

STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

NATIVE AGRICULTURE
GROWING TOGETHER



NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

ABOUT NAAF

08

NATIVE AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

2023 GRANTEES

17

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

2023 NATIVE YOUTH GRANTEES

20

NAAF BEHIND THE SCENES

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

32

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ABOUT NAAF

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) provides grants to eligible organizations for business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to support Native farmers and ranchers.

The charitable trust was created by the settlement of the landmark *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class-action lawsuit. NAAF is the largest philanthropic organization devoted solely to serving the Native American farming and ranching community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Trust's Mission shall be to make grants to Eligible Grant Recipients, described in section 8, to fund business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 501(c)3 organizations
- Tribal governments
- Educational organizations
- Community Development Financial Institutions

INVESTING IN NATIVE AGRICULTURE

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

NAAF's fiscal cycle aligns differently from traditional schedules. Instead, we have a unique starting point in the year. Defined by our annual funding cycle award dates, our Board of Trustees convenes at the end of each summer to vote on projects to fund. Come early fall, we joyfully send out award notices for the upcoming grant cycle, eager to welcome new grantees. As we reflect on the accomplishments of our 2023 recipients, we also showcase our ongoing programmatic efforts beyond grants in Indian Country. We invite you to discover where our funding reaches and gain insight into the impactful work being done.

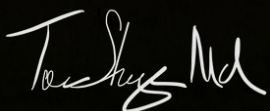
What has become clear in the last year as we have focused so much effort on investing in efforts that address barriers for Native producers is that tribes, Native organizations, and Native-serving institutions must have a seat at the table when decisions are being made about foodways and agricultural systems in Tribal and rural communities. Working in agriculture is more than a means of livelihood. It is also connected to culture, identity, and community well-being.

NAAF aims to transform investments and collaborations centered on grantmaking that sustain and enhance agricultural landscapes throughout Indian Country. One of those investments in 2023 includes a partnership with Haskell Indian Nations University to establish an agriculture business degree program. This underscores our commitment to future generations, equipping Native students with the skills to lead in agricultural business and lending.

A strong spirit of collaboration has underpinned our success in realizing these investments. In 2023, NAAF took a significant step forward by announcing a strategic partnership with the National FFA Organization and engaging in productive conversations with the Bureau of Indian Education to advance shared efforts in expanding agricultural education across Tribal schools. From the outset, our board has been unwavering in its dedication to empowering youth and cultivating the future generation of agricultural pioneers. These transformative initiatives were brought to fruition in partnership with the dedicated leadership and hard work of the Tribal Agriculture Fellowship program's team.

In 2023, NAAF's impactful grantmaking efforts continued to empower Native farmers and ranchers by facilitating access to crucial resources and capital. Rooted in our foundation, NAAF remains dedicated to breaking down the barriers that hindered the original Keepseagle claimants, particularly in securing capital for production agriculture. A significant milestone was achieved with the culmination of three years of arduous work, resulting in the funding of the innovative Native Agriculture Financial Services (NAFS). As the first financial institution of its kind within the Farm Credit System, NAFS stands as a testament to our commitment to ensuring the sustainability and vibrancy of Native agriculture as a valued career path, preserving cultural heritage, economic vitality, and the integrity of the land for future generations.

Warm regards,



Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, J.D.

Colville Tribe

CEO, Native American Agriculture Fund

NATIVE PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES

78,316

**NATIVE
PRODUCERS***



**COURTESY OF
THE PEOPLES PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

63 MIL

ACRES OF LAND*

**4 MILLION
INCREASE IN ACRES
FROM 2017**



**COURTESY OF
STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE INDIAN COMMUNITY**

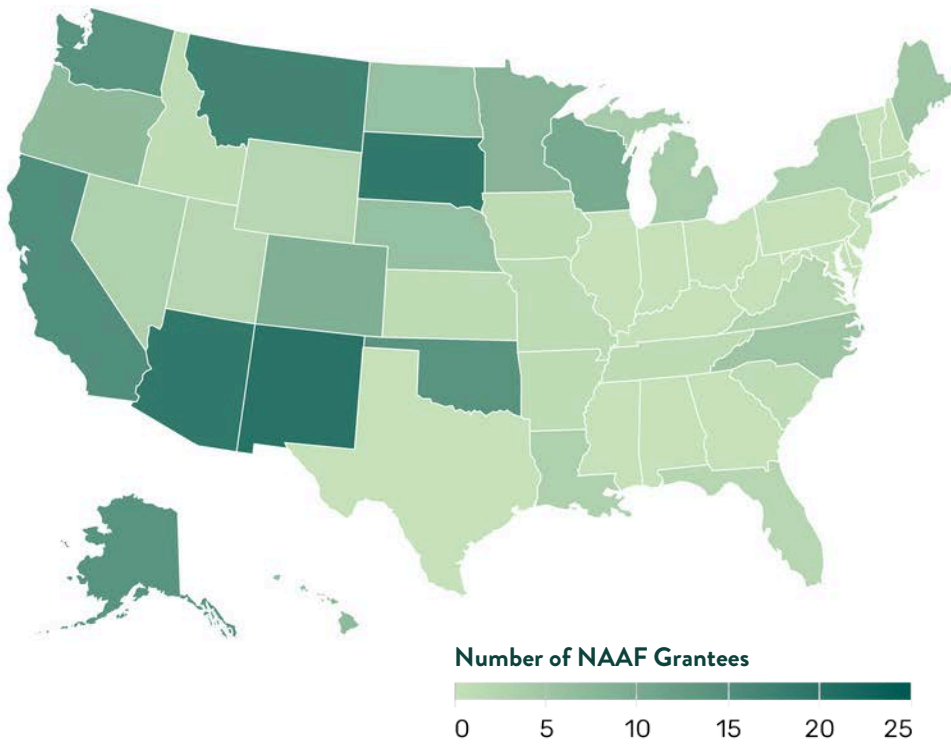
\$6.19 B

**MARKET VALUE OF
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS SOLD***

**3 BILLION INCREASE
FROM 2017**

***2022 AG CENSUS**

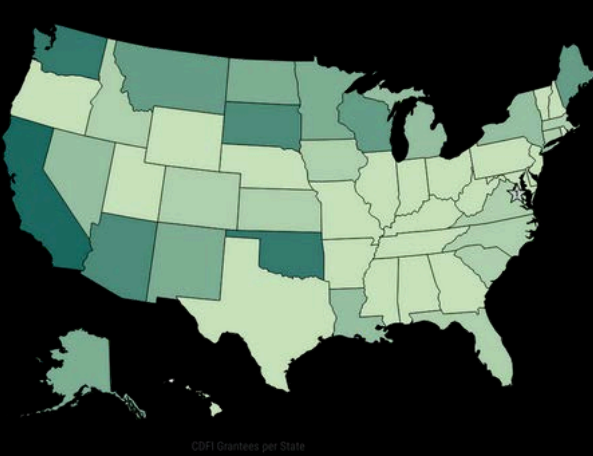
GRANTEE LOCATIONS 2019-2023



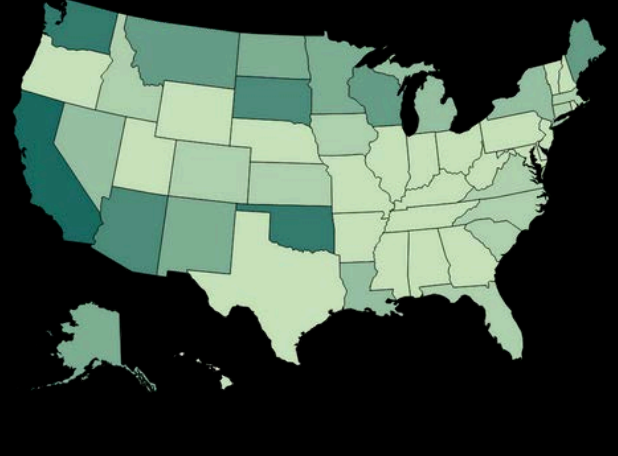
NAAF has funded \$66M in grants from 2019-2023 to Tribes, Non-Profits, Educational Institutions, and Community Development Financial Institutions. Below are the top three states that have had the most grantees:

- 1 New Mexico (20 Grantees)
- 2 South Dakota (19 Grantees)
- 3 Arizona (19 Grantees)

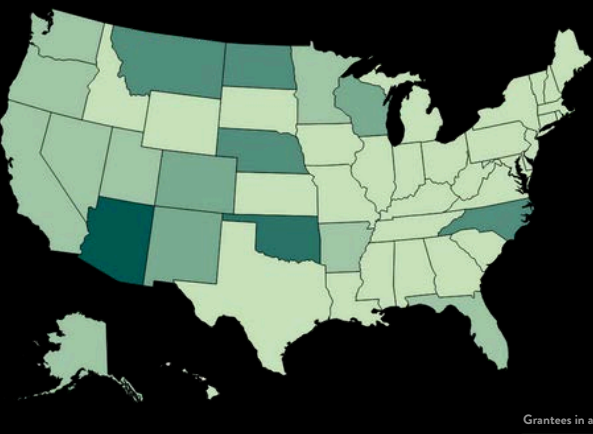
29 CDFI GRANTEES



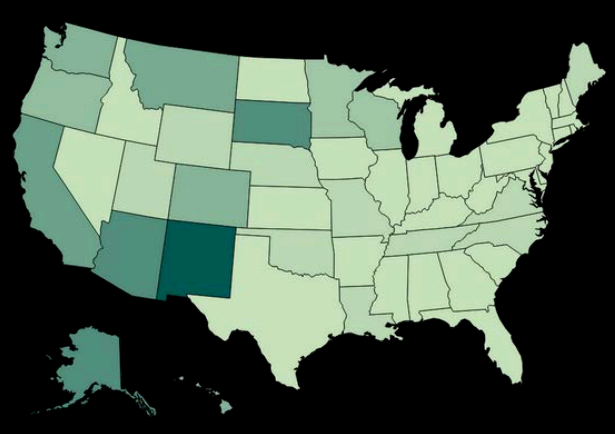
71 TRIBAL GRANTEES



36 EDU GRANTEES



91 501(C)3 GRANTEES



2023 GRANT FUNDING BY ENTITY TYPE: \$11,000,000



501(c)(3)'s

\$2,386,958



Edu Org's

\$1,391,595



CDFI's

\$5,149,468



Tribes

\$2,071,979

2023 FUNDING FOR SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS: \$2,566,394



Ag Infrastructure

\$399,475



Inflation Assistance

\$550,000



Market Access

\$257,765



Tribal Dept. of Ag

\$297,802



Youth

\$1,061,352

EMPOWERING ROOTS

2023 GRANTEE IMPACT NUMBERS



38 GRANTEES

Thirty-eight grants awarded with approximately 45% of the \$10 million granted going directly to producers as loans, re-grants, or scholarships



96,900+ PRODUCERS

Grants provide direct capital to projects impacting 96,900 Native producers and counting



120 TRIBAL NATIONS

Grantees serve Native producers across 120 sovereign Tribal Nations



20 STATES SERVED

Projects will impact Native producers across 20 different states, including nine national projects

TOP 3 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Food Production & Supply Chain Activities
- Business Planning
- Food Systems & Supply Chain Planning

2023 GENERAL GRANTEES



1 AKIPTAN EAGLE BUTTE, SD

\$2,000,000

<https://www.akiptan.org>

Akiptan will provide direct access to capital via loans and equity grants to spur producer prosperity and strengthen agriculture businesses, and will provide succession and generational wealth programming to further provide a holistic approach to producers that ensures business sustainability and asset development.

2 ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION ANCHORAGE, AK

\$200,000

<https://www.apiai.org/>

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association seeks to engage Native producers in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands by determining the feasibility of aquaculture and greenhouse cultivation in their communities. By providing trainings, workshops, technical support, and leveraging strategic partnerships, they strive to empower the self-determination and development of their Tribal communities.



3 ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PHOENIX, AZ

\$199,960

<https://www.azregents.edu/>

The Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona will expand upon the training of the previous NAAF grant projects to include testing and finalizing animal curriculum and resources, adding emergency management training, training trainers to ensure program continuation, and creating Tribal Agricultural Stewardship Kits (TASKs) and Livestock TASKs to provide complete resources at the Tribal level.



4 CHOCTAW HOME FINANCE CORPORATION HUGO, OK

\$ 320,000

<https://www.choctawnation.com/>

The Choctaw Home Finance Corporation will enhance access to capital for Native producers by providing comprehensive training, education, and technical support. They will equip them with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage their agricultural operations, overcome financial barriers, and successfully secure capital to support their enterprises.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Agricultural Inflation Relief Fund Program will be a Native-led program aimed to offset the costs of inflation and supply chain shortages for Choctaw agricultural producers and serves as a catalyst to create a comprehensive Tribal agriculture producer database for future use by CNO.





**MA KA HANA KA IKE BUILDING PROGRAM'S
MAHELE FARM**



5

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SHAWNEE, OK

\$ 350,000

<https://cpcdc.org/>

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) will seek Native producers through targeted market advertising and directly to those producing on trust land. CPCDC provides an Agriculture Lending Program to meet the needs of Native farmers and ranchers access to capital, complemented by TA and scholarships.



6

COLUSA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COLUSA, CA

\$196,344.71

<https://www.colusa-nsn.gov/>

The Korru Kuy: Exploring the Potential Agricultural Diversification of Cachil Dehe Tribal Lands project will produce two feasibility studies for culturally appropriate agricultural practices that will help the Tribe determine the most economically viable project to improve their food sovereignty and access to capital.



7

COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

KINDER, LA

\$ 200,000

<https://www.coushatta.org/>

The Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana Rice-Crawfish Pilot establishes a 200-acre pilot cultivating hybrid, high-value rice with a rotation crop of crawfish. The pilot will establish a foundation for the Tribe to establish a viable agricultural enterprise and capacity for the Tribe to reclaim land currently being leased to non-Native producers.



8

CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE - HUNKPATI PROCESSORS

FT. THOMPSON, SD

\$299,475

<https://hunkpatioyate.org/>

Crow Creek Farms will plan and develop a site for sustainable storage solutions for the farm crops and purchase storage bins for grain and other crops, as they currently have to transport hundreds of miles away to other agricultural storage facilities.

9

FARM JOURNAL AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON D.C.

\$200,000

<https://www.farmjournalfoundation.org/>

The Farm Journal Agricultural Foundation's 12-month project will develop a Native Conservation Programs Landscape Assessment Resource, scored so Native producers and their trusted advisers can quickly determine which conservation and climate-smart programs provide greatest access to capital. This will enable faster decision-making, a smoother application process and program visibility.



10

FARMERS' LEGAL ACTION GROUP

ST. PAUL, MN

\$199,936

<http://www.flaginc.org/>

For their NAAF-funded project, FLAG will work to increase Native producers' access to capital and resources by: 1) providing legal services/information/materials to Native producers/organizations; 2) conducting targeted outreach to Native producers/organizations to expand reach and impact; 3) providing direct legal services to Native farmers/ranchers.



11

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY

HARLEM, MT

\$79,936.50

www.ftbelknap.org/

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Department of Agriculture and Tribal Producer market access project will provide travel opportunities to various agriculture-based trade shows and conventions to increase their producers' ability to network within the agricultural sector, which will increase producers' marketability in the future.



12

FORT BERTHOLD LAND AND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

NEW TOWN, ND

\$200,000

<https://www.mhanation.com/charters>

The Fort Berthold Land and Livestock Association will provide its members with small grants to purchase fencing materials and install new fences in their respective range units. By offering these small grants for fencing material, the FBLA will provide access to capital that producers would not have had access to otherwise.



13

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

DURANGO, CO

\$200,000

<https://www.fortlewis.edu/>

Fort Lewis College will provide access to agricultural education, technical support, and capital through paid agricultural work, living stipends, and scholarships. Throughout, they aim to be responsive to the unique needs of Native producers and respond to recommendations from a group of Indigenous food systems leaders and past participants.



14

FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND

EAGLE BUTTE, SD

\$627,828

<https://fourbands.org/>

Four Bands Community Fund will help start, sustain, or expand up to 12 Native-owned agriculture operations through customized combinations of loan capital, equity infusions, and business coaching services. Four Bands Community Fund will utilize a portion of their grant to implement the Special Focus project, "Increasing Market Access for Cheyenne River Producers," in order to increase awareness of and expand the farmer's market within the community, as well as build the financial, business planning, and marketing skills of participating producers.



15**INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER****HONOLULU, HI****\$187,618**<https://indianpueblo.org/>

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) is constructing its onsite Entrepreneur Complex to offer spaces, technologies and resources to assist Native entrepreneurs, initially focusing on the food and agriculture industry. Their goal is to facilitate training incorporating their Resilience Garden and also provide cold transport and pickup/delivery to assist Native growers/recipients.

16**INDIGENOUS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW****\$199,609** **FAYETTEVILLE, AR**<https://indigenousfoodandag.com/>

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) Tribal Enterprise Team will provide critical business assistance to Tribal governments and Native producers by helping Tribal Nations to build strong legal foundations that drive their investments in agriculture, and ensuring that Native producers have access to the training they need to continue accessing markets for their products.

17**KASHIA BAND OF POMO INDIANS OF THE STEWARTS POINT RANCHERIA****SANTA ROSA, CA****\$98,900**<https://www.stewartspoint.org/wp2/>

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria will establish a new Kashia Department of Agriculture to oversee and facilitate the development of agriculture and aquaculture production on Kashia lands and waters by Tribally-owned and Tribal-member-owned enterprises.

18**LUMMI CDFI** **BELLINGHAM, WA****\$ 200,000**www.lummicdfi.org

Utilizing Lummi CDFI's existing and growing lending program and loan products, they will deploy NAAF resources to Native fisheries, agriculture entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Simultaneously, support all clients, inquiries, and loan applicants with consultation, coaching, training, and access to small business tools and resources.

19**MALAMA KAUA'I****KILAUEA, HI****\$199,772.76**<https://malamakauai.org/>

Mālama Kaua'i's Mahi'ai Technical Assistance Program will leverage grants, education, & one-on-one technical assistance to support over 100 Native Hawaiian producers in accessing capital, accomplishing critical expansion projects, and meeting their goals to support food sovereignty on Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

20**NACA INSPIRED SCHOOLS NETWORK****ALBUQUERQUE, NM****\$200,000**<https://www.nacainspireschoolsnetwork.org/>

NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN) will offer a paid residency and hands-on learning experience to uplift and revitalize Indigenous agriculture, food systems, language, and culture. Beginning farmers will receive technical assistance and perform business planning to successfully launch and scale their farms; students will also be engaged in learning and exploring agricultural careers.

21

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FINANCIAL SERVICES

\$350,000 **BROWNING, MT**



<https://www.nacdcfinancialservices.com/index.html>
NACDCFS will increase access to affordable, fixed-rate capital for Native agriculture producers through direct loans and agribusiness training and technical assistance services. They will also conduct a food sovereignty study identifying opportunities to increase growth for Native farmers and ranchers on the Blackfeet Reservation.

22

NALWOODI DENZHONE: STRENGTH AND BEAUTY COMMUNITY, INC. **SAN CARLOS, AZ**

\$199,855



<https://apachendc.org/>
Nalwoodi Denzhone: Strength and Beauty Community (NDC) will build a Local Food Store on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. They will expand on their federal funding to provide much-needed technical assistance and training to improve capital access among Native producers.

23

NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY **FARMINGTON, NM**

\$200,000



<https://napi.navajopride.com/>
The Value-added project will allow Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) to continue producing a higher volume of native corn products to accommodate the needs of Navajo people of all ages. The additional revenue will allow NAPI to continue improving services to the Navajo Nation and the local agricultural communities.

24

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY **LAS CRUCES, NM**

\$100,000



<https://www.nmsu.edu/>
This New Mexico State University project will service Native farmers and ranchers through financial education (including identifying access to capital avenues), technical assistance through financial analysis, and workshops that focus on freeze-dry manufacturing licensing and regulation compliance, juxtaposed with the freeze-dry manufacturing of produce and meat.



FORT LEWIS COLLEGE



25

NIXYAAWII COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SERVICES

PENDLETON, OR

\$200,000

<https://www.nixyaawii-cdfi.org/>

Nixyáawii Community Financial Services (NCFS) will leverage NAAF capital with their recently awarded Small Business Credit Initiative (SSCBI) allocation, a Business Oregon grant (forgivable loans) to provide direct access to capital through loans and grant capital for agriculture related small businesses.



26

NORTHERN SHORES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HARBOR SPRINGS, MI

\$270,120.92

<https://nscdi.org/>

The Northern Shores Community Development, Inc. (NSCDI) grant project will build and strengthen the products, services, training, and resources for their Native agri/aqua business owners and emerging owners for enhanced access to capital, business risk-management products, networking/collaboration, and Native Fisheries Co-op.



27

NORTHWEST NATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

COULEE DAM, WA

\$270,120.92

<https://thenndf.org/>

The Northwest Native Development Fund (NNDF) will leverage and deploy NAAF funding directly to Native agriculture producers/harvesters/fishers. The NNDF will be able to increase their outreach and marketing to the Native agriculture community with face-to-face engagement and a total deployment of funds directly to Native producers.



28

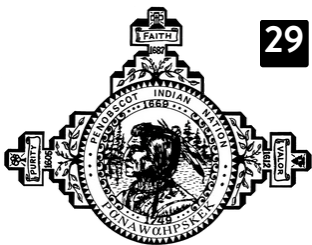
PAWNEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

PAWNEE, OK

\$98,901.84

<https://pawneenation.org/pawnee-nation-operations-agricultural-research-and-development/>

Through the two-year funding of an Agricultural Land Management and Outreach Coordinator, the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma will develop a detailed plan to enter a 638 self-contracting agreement to fund more positions and outreach activities for their newly formed Division of Agriculture, incorporating input from all stakeholders and Tribal agricultural producers.



29

PENOBSCOT NATION

INDIAN ISLAND, MAINE

\$198,421

<https://www.penobscotnation.org/>

Penobscot Tribal Farms Expansion and Sustainability effort will focus on building organization capacity, establishing critical agriculture infrastructure, increasing access to more local food, and exploring the most viable options for value-added production based on key assets, market research, and demand on resources.



30

QUAPAW SERVICES AUTHORITY

QUAPAW, OK

\$100,000

<https://www.quapawtribe.com/472/Quapaw-Services-Authority-QSA>

The Quapaw Services Authority project will provide infrastructure and equipment investments to build capital for Quapaw Food Sovereignty Department (QFSD). The investment will directly benefit the QFSD and their vendors and Native farmers by improving their ability to harvest, clean, and sanitize locally grown food products and generate more economic development.

31

TANKA FUND **KYLE, SD**

\$200,000



<https://www.tankafund.org/>

Tanka Fund will develop an equipment-sharing program for Native buffalo producers, including current Tanka Fund partner producers in the Great Plains Region and Texas. The program will provide opportunities for greater access to capital through direct training and equipment access, enabling producers to be more self-sustaining.

32

THE PEOPLES PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **LAME DEER, MT**

\$200,000



<https://www.peoplespartners.org/>

The Peoples Partner for Community Development (PPCD) aims to empower Native producers on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation through their agriculture loans, consumer products, and financial counseling services, ensuring access to capital, fostering economic growth, preserving land and culture, and supporting Native youth development.

33

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES **NEW TOWN, ND**

\$100,000



<https://www.mhanation.com>

Recognizing that Agriculture is one of the dominant sectors of the Fort Berthold Reservation's economy and that a strong agricultural economy is vital to long-term well-being, Three Affiliated Tribes - MHA Nation will establish the basic structure for and implement a Tribal Department of Agriculture.

34

TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE **SELLS, AZ**

\$192,073



<https://tocc.edu/>

Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) will partner with Native American Horse Education Foundation (NAHEF) to provide an eight-week farrier certification training course at no cost to Tribal members. This course seeks to improve the lives of Tribal members, offer career opportunities, promote economic sustainability (access to capital), and improve the health of horses owned by Tribal members used for agricultural purposes.

35

UNITED TRIBES COMMUNITY COLLEGE **BISMARCK, ND**

\$299,999



<https://uttcc.edu/>

UTTC proposes to use funds for the continued construction of a 4-season greenhouse on campus turning it into a fully operational and professional facility. The greenhouse will be integrated into UTTC's academic programs and extension/outreach activities. Tribal students attending UTTC, often face challenges meeting basic needs and acquiring the tools needed to succeed. UTTC Land Grant proposes to support the next generation of Native agriculture producers, by using funds for monthly student stipends, student equipment, travel opportunities, degree administration and infrastructure development.



36

VILLAGE EARTH FT. COLLINS, CO

\$199,776.10

<https://villageearth.org/>

The Village Earth Native Land Advocacy Project (NLAP) is committed to bridging the data gap in Indian Country by making government and other publicly available data, such as agricultural production on Tribal lands, more accessible and actionable for producers, Tribes, Native organizations, and individuals through their website at: <https://nativeland.info>.



37

WIND RIVER DEVELOPMENT FUND FT. WASHAKIE, WY

\$300,000

<https://www.wrdf.org/>

The Wind River Development Fund will continue its strong mission and proven success in deploying affordable loan capital and grants to Native agricultural producers on the Wind River Reservation. In addition, they will provide technical assistance and group learning opportunities and serve as a repository for agricultural resources.



38

YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION CAMP VERDE, AZ

\$100,000

<https://yavapai-apache.org/>

The Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN) agricultural department is in the process of reclaiming a tract of land from the Tribal mining operation. They aim to put this reclaimed land into production as soon as possible, and with NAAF funding YAN will install a 20-acre quarter pivot irrigation system.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUTH

6 YOUTH PROJECTS

- 2 - 501(c)(3)
- 1 - Educational Org
- 2 - CDFIs
- 1 - Tribe



27 TRIBAL NATIONS

Grantees serve Native youth across 27 sovereign Tribal Nations



5 STATES SERVED

Grantees serve Native youth across 5 different states, including 2 national projects

COMMUNITIES SERVED

- 6 serving reservation/tribal land community
- 5 serving rural areas
- 3 serving suburban
- 3 serving urban



1,600+ YOUTH IMPACTED

Grants provide direct capital to projects impacting nearly 1,600+ Native youth

TOP 3 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Agricultural Education
- Training Education and Career Pathways
- Economic development and feasibility studies

2023 NATIVE YOUTH GRANTEES

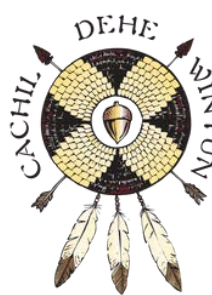


1 **AKIPTAN** EAGLE BUTTE, SD

\$62,969.25

<https://www.akiptan.org>

Akiptan will host Year 3 of the Okhichanye Scholarship, which will support educational advancement in the Native agriculture field and Year 3 of the Internship Program that will give interns hands-on experience and build their capacity to access capital; and lastly, Year 2 of the Youth Age Business Plan Competition where youth will put together a business plan.



2 **COLUSA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL** COLUSA, CA

\$200,000

<https://www.colusa-nsn.gov/>

The Colusa Indian Community (CIC) Youth Agriculture Council is a transformative program that empowers and educates Tribal youth by providing hands-on training in agriculture, covering everything from planting techniques to navigating the process of bringing their products to market. The Seed to Market Program will foster a generation of agricultural leaders rooted in their cultural heritage.



3 **DREAM OF WILD HEALTH** MINNEAPOLIS, MN

\$200,000

<https://dreamofwildhealth.org/>

Dream of Wild Health programs provide culturally-based lessons for youth, ages 8-18, through an Indigenous lens. The farm provides a safe and creative learning environment to learn about regenerative organic gardening, healthy foods preparation and nutrition, and Native cultural traditions while gaining employment and leadership skills.

4

HOCHUNK COMMUNITY CAPITAL, INC. WINNEBAGO, NE



\$198,429

<https://hochunkcdfi.org/>

HoChunk Community Capital, Inc. will introduce Native youth to the vast industries in the agricultural sector, spur financial literacy into adulthood, grow further interest into higher education, careers, and small agribusiness opportunities with access to technical assistance and lending capital from the CDFI, as well as create a culturally relevant curriculum with their partners at 4-H.

5

INDIGENOUS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE FAYETTEVILLE, AR



\$ 199,954

<https://www.indigenousfoodandag.com/>

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Leadership Summit has served over 500 Native youth and, with NAAF funding, will continue to provide educational opportunities from Indian Country agriculture experts around agricultural business and finance, agricultural law and policy, nutrition and health, and land stewardship.

6

WABANAKI PUBLIC HEALTH BANGOR, ME



\$200,000

<https://wabanakiphw.org/>

The Nuci-micuwakonuhkecik ('Food Gatherers' in the Passamaquoddy language) project will engage Tribal youth ages 10 -18 years old in traditional food growing, harvesting, and preparation practices through monthly themed events that coincide with seasonal foods, hunting, and fishing activities. Financial literacy and small business development education will be included in the monthly activities.



MA KA HANA KA IKE BUILDING PROGRAM'S MAHELE FARM

BEHIND THE SCENES, BEYOND THE NUMBERS

57+

CONFERENCES, EVENTS,
AND MEETINGS ATTENDED
IN 2023



2023 State of Native Agriculture

In March, the Native American Agriculture Fund broadcasted the State of Native Agriculture Address with keynote speakers Secretary Tom Vilsack, FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux, and more, speaking on key highlights of agriculture policy priorities within Indian Country agriculture.



In April, the Mellon Foundation and Native American Agriculture Fund Announce the Request for Proposals for the Cultural Foodways Fund for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), which funds TCUs to conduct projects that focus on learning about, sharing, and safeguarding the cultural and humanities aspects of work that addresses the traditions, ceremonies, language, art, storytelling, cosmologies, belief systems, customs, and ways of being intertwined with Indigenous foodways.



Mellon Foundation and Native American Agriculture Fund Announce

CULTURAL FOODWAYS FUND

FOR TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

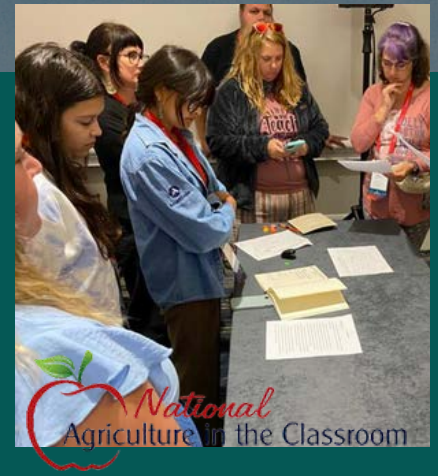
In May, NAAF partnered with the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) to improve outreach to Tribal communities to increase participation and retention and reduce disparities in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).



CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

National Agriculture in the Classroom

NAAF selected teachers to go to the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference as an opportunity to elevate agricultural education in Tribal schools. NAAF also presented on "Not Another Thanksgiving Story: Understanding the Origins of Native Agriculture."



Cherokee Nation (CN) and USDA Site-visit for WIC Community and Innovation Outreach program. USDA FNS Deputy Undersecretary Stacy Dean and USDA faculty visited with Cherokee Nation during the CN signing of the CN participation as a Tribal sub-grantee. USDA toured the CN Food Distribution Programs store.



NAAF sponsored Tribal leaders to attend the Santa Fe Tribal consultation to speak on draft revisions of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act regulations and their impact on agricultural products, providing Tribal leaders the opportunity to speak on their Tribal community priorities.



WELCOME ADVOCATES NATIONAL ANTI-HUNGER POLICY CONFERENCE

National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

NAAF participated in the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., focused on anti-hunger initiatives nationwide and solutions to issues related to America's lack of food security and innovative efforts to combat them. Meetings included FRAC President, Luis Guardia, Feeding American CEO, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, and Jim McGovern (Dem rep. for MA).



CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS



NAAF hosted the first in-person grantee convening with the 2022 grantee cohort. Keynote speakers featured:

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund; Porter Holder, Trustee of Native American Agriculture Fund and original Keepseagle claimant; and Sarah Vogel, Attorney, Advocate, and Author of The Farmer's Lawyer.



Presentations at the NAAF grantee convening included:

- Using Media For Your Grant Project
- Effective Strategies for Grant Writing
- Maintaining Compliance
- Successful Accounting Practices

CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

Association of Public & Land Grant Universities

NAAF attended the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (APLU) annual conference to foster higher educational opportunities within Land Grant Universities and encourage Native youth-specific programming.



National Congress of American Indians

NAAF attended and sponsored the National Congress of American Indians 80th Annual Convention & Marketplace in New Orleans to expand outreach to Tribes about funding opportunities for Native producers and diversifying economic development through agriculture.



**CROATAN
INSTITUTE**



Croatan Institute - Diverse Leaders in Agriculture and Climate Summit

NAAF participated in a discussion on Building Supply Chain Diversity to support regenerative agriculture through implementing strategies and practices that promote a varied and resilient network of suppliers and partners at every mile of the journey.

New Native Financing Institution to Increase Access to Capital for Farmers and Ranchers



Native Agriculture Financial Services

In 2023, NAAF invested in an innovative approach to finding solutions for Native agriculture capital access problems, realizing that achieving lasting change without much greater investment in creativity, experimentation, and bold action is impossible. NAAF invested \$12 million to set up the first-ever Other Financing Institution (OFI) within the Farm Credit System (FCS), which is focused on expanding access lending opportunities for Native American producers. The Native Agriculture Financial Services (NAFS) is starting a new chapter within the Farm Credit System by participating in loans with Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), investing in agriculture and rural economic development that supports Native farmers and ranchers, originating loans to bridge gaps in financing, and stimulating new partnerships with the Farm Credit System of institutions, the nation's largest agricultural and rural lender. The FCS is a national cooperative lending institution network that provides access to capital to support agriculture and rural communities. NAFS will work within the FCS institutional family to address the credit access gap for Native American farmers, ranchers, fishers, and forest landowners and build bridges and partnerships throughout the Native CDFI network. NAFS's goals are to promote economic growth and prosperity in Indian Country by providing strategic lending initiatives in agriculture and rural infrastructure through technical assistance, and training programs in business-related agriculture-related programs while engaging directly in lending. This historic investment directly addresses the original harms of the Keepseagle case and ensures that future generations of farmers and ranchers have equitable access to credit.

While 12 million is a promising start, the true financial needs are significantly higher, with some estimates suggesting a minimum requirement of 50 million for startup funding. As a nonprofit organization, NAFS is ideally positioned to attract a diverse array of funding support, creating a strong and sustainable financial base. By leveraging these opportunities, NAFS is not only set to achieve sustainability but also to thrive as a successful model in resolving the agriculture and infrastructure credit challenges in Indian Country. Investing in NAFS means contributing to an impactful solution that drives long-term economic growth and development in Indian Country.

New Nonprofit to Drive Equitable Funding, Sustainable Agriculture, and Economic Growth for Native Americans



SOVEREIGN EQUITY FUND

NAAF identified gaps in already established Native agriculture programs and created the Sovereign Equity Fund (SEF) in 2023 as an independent nonprofit institution to drive equitable funding access, sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty, and economic growth for Native Americans. At the core of SEF's work is building upon NAAF's visionary blueprint for catalyzing rural agricultural infrastructure development that not only benefits tribal nations but also extends the benefits to rural communities across the United States. SEF aims to cultivate a robust ecosystem of support that will bring the investments to practical fruition. SEF is forging transformative partnerships to enhance the distinct needs, opportunities, and values of tribal communities to create meaningful results, nurturing a legacy of resilience and prosperity. NAAF provided an initial \$1 million in start-up funding and an additional \$900,000 for the Cultural Foodways program. In 2023, SEF announced its first cohort of Cultural Foodways grantees, made up of six Tribal Colleges and Universities, each with grants of \$200,000 for activities over two years. The Cultural Foodways Fund is a grant opportunity to reclaim and revitalize the intersection between Indigenous cultural identity and foodways. Cultural Foodway grants support Tribal Colleges and Universities in pursuing projects that emphasize the arts and humanities elements of Native agriculture and food systems. The Mellon Foundation contributed \$1.5 million to this important effort.

GRANTEE SITE VISITS

IN 2023



Sustainable Molokai

Kaunakakai, HI

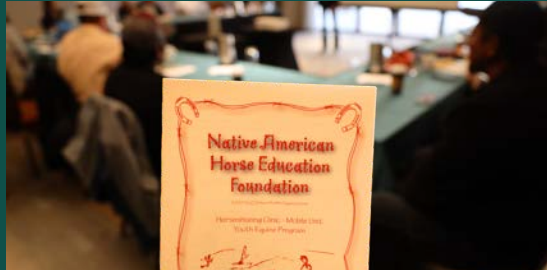
Sustainable Molokai (SM) is a 501c3 dedicated to offering sustainable solutions through Molokai cultural heritage principles. SM will work with 21 Native Hawai'ian farmers to launch successful sustainable chicken egg businesses with NAAF funding.



United Tribes Technical College

Bismarck, ND

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is constructing a 5,000 square foot greenhouse for the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS) program. This greenhouse will be used as an essential part of the agriculture program and will provide the opportunity for food sovereignty in the UTCC student and Tribal community.



Native American Horse Education Foundation

Tucson, AZ

The Native American Horse Education Foundation (NAHEF) is a 501c3 entity that trains Tribal members to improve the well-being of their community and their horses. NAHEF partners with Tribal communities and provide a two week training course in the art of farriering.



Watch the NAHEF Grantee Highlight on YouTube. The program specializes in a two-week training course in the art of farriering so that Native Americans can restore the health of their animals and bring economic independence to their families, communities, and Tribes. Leading the charge is master Farrier, Mr. George Goode.

RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AGRICULTURISTS

**NAAF ORGANIZED VARIOUS
WEBINARS AND
WORKSHOPS AS VALUABLE
RESOURCES FOR NATIVE
AGRICULTURALISTS**





NATIVE AG COMMUNICATORS GROUP NATIVE AG MEDIA EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES

INDIAN AGRICULTURE 101: DISCUSSING NATIVE AG PRODUCTION AND TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



INDIAN AGRICULTURE 101

The communications teams from the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, and the Native American Agriculture Fund have combined efforts to lead this two-part webinar series Native Agriculture Media Education.

NATIVE AG MEDIA EDUCATION



TELLING THE STORY OF TRIBAL AGRICULTURE

Part two of the Native Agriculture Media Education Webinars, featuring guest speakers: Tikaan Galbreath, IAC Technical Assistance Network Director; and Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton, Reporter of Tulsa World. Both episodes are available on NAAF's YouTube channel @NativeAgFund.



CDFA TRIBAL FINANCE WEBINAR SERIES

FOOD SYSTEM FINANCING ON TRIBAL LANDS



In this episode of the Council of Development Finance Agency's (CDFA) - Tribal Financing Webinar Series, panelists explore how Tribal governments are cultivating local food systems with financing solutions that support economic growth and advance community health.

**WATCH OUR WEBINARS AND SPECIAL
HIGHLIGHTS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
@NativeAgFund**



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CLARYCA MANDAN
(Three Affiliated Tribes)
Lead plaintiff; rancher; former board member for several Native agriculture, land tenure, and natural resource organizations



ELSIE MEEKS
(Oglala Lakota)
Board Member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines; former State Director, South Dakota Rural Development; rancher

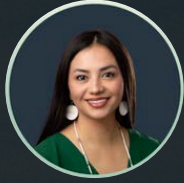


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VP Strategic Investments at Cherokee Nation Businesses; Former Vice President of Apis Holdings/Intertribal Holdings; Executive Director of Intertribal Health Innovation Center; and Board of Member of Certemy



ROSS RACINE
(Blackfeet)
Former Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council; rancher

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