in agricultural economics and access to capital, rooted in the Akimel O'otham and Pee-Posh farming traditions of the Gila River Indian Community.




# THE HOPI FOUNDATION (NATWANI COALITION)

**Overview:**
The Hopi Foundation is a Hopi-led nonprofit based in Kykotsmovi, Arizona. Through its Natwani Coalition, the foundation works to restore food systems by preserving traditional agricultural knowledge, supporting local producers, and building community momentum toward food sovereignty.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $200,000

**2022 - General - $200,000**
The Natwani Coalition completed a 10-year strategic plan to reach 50% Hopi food sovereignty by 2034, with priorities including heirloom seed preservation and targeted capital investments. Its Community Microgrant Program funded 19 food producers and home-based projects, many of them first-time grantees, while the 2024 Hopi Agricultural and Food Symposium drew more than 130 participants and the Hopi Farm Talk podcast shared traditional knowledge across 13 episodes. With NAAF funding, the Natwani Coalition served 44 farmers, seven ranchers, 100 community producers, and 80 students and youth.



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# HOPI TUTSKWA PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE

**Overview:**
Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute is an Indigenous-led nonprofit on the Hopi Reservation that offers hands-on education programs for all ages. Its work strengthens traditional agriculture and builds long-term food resilience and self-sufficiency in Tribal communities across northern Arizona.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $200,000

**2024 - General & Youth - $200,000**
With this grant, Hopi Tutskwa is developing a regional food hub built on community collaboration and shared ownership. The project provides direct technical assistance to help Hopi farmers access grants and capital, and it is building farm-to-market infrastructure that meets food safety standards. Community workshops on regenerative farming and weather-resilient practices strengthen traditional agriculture, while workforce development and direct support to producers expand access to fresh food and economic opportunity in Hopi and Navajo communities.




# HUALAPAI TRIBE

**Overview:**
The Hualapai Tribe is based in Peach Springs, and the reservation is along the southwest rim of the Grand Canyon. Its NAAF-funded work reconnects youth and families with traditional foods, plant knowledge, and horsemanship.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $105,000

**2020 - General & Youth - $105,000**
Through monthly harvesting trips and hands-on classes, youth and families gathered and processed traditional foods like prickly pear, mesquite bean pods, piñon nuts, and mescal agave, supported by a Native Food Symposium and new processing equipment. Youth also built horsemanship skills through workshops, saddlebag craft classes with elder language speakers, and a weeklong summer campout. Despite facing drought and weather-related barriers, the Hualapai Tribe served 30 harvesters, eight ranchers, and 92 students and youth.



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# KE'YAH ADVANCED RURAL MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE

**Overview:**
Ke'yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance (KARMA) is a nonprofit operating out of Leupp on the Navajo Nation that works to create economic opportunity in communities. Guided by Ké (kinship), KARMA connects Navajo and Hopi youth with local farmers, ranchers, and businesses through media and agriculture education.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $146,424

### 2024 - General & Youth - $146,424

Through its new Media Lab program, KARMA connected youth to farms using video cameras, audio equipment, and graphic design tools. Its Fostering Agricultural Resilience in Modern Skills (FARMS) Native Youth Camp paired a weeklong cohort with business owners and media professionals. The KARMA Food Summit at Navajo Technical University offered hands-on workshops with food businesses, and a Media & Food Learning Summit brought a full day of activities to about 80 students at First Mesa Elementary on the Hopi Nation. KARMA also offered $500 SEEDS grants to growers and ranchers, drawing 21 applications from Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. With NAAF funding, KARMA served 16 farmers, four ranchers, eight community members, and 125 students and youth.



NAAF'S ARIZONA GRANTEES

# NALWOODI DENZHONE: STRENGTH AND BEAUTY COMMUNITY, INC.

**Overview:**
Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community, Inc. (NDC) is a 501c3 nonprofit working to improve food security on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, which the USDA designates as a food desert. Its NAAF-funded work has helped build the Nalwoodi Life Center and Food Hub, giving local producers a place to sell, process, and aggregate fresh, culturally significant foods.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $249,855

### 2020 - General - $50,000
After gathering community input through planning meetings and a food security survey, NDC completed the design for its Local Food Store, including a retail space, a kitchen for processing value-added products, and a walk-in cooler for aggregation. NDC also supported three businesses and hosted two garden workshops. With NAAF funding, NDC served 10 farmers, three ranchers, two harvesters, 111 community producers, and 128 students and youth.

### 2023 - General - $199,855
NDC brought its Local Food Store to substantial completion, celebrating with a November 2024 open house that drew more than 30 local vendors, producers, and families. NDC also provided business development and management trainings, and partnered with the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation on plans for demonstration garden beds at the hospital. With NAAF funding, NDC served 127 community producers and 10 students and youth.




NAAF'S ARIZONA GRANTEES

# THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Overview:**
The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development is a Mesa-based national nonprofit that helps businesses grow through training, access to capital, and contracting opportunities. It hosts the Reservation Economic Summit (RES), the largest economic development conference in Indian Country.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $146,713

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# THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

## 2019 - General - $75,000

NCAIED's Native Edge Institute at RES drew 384 in-person attendees and another 4,786 livestream viewers, offering sessions on accessing capital, federal contracting, and business accounting. NCAIED exceeded all six of its project goals in the first quarter and continued hosting additional trainings through the rest of the grant. With NAAF funding, NCAIED served 75 farmers, 75 ranchers, 20 students and youth, and 1,386 community members.

## 2020 - Rapid Response Fund - $6,713

When COVID-19 prevented in-person events, NCAIED moved its trainings online, hosting virtual Native Edge Institutes for Connecticut, Illinois, and Arizona businesses and a webinar on pandemic working capital loans. With NAAF funding, NCAIED served 532 community members.

## 2020 - Youth - $30,000

NCAIED partnered with American Indian Business Leaders to bring 66 youth to RES for sessions, business boot camps, and a youth business plan competition. The conference also added a new "Agriculture Economy" track with six agriculture sessions and a farm lending session. With NAAF funding, NCAIED served 66 students and youth.

## 2021 - Youth - $35,000

After staff turnover and the pandemic delayed the project, NCAIED used this funding to bring 103 youth to the 2025 RES with American Indian Business Leaders. Participants joined business boot camps, a business plan competition, and seven agriculture-focused sessions while connecting with Tribal leaders and business professionals. With NAAF funding, NCAIED served 206 students and youth.




# THE NATIVE AMERICAN HORSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**Overview:**
The Native American Horse Education Foundation (NAHEF), based in Tucson, was founded in 2006 to preserve the relationship between Native people and horses through farriery training and horse husbandry. NAHEF brings fully equipped mobile training unit to reservations, teaching youth and adults the hoof care and horseshoeing skills needed to care for their own horses and build farrier businesses.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $150,000

**2021 - General - $150,000**
NAHEF held four free, two-week introductory horseshoeing courses across the Navajo Nation, where 50 students completed 80 hours of lecture, forge work, and hands-on shoeing under the guidance of Master Farrier George Goode and certified instructors. Instead of requiring producers to haul their animals to receive care, the NAHEF program's mobile unit met producers where they are, saving producers' time and travel. Students learned equine anatomy, nutrition, hoof balancing, corrective shoeing, and blacksmithing, along with how to build credit and start a farrier business. Each graduate earned a certificate and kept a full set of tools, and each participating chapter received an anvil and vise for community use. Community horses received immediate care during every course. With NAAF funding, NAHEF served 53 total ranchers, including 50 course graduates.



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# NORTH LEUPP FAMILY FARMS

**Overview:**
North Leupp Family Farms (NLFF) is a community farming cooperative in Leupp, on the western Navajo Nation, where member farmers grow fresh, locally grown food using traditional Diné practices. NLFF also serves as a hub for training, technical assistance, and agricultural entrepreneurship for producers across the region.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $249,848

### 2020 - General - $50,000
NLFF strengthened its farm operations and opened new markets for local farmers, keeping community farming going safely through the COVID-19 pandemic. Member farmers were joined by visiting university and STAR School students, who helped plant and learned about drought farming and traditional practices. With NAAF funding, NLFF served 23 farmers, 25 community members, and 35 students and youth.

### 2022 - General - $199,848
NLFF built a modular meeting and office building, giving producers who often travel 20 to 50 miles for these resources a year-round hub for internet access, trainings, and business activities. NLFF and its partners provided technical assistance to six organizations and producers and hosted workshops on soil health, traditional farming, and vermicomposting. With NAAF funding, NLFF served 30 farmers, 30 ranchers, 60 harvesters, 30 community members, and 10 students and youth.




NAAF'S
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# PAINTED DESERT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

**Overview:**
Painted Desert Demonstration Projects is the nonprofit behind STAR School, an off-grid school in northern Arizona serving mostly Native students from pre-K through 8th grade on the edge of the Navajo Nation. The school builds agriculture into its curriculum through gardening, culinary, and livestock programs rooted in Diné culture and language.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $155,000

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# PAINTED DESERT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS STAR SCHOOL

## 2020 - Youth - $40,000

After the pandemic closed the campus for nearly a year and took many elders from the community, STAR School expanded garden and greenhouse programming, reconnecting students with local farmers and ranchers. When students returned in 2021, gardening and culinary classes taught them about growing and preparing traditional foods. The Changemaker Association later selected the gardening program as a model. With NAAF funding, Painted Desert Demonstration Projects served three ranchers and 143 students and youth.

## 2022 - Youth - $40,000

STAR School launched a livestock club, buying a livestock trailer and building a barn and chicken coop that now house turkeys and chickens on campus, with plans to expand to sheep and cattle. At STAR School, students care for the animals every day during gardening classes by feeding them, collecting eggs, and cleaning pens, and the school began chartering the club as a 4-H organization. With NAAF funding, Painted Desert Demonstration Projects served 35 youth community members and 102 students and youth.

## 2024 - Youth - $75,000

With this grant, the STAR 4-H Livestock Club is expanding into a 24-month program of more intensive agricultural education, tying animal care to Navajo language and culture. Students will learn to raise, breed, and harvest lambs, calves, and chickens, and gain livestock showing skills and experience. Students will also help butcher sheep for the annual harvest festival, working with the University of Arizona's Coconino County Cooperative Extension. The program aims to build pathways into ranching and animal science and to introduce students to independent ranching and access to capital.




# SAN XAVIER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Overview:**
San Xavier Cooperative Farm (SXCF), founded in 1971 by San Xavier District allottees near Tucson, carries on 4,000 years of communal farming by the Wa:k community of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Now led by O'odham farmers and community members, the farm is one of the oldest continuously operating Indigenous-owned businesses in the country and remains rooted in protecting water, land, seeds, and animals.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $299,578

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# SAN XAVIER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

## 2019 - General - $55,000

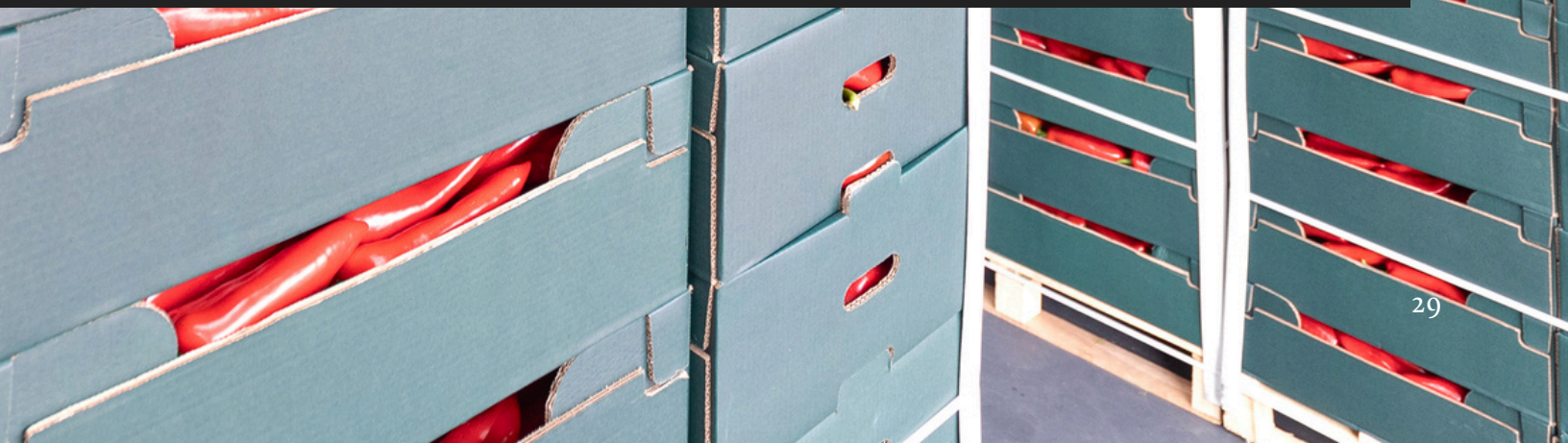
SXCF studied whether hemp could become part of its business, completing a one-year plot study with Avra Valley Growers that gave farm staff hands-on growing experience. The team also produced a 10-year business feasibility study and an educational bulletin on the realities of growing hemp in the Southwest. With NAAF funding, SXCF served 15 farmers.

## 2020 - Rapid Response Fund - $47,328

As many programs on the reservation shut down during the pandemic, SXCF expanded its Wild Foods Foraging program, paying community members and local farmers to harvest culturally important desert foods. A new walk-in freezer extended the freshness of seasonal wild foods, supporting Farm to Community meals and bringing hard-to-find desert foods to the farm store. With NAAF funding, SXCF served five farmers, 11 harvesters, and 500 community members.

## 2021 - General - $197,250

SXCF opened the farm to visitors from the local community and as far away as New Zealand, including more than 70 high school students who learned seed keeping, marketing, operations, and culinary arts from farm staff. The farm also hosted entrepreneurship workshops with an O'odham-owned food truck and, with Tohono O'odham Community College, six-week horseshoeing trainings. With NAAF funding, SXCF served 50 farmers, 20 ranchers, 30 harvesters, 120 community members, and 920 students and youth.





NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# SAN XAVIER DISTRICT OF TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

**Overview:**
The San Xavier District, home to the Wa:k community near Tucson, is one of the 11 districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The district works to promote traditional foods, food sovereignty, and economic development that help O'odham people become more self-reliant.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $81,213

### 2019 - General - $75,000
The district hired an architectural and engineering team to design the Marketplace at Wa:k, a local food marketplace for food producers and small businesses, and presented the finished construction documents to the Council and the community. Open houses, outreach meetings, and technical trainings sparked new community interest in starting or growing businesses in agriculture, food, and arts and crafts. With NAAF funding, the San Xavier District served 30 farmers, 10 harvesters, 125 community members, and 65 students and youth.

### 2020 - Rapid Response Fund - $6,213
During the pandemic, the district bought mobile hotspots so staff could keep serving the community, which included checking on elders daily, supporting students virtually, and working with San Xavier Cooperative Farm on plans for a marketplace in the farm fields. The experience pushed the district toward more sustainable programs, including teaching community members to grow and harvest their own food. With NAAF funding, the San Xavier District served 20 farmers, 10 harvesters, 80 elders, 130 community members, and 50 students and youth.



NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# SEEDS IN COMMON

**Overview:**
Seeds in Common is a mission-driven organization that supports seed keepers and food growers in building healthy communities, caring for the land, and preserving seed diversity. Its work helps farmers and ranchers across the Southwest strengthen food sovereignty through sustainable water and land practices.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $96,990

### 2022 - General - $96,990

Seeds in Common installed rainwater catchment systems for 21 farming and ranching households in the Navajo Nation's Forest Lake Chapter, near Kayenta, where decades of coal mining depleted the area's main water source. Local contractors built custom gutters, downspouts, and barrel stands for each home, directing rainwater to gardens and livestock troughs, and they have since been hired for other water-harvesting related projects. With NAAF funding, Seeds in Common served 13 farmers, eight ranchers, 21 community producers, and one student and youth.




# THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

**Overview:**
The Southwest Indian Agricultural Association (SWIAA) has supported farmers and ranchers across the Southwest for 35 years. Its board of established producers provides technical assistance through annual conferences, hands-on workshops, livestock field days, scholarships, and direct support in their communities.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $100,000

**2020 - General - $100,000**
SWIAA brought 150 farmers and ranchers to its 34th Annual Conference, which featured USDA speakers and hands-on training in using drones for agriculture. It also hosted workshops on record keeping and grant writing, a tour of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' farm, and a food system needs assessment. SWIAA helped producers start three new agribusinesses, prepare loan applications, and formalize organizations such as the Gu Achi Livestock Association, and it installed a solar-powered well pump in the Tohono O'odham Nation's Sif Oidak District. With NAAF funding, SWIAA served 198 farmers, 182 ranchers, 112 community members, and eight students and youth.



NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# TÓ NIZHÓNÍ ÁNÍ

**Overview:**
Tó Nizhóní Ání (TNA), meaning "Sacred Water Speaks," is a Diné-led nonprofit in the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Nation. It works to protect local water sources and help rural Navajo communities strengthen their farming, food systems, and long-term resilience.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $250,000

**2025 - General & Youth - $250,000**
With this grant, TNA is working to revitalize agriculture and food sovereignty in rural Navajo communities by protecting groundwater, restoring traditional farmland, and bringing back dry farming practices. The project trains new farmers in record keeping, data collection, and financial literacy, helping them obtain land use permits and access capital. Its work also supports producers with expanding the infrastructure necessary to grow and sell healthy traditional foods.



NAAF'S ARIZONA GRANTEES

# TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Overview:**
Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) is the Tribal college of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Through its Land Grant Office of Sustainability, TOCC offers agricultural training and certificate programs that connect traditional O'odham knowledge with career and business skills.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $341,763

### 2023 - General - $192,073

In partnership with the Native American Horse Education Foundation and the Tohono O'odham Nation's Department of Natural Resources, TOCC held an intensive eight-week horseshoeing training. All seven graduates earned certificates and received $3,500 in farrier tools and equipment to start their own businesses, and more than 150 community members attended their graduation. Remaining funds supported a 10-day training at San Xavier Cooperative Farm, where eight community members, mostly local ranchers, learned horseshoeing basics on local horses. With NAAF funding, TOCC served 16 ranchers and 10 students and youth.

### 2024 - General & Youth - $149,690

TOCC launched the Traditional Agribusiness Certificate Program, a 12-week course that pairs business and management training with the knowledge of experienced traditional farmers. Students first took a six-week online course in financial literacy, spreadsheets, and AI-assisted decision-making, and then completed six weeks of workshops where farmers shared their entrepreneurial journeys and lessons learned. With NAAF funding, TOCC served 17 farmers, 17 community members, and 17 students and youth.




# TOLANI LAKE ENTERPRISES, INC.

**Overview:**
Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. (TLE) is a community development nonprofit in Tolani Lake, on the Navajo Nation, that strengthens food, water, and economic systems in the Little Colorado River Watershed. Through workshops, mini-grants, and technical assistance, TLE helps growers build culturally grounded farms and a stronger local food economy.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $761,523

Continued on following page

# NAAF GRANTS
# TOLANI LAKE ENTERPRISES, INC.

## 2019 - General - $75,000

TLE worked to revive the Navajo sheep economy, which once brought in more than half of the Nation's cash income, through a cooperative that pairs ancestral sheepherding knowledge with regenerative agriculture. The project built 11 hoop houses and a sheep corral, bought ewes and rams for flock improvement and a sheep gifting program, and conducted market research with local restaurants and meat processors. With NAAF funding, TLE served 17 farmers, 42 ranchers, four community members, and 55 students and youth.

## 2020 - Rapid Response Fund and General - $236,560

TLE held 26 workshops for 269 participants and paired them with hands-on work sessions that left farms with new growing beds, drip irrigation, tree nurseries, and a five-acre irrigation design at Old Cameron Farm. Six mini-grants of $16,000 each funded irrigation, fencing, shade structures, and washing stations. Rapid Response funds kept herders caring for TLE's sheep flock through the summer heat, shearing, and lambing season. With NAAF funding, TLE served 85 farmers, 39 ranchers, 20 harvesters, five elders, 104 community members, and 23 students and youth.

## 2021 - General - $199,963

TLE held six workshops for 48 participants and awarded five $15,000 mini-grants that helped community farms build irrigation systems, water catchment, hoop houses, a washing station, and solar power. A partner organization expanded the program into Nevada with ten $2,500 mini-grants for growers, and TLE supported the grassroots water group One River One Voice, whose members shared regional water plans at a water summit. With NAAF funding, TLE served 49 farmers, five ranchers, and 134 community producers.

## 2025 - General & Youth - $250,000

With this grant, TLE is launching a two-year training and technical assistance program to serve at least 60 producers in the Little Colorado River Watershed. The project offers workshops on food entrepreneurship and regenerative agriculture, mini-grants that increase access to capital, and new sales opportunities through the Sihasin Market Garden and online markets.



NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

**Overview:**
The White Mountain Apache Tribe, based in Whiteriver in east-central Arizona, runs Ndee Bikiyaa, "The People's Farm," to revitalize local food systems and expand access to fresh, culturally important foods for Tribal members from children to elders. Through farming, education, and community events, the program supports Tribal self-determination and stewardship of land and water.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $112,500

**2020 - General - $112,500**
Ndee Bikiyaa expanded its agribusiness program, teaching local farmers and producers about business, markets, and conservation through workshops and classes at Ndee Bikiyaa and Coffee Pot Farms. The project also laid groundwork for a community cooperative to meet local demand for fresh and value-added foods, brought youth apprentices into summer activities, and culminated in the annual Harvest Festival, all despite shifting pandemic restrictions. With NAAF funding, the White Mountain Apache Tribe served 35 farmers, 10 harvesters, 35 community members, and 12 students and youth.



NAAF'S
ARIZONA
GRANTEES

# THE YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION

**Overview:**
The Yavapai-Apache Nation is a federally recognized Tribe of Yavapai and Apache peoples in Arizona's Verde Valley, based in Camp Verde. The Nation runs farm and ranch operations that produce feed, crops, and beef to support its economy and its members.

## TOTAL FUNDING: $100,000

**2023 - General - $100,000**
The Nation installed a center pivot irrigation system on a new field, which will increase agricultural productivity, water conservation, and operational flow. The field will produce more feed for the Nation's cattle, allowing the herd to grow, and it will be rotated with soil-enriching crops. Additional beef will go to the Nation's food bank, and hay proceeds support economic growth. With NAAF funding, the Yavapai-Apache Nation served eight farmers, three ranchers, and eight community members.

# BEYOND *the* GRANT

Native producers in Arizona operate more than 6 in 10 of the state's farms and steward more than 80% of its farmland. Yet those farms generate merely 2.5% of the state's agricultural sales. Nearly 8 in 10 AI/AN farms sell less than $2,500 a year, and together these farms reported a net loss of nearly $56 million in 2022, according to the USDA Census of Agriculture.

That gap begins with access to capital. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Credit Insecurity Index found that between 2007 and 2018, roughly 62% of people living on reservations had very low access to affordable credit, nearly two and a half times the national rate of 26%. NAAF grantees are proving that even small, well-placed investments can make an incredible impact. Tolani Lake Enterprises Inc.'s mini-grants funded irrigation, hoop houses, fencing, and solar power. The Natwani Coalition's microgrants reached 19 Hopi food producers, many of them first-time grantees. Diné Community Development Corporation helped more than 50 Navajo producers build business plans and loan packages.

Even where capital is available, structural barriers hold producers back. Some producers must first secure land use permits before they can farm or borrow, a hurdle Tó Nizhóní Ání is now helping new farmers clear. Only 55% of AI/AN farms in Arizona report internet access, compared with 67% of farms statewide. North Leupp Family Farms built its year-round hub because producers were traveling 20 to 50 miles for internet and trainings.

Grantees found that financial literacy, record-keeping, and business planning come first. Tohono O'odham Community College's Traditional Agribusiness Certificate pairs financial training with the knowledge of experienced traditional farmers, and DCDC's youth agripreneurship workshops have young people building startup budgets before they ever apply for a loan.

Getting food to market is the next frontier. On the San Carlos Apache Reservation, a USDA-designated food desert, Nalwoodi Denzhone's Local Food Store now gives producers a place to sell, process, and aggregate. Hopi Tutskwa is developing a shared regional food hub, and the San Xavier District has finished construction documents for the Marketplace at Wa:k.

In the desert Southwest, water and weather shape everything. Grantees have installed rainwater catchment where coal mining depleted the local water source, solar-powered well pumps, center pivots, and drip irrigation. They are also preparing for new challenges: University of Arizona extension agents trained producers across seven Tribal Nations on New World screwworm surveillance and emergency response.

Much of this progress also relies on Tribal colleges and federal partners like the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program. Diné College grew its Bachelor of Agriculture program from seven students to 43, and Tribal colleges are training the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and farriers. Limited funding opportunities that currently exist could raise new barriers exactly where the work is building the bench for Indian Country agriculture.

Arizona's grantees have shown what is possible when investment meets Native leadership and deep agricultural tradition, and the foundation for continued growth exists.

# APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

| Year | Grantee | Grant Type | Amount Funded |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | Diné College | Special Emphasis | $72,800 |
| 2019 | Diné College | Youth | $25,000 |
| 2019 | Diné College | Special Emphasis | $58,000 |
| 2019 | Diné Community Development Corporation | General Fund | $114,154 |
| 2019 | The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development | General | $75,000 |
| 2019 | San Xavier Cooperative Association, Inc. | General | $55,000 |
| 2019 | San Xavier District of Tohono O'odham Nation | General | $75,000 |
| 2019 | Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. | General | $75,000 |
| 2020 | Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture | General | $127,600 |
| 2020 | Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona | General | $199,580 |
| 2020 | Diné College | General | $50,000 |
| 2020 | Diné College | General | $30,000 |
| 2020 | Diné College | Rapid Response Fund | $37,410 |
| 2020 | Diné Community Development Corporation | Rapid Response Fund | $27,819 |
| 2020 | Diné Community Development Corporation | Youth | $45,000 |
| 2020 | Hualapai Tribe | General | $75,000 |

Continued on following page

# APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

| Year | Grantee | Grant Type | Amount Funded |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | Hualapai Tribe | Youth | $30,000 |
| 2020 | Kayenta Unified School District #27 | General | $174,629 |
| 2020 | Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community, Inc. | General | $50,000 |
| 2020 | The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development | Rapid Response Fund | $6,713 |
| 2020 | The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development | Youth | $30,000 |
| 2020 | North Leupp Family Farms, Inc. | General | $50,000 |
| 2020 | Painted Desert Demonstration Projects | Youth | $40,000 |
| 2020 | San Xavier Cooperative Association, Inc. | Rapid Response Fund | $47,328 |
| 2020 | San Xavier District of Tohono O'odham Nation | Rapid Response Fund | $6,213 |
| 2020 | Southwest Indian Agricultural Association | General | $100,000 |
| 2020 | Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. | General | $195,877 |
| 2020 | Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. | Rapid Response Fund | $40,683 |
| 2020 | White Mountain Apache Tribe | General | $112,500 |
| 2021 | Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona | Youth | $50,000 |
| 2021 | Diné Community Development Corporation | General | $150,000 |

Continued on following page

# APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

| Year | Grantee | Grant Type | Amount Funded |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development | Youth | $35,000 |
| 2021 | Native American Horse Education Foundation | General | $150,000 |
| 2021 | San Xavier Cooperative Association, Inc. | General | $197,250 |
| 2021 | Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. | General | $199,963 |
| 2022 | Diné Community Development Corporation | General | $164,622 |
| 2022 | Diné Community Development Corporation | Youth | $40,000 |
| 2022 | The Hopi Foundation (Natwani Coalition) | General | $200,000 |
| 2022 | North Leupp Family Farms, Inc. | General | $199,848 |
| 2022 | Painted Desert Demonstration Projects | Youth | $40,000 |
| 2022 | Seeds in Common | General | $96,990 |
| 2023 | Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona | General | $199,960 |
| 2023 | Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community, Inc. | General | $199,855 |
| 2023 | Tohono O'odham Community College | General | $192,073 |
| 2023 | Yavapai-Apache Nation | General | $100,000 |

Continued on following page

# APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

| Year | Grantee | Grant Type | Amount Funded |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute | General & Youth | $200,000 |
| 2024 | Ke'yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance | General & Youth | $146,424 |
| 2024 | Painted Desert Demonstration Projects | Youth | $75,000 |
| 2024 | Tohono O'odham Community College | General & Youth | $149,690 |
| 2025 | Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona | General Fund | $149,966 |
| 2025 | Tó Nizhóní Ání | General & Youth | $250,000 |
| 2025 | Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc. | General & Youth | $250,000 |
| 2026 | Gila Crossing Community School | General | $34,690 |



# APPENDIX B: AI/AN FAST FACTS FOR ARIZONA



**17,087**
American Indian/
Alaska Native Producers



**20,837,222**
Acres Farmed by AI/AN



**10,435**
AI/AN Farms

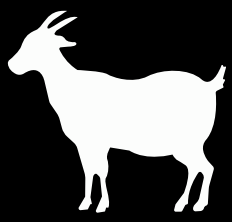


**$131,569,000**
Market Value of AI/AN
Products Sold

## SHARE OF SALES TYPES:



**82%**
CROP PRODUCTION



**18%**
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND
PRODUCTS PRODUCTION

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NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND