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

**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.
2024 RFA - YOUTH OVERVIEW
ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 501(c)(3) organizations
- Educational organizations
- Community Development Financial Institutions
- Tribes and their instrumentalities
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**
- **COLLABORATORS, COOPERATORS, LEVERAGING**
- **UNALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS**
- **ADDRESSING ACCESS TO CAPITAL**
- **LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS**
- **INITIAL REVIEW ON ELIGIBILITY**
- **COST SHARING OR MATCHING FUNDS**
- **ELIGIBILITY OF PREVIOUS GRANTEES**

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Initial Review on Eligibility
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.
All Applicants for Youth Programming are required to use the separate application portal created only for Youth Programming.

Project Types: hands-on food production, support for FFA, 4H, or other youth groups, youth-led community projects, youth ag councils, scholarships, online youth ag activities.

Available pool - $1,000,000
Minimum - $20,000
Maximum - $200,000
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.
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)

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- FRTEP involvement required at universities with the agents

Hesperus, Colorado
Courtesy of Fort Lewis College
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.
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)
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
Applicant Dashboard

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

You do not have any Active Requests. Click Apply to begin the application process.
FOUNDANT - HOW TO APPLY

Native American Agriculture Fund

Apply

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
Application

Process: 2024 Request for Applications - General & Youth

- Applicant:
- Organization:

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

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Introduction
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
CONTACT US

Email
grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org

Phone/Voicemail
479-445-6226
SAVE THE DATES

Schedule of 2024 NAAAF RFA Webinars

• Thursday, March 28th from 2-4 PM CT
• Thursday, April 9th from 2-4 PM CT
• Thursday, April 25th from 2-4 PM CT