NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

2024 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS WEBINAR

Courtesy of Kalispel Tribe of Indians
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**

- Fast Track 2021
- 2019 - RRF 2022
- 2020 2023
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.
NAAF Grantees from 2019-2023

Top Three States with NAAF Grantees

1. South Dakota (24 Grantees)
2. New Mexico (22 Grantees)
3. Montana (18 Grantees)

Native Producers throughout the US

1. Arizona, 19,279 Native producers
2. Oklahoma, 11,912 Native producers
3. New Mexico, 8,523 Native producers

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture

NAAF funded $67,000,000 in grants from 2019-2023 to Tribes, Non-Profits, Educational Institutions, and Community Development Financial Institutions

Top Funded States Include:
(by total number of grantees)
2024 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
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 2024 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.
NAAF 2024 RFA

- Allowable Use of Funds
- Addressing Access to Capital
- Cost Sharing or Matching Funds
- Collaborators, Cooperators, Leveraging
- Limitation on Indirect Costs
- Initial Review on Eligibility
- Unallowable Use of Funds
- Eligibility of Previous Grantees
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 2024
General Focus: Business Assistance, Ag Education, Technical Support and/or Advocacy Services

Targeted Projects - 501c3 Organizations

Special Focus:
Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices

Available pool - $1,000,000
Min - $100,000
Max - $200,000

Available pool - $1,000,000
Minimum - $100,000
Maximum - $200,000
Targeted Projects - Educational Organizations

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

Available Pool - $500,000
Minimum - $75,000
Maximum - $150,000

Special Focus:
Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices
Available pool - $1,000,000
Min - $100,000
Max - $200,000

Available Pool - $500,000
Minimum - $75,000
Maximum - $150,000
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.

For the first time, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools will be allowed to apply for funding.
TARGETED PROJECTS - CDFI'S

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

**Special Focus:**
- Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices,
- Available pool - $1,000,000
  - Min - $100,000
  - Max - $200,000
- Additional CDFI and Native CDFI support
  - Available pool - $1,000,000
  - Min - $100,000
  - Max - $400,000
- Available Pool - $4,500,000
  - No minimum but cannot request full available pool
TARGETED PROJECTS - TRIBES

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

Special Focus:
Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices
Available pool - $1,000,000
Min - $100,000
Max - $200,000

Available Pool - $1,000,000
Minimum - $100,000
Maximum - $200,000
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.
TRIBES - IMPORTANT REMINDERS

LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
Required - no exceptions

INDUSTRIAL HEMP
Feasibility or market studies only
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.
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.
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.
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, 2024
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
• Intermediary Funds
• 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 2024
general & youth RFA closes:
May 1, 2024 at 11:59 PM CT

Reminder:
There is no opportunity to edit the application after the deadline.
• Returning applicants: logon with existing credentials
• New applicants: click "Create New Account" button to access application

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

Applicant Dashboard

Public Profile

Applicant: [Redacted]  
Organization: [Redacted]

Contact Email History

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

Active Requests: 0  Historical Requests: 1

You do not have any Active Requests. Click Apply to begin the application process.
Apply

NAAAF
Quick Search

2024 Request for Applications - General & Youth

Accepting Submissions from 03/01/2024 to 05/01/2024

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).

Preview
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
SAVE THE DATES

Schedule of 2024
NAAAF RFA Webinars

- Thursday, March 21st from 2-4 PM CT (Youth RFA)
- Thursday, March 28th from 2-4 PM CT
- Thursday, April 9th from 2-4 PM CT
- Thursday, April 25th from 2-4 PM CT