



RIPPLES OF CHANGE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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ABOUT NAAF

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private, charitable trust that envisions a future where Native farmers and ranchers thrive and play a crucial role in land stewardship and the nation's economic viability. Our mission is to empower Native and rural communities with the knowledge, resources, and support to foster robust agricultural practices, resilience, and economic self-sufficiency.

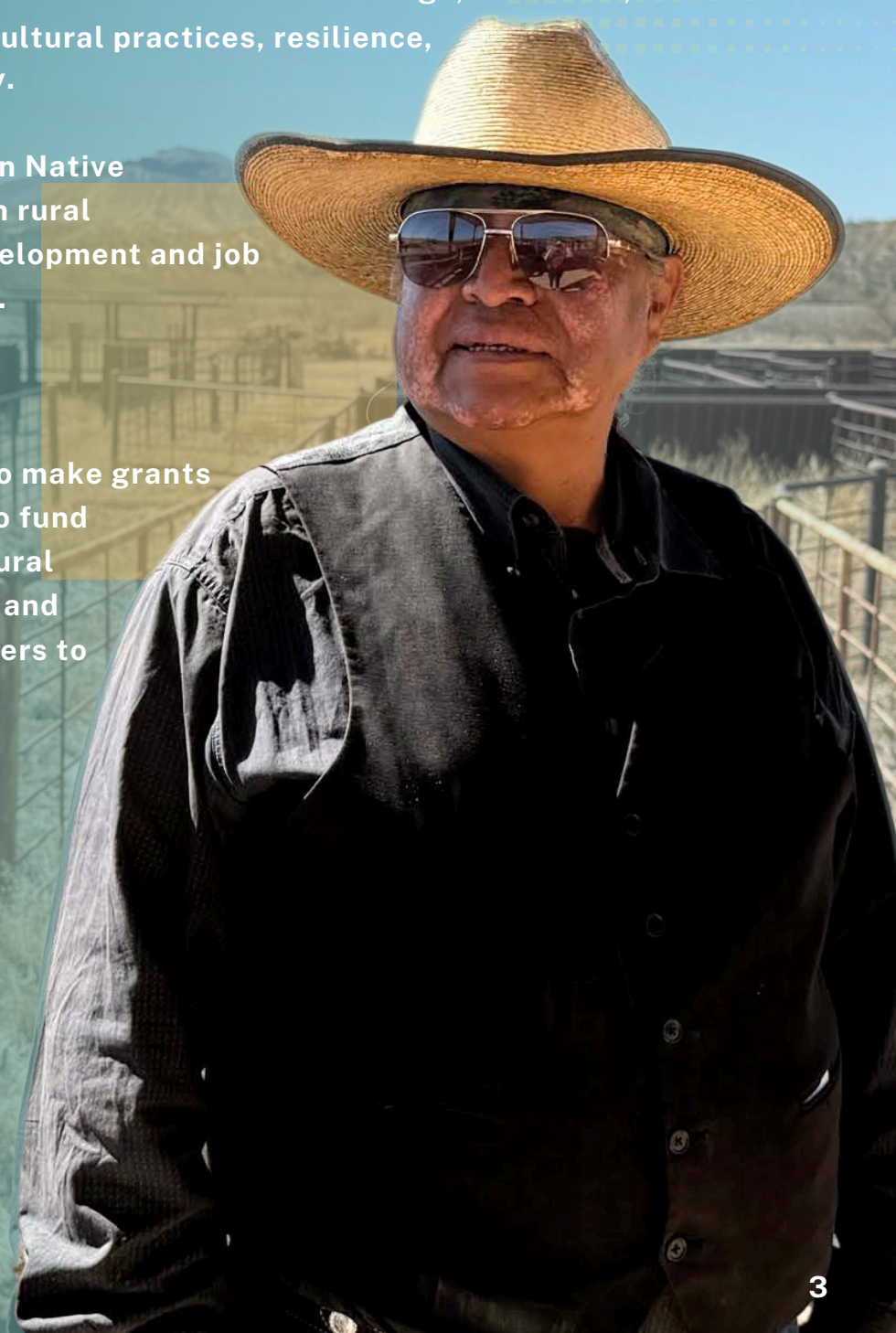
We believe that by investing in Native agriculture we can strengthen rural America's infrastructural development and job creation, benefiting everyone.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 501c3 organizations
- Tribal governments
- Educational organizations
- Community Development Financial Institutions





INVESTING IN NATIVE AGRICULTURE

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private charitable trust with a bold vision: a future in which Native farmers and ranchers thrive, leading as stewards of the land and key contributors to the nation's economic strength. Our mission is to uplift Native and rural communities by providing the knowledge, resources, and support needed to foster resilient agriculture and economic independence.

We believe that investing in Native agriculture strengthens not just Tribal communities, but all of rural America — fueling infrastructure, job growth, and opportunity.

To realize this vision, NAAF's Board of Trustees established a long-term strategic goal to support agricultural advancement while maintaining our duty to remember the original Keepseagle Claimants and their struggles. This commitment includes awarding \$10 million annually through a competitive application process that prioritizes high-impact projects aligned with our mission and foundation. By investing intentionally and equitably, we aim to build a strong, self-sustaining food system that supports producers, communities, and future generations.

Each year, as we prepare to announce the new fiscal year grant awards, we reflect on the previous year's work by releasing our annual report to the public. This past year reinforced a vital truth that Tribes, Native organizations, and Native-serving institutions must be central voices in shaping food systems and agricultural policy. Agriculture is more than an economic pursuit — it is deeply tied to culture, identity, and the well-being of communities.

NAAF's grantmaking remained a powerful voice in 2024, helping Native producers gain access to capital and resources. In 2024, NAAF awarded 35 grant projects, amounting to \$10 million, impacting more than 80 Tribal Nations directly across 17 states in addition to three national projects. These projects ranged from \$125,000 to \$2 million, noting our CDFI pool allocated \$5,608,873 to agriculture loan access and services.

Youth are essential to the future of food and agriculture. In 2024, NAAF was proud to support seven youth-specific projects. The youth projects ranged from \$75,000 to nearly \$200,000. Allocating key funding focused on improving and expanding agricultural education, cultural foodways, and financial education and literacy.

Thank you for supporting this important work. We are excited about the road ahead and the opportunities the future holds to support a robust and flourishing food system for all Americans.

Warm regards,



Warm regards,

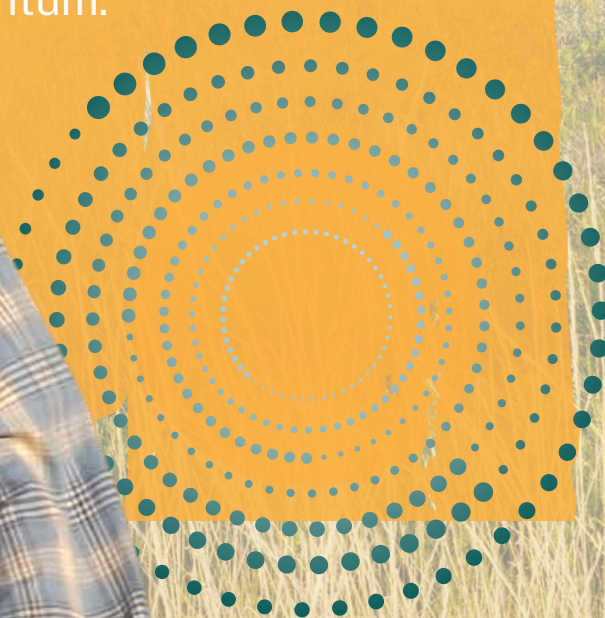
Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, J.D.

Colville Tribe

CEO, Native American Agriculture Fund

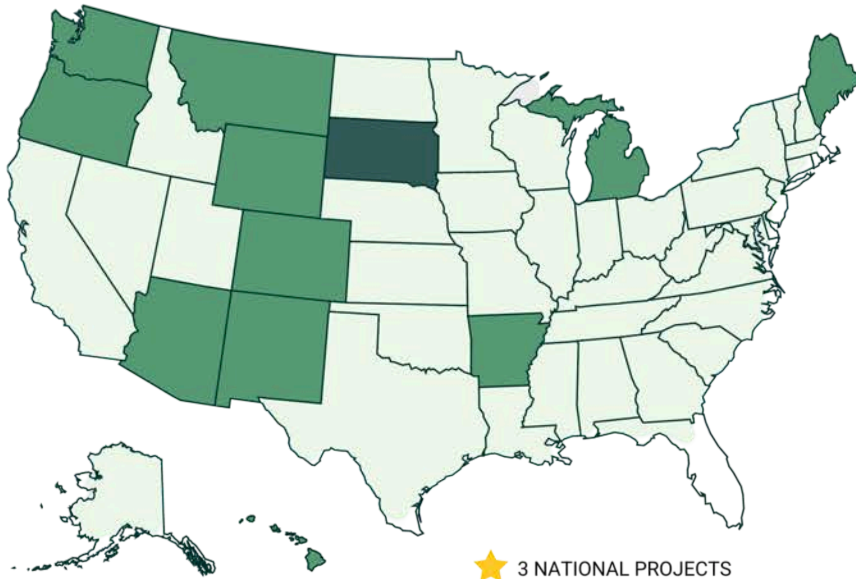
THE NAAF RIPPLE EFFECT

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) sits at the center of a powerful ripple effect — providing the funding that fuels the people, programs, and projects creating real change across Indian Country. Financial investment is often the spark that enables producers, organizations, and communities to build food systems, reclaim sovereignty, and create lasting economic impact. The work does not start or end with us — but we are proud to be in the middle of the momentum.



GRANTEE LOCATIONS 2024

2024 NAAF FUNDED PROGRAMS



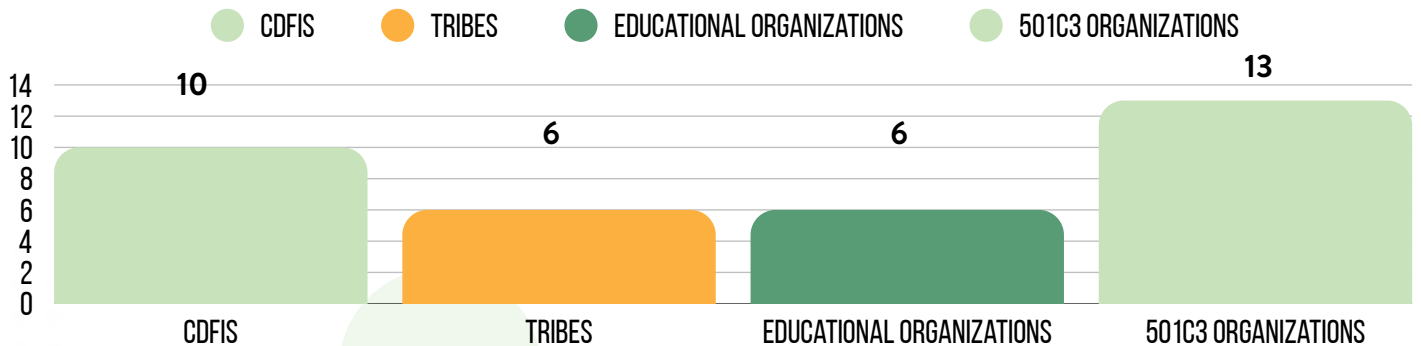
GRANTEES PER STATE

< 1 1 - 2 3 - 5 > 6

35 GRANT PROJECTS

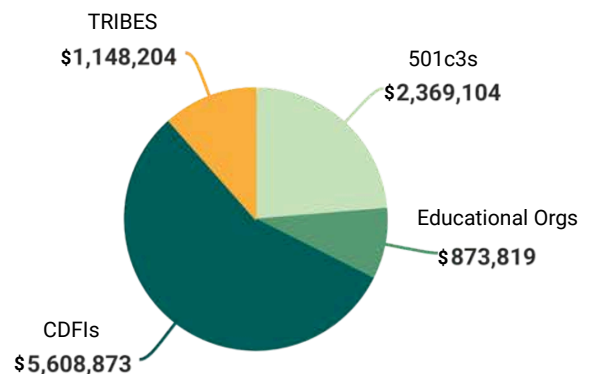
Thirty-five grants awarded with approximately 57% of the \$10 million granted going directly to producers as loans, re-grants, or scholarships

PROGRAMS BY FUNDING AREA



FUNDING TOTALS 2024

FUNDING PER ENTITY TYPE



501c3 ORGANIZATIONS EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CDFIs TRIBES

2024 GRANT FUNDING: \$10,000,000

35 PROJECTS



501c3s

\$2,369,104



Edu Orgs

\$873,819



CDFIs

\$5,608,873



Tribes

\$1,148,204

2024 FUNDING FOR SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS: \$3,067,443



Regenerative Agriculture

\$1,200,000



Additional CDFI and
Native CDFI Support

\$799,200



Youth

\$1,068,243

2024 GRANTEE IMPACT NUMBERS



35 GRANT PROJECTS

Thirty-five grant projects awarded with twenty-eight general focused grants and seven youth grant projects



\$10 MILLION AWARDED

The total amount of funding awarded to 2024 grantees is \$10 million



80+ TRIBAL NATIONS

General grantees serve producers across 82 sovereign Tribal Nations



20 STATES SERVED

Projects will impact Native producers across seventeen different states, including three national projects

TOP 5 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Agricultural Education
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Training, Education, and Career Pathways
- Food Production & Supply Chain Activities
- Cultural Foodways

501c3

\$2,369,104

13 501c3 PROJECTS

- Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike
- Fort Lewis College
- Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency
- Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
- Ke'yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance
- Oregon Native American Chamber
- Kumano I Ke Ala
- Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness
- Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute
- Sacred Storm Buffalo (Wambli Ska Society)
- The Cultural Conservancy
- Wozu Inc.



36 TRIBAL NATIONS
501c3 entities impact 36 individual Tribal Nations as well as Native Hawaiians.



2,999 INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED

501c3's impact nearly 3,000 individual Tribal producers, youth, and/or students.





501c3s

THE WABANAKI PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Wabanaki Public Health Native Producers Sovereignty Program is revitalizing traditional Wabanaki food systems that nurture health, wellness, culture, and community. By reconnecting with the land, water, plants, and animals that have sustained Wabanaki people since time immemorial, the program is restoring vital relationships that strengthen families and cultural identity.

With support from NAAF, Wabanaki youth gain hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture through activities like growing the Three Sisters — corn, beans, and squash — and practicing traditional seed-saving techniques. Participants also bring fresh, homegrown produce back to their families, extending the program’s impact beyond the garden. These early agricultural experiences are building pathways to economic opportunity by equipping youth with marketable skills in food production, land stewardship, and food entrepreneurship.

In addition to agriculture, youth explore traditional fishing and hunting practices, including earning hunter safety certifications and learning how to prepare wild game and fish using ancestral recipes. These experiences spark curiosity and cultivate a deep respect for Tribal foodways, helping inspire a new generation of Wabanaki food leaders and land stewards.

By strengthening local food knowledge and expanding culturally grounded agricultural skills, the program lays a foundation for long-term economic participation in Tribal food systems. It creates early access points to capital and income generation by fostering youth interest in agricultural careers and agricultural business avenues within Wabanaki communities.

“As a tribal health and wellness organization, we understand that food is medicine and connection to the land is healing,” said Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness.

EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

\$873,819

6 EDUCATION
PROJECTS

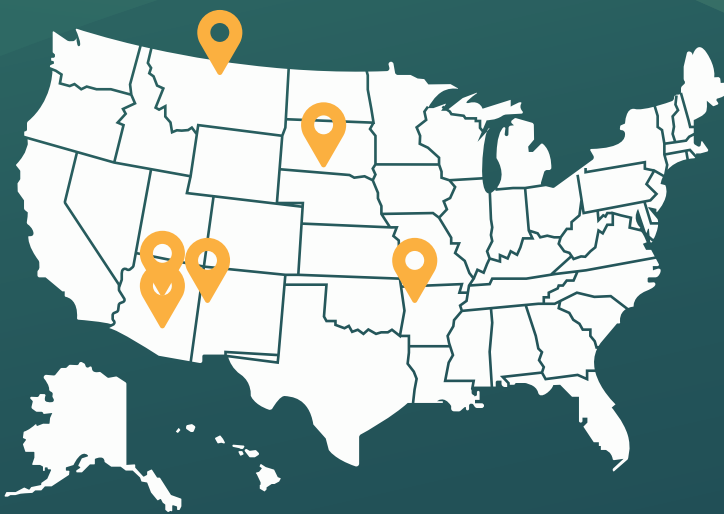
TOP 3 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Agricultural Education
- Business Planning
- Training, Education, and Career Pathways



2,850 IMPACTED

2024 educational organization grants support projects impacting nearly 3,000 agriculturalists and youth across the nation.



- Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
- Painted Desert Demonstration Projects (STAR School)
- Sinte Gleska University
- Stone Child College
- Tohono O'odham Community College
- The Dził Ditt'ooí School of Empowerment, Action, and Perseverance (DEAP)



EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

THE DZİŁ DITŁ'OOÍ SCHOOL OF EMPOWERMENT, ACTION, AND PERSEVERANCE (DEAP)

The Dził Dítł'ooí School of Empowerment, Action, and Perseverance (DEAP) is catalyzing economic opportunity and agricultural innovation in and around the community of Navajo, New Mexico, a region where families face persistent poverty and limited access to grocery stores and fresh, healthy food. Serving Diné students in grades 6–12, DEAP is more than a school — it is a movement to restore cultural pride, food sovereignty, and sustainable futures through Tribally-led education rooted in land, tradition, and leadership.

DEAP's agricultural program is central to this mission, providing hands-on experiences that reconnect Native youth with the land, water, and food systems. Students learn regenerative farming, traditional and modern techniques, and business skills through real-world activities on local farms, greenhouses, and summer markets.

Through partnerships with local Diné farmers and agricultural mentors, DEAP bridges traditional knowledge with agricultural market practices, laying the foundation for long-term economic participation and sustainability. Paid internships, financial literacy training, and seed-to-market initiatives help students understand the value of connecting cultural practices and economic entrepreneurship.

With support from NAAF and community partners, DEAP continues to expand its impact, investing in staff development, deepening community connections, and building the infrastructure necessary to support long-term success. Each student's journey at DEAP is a step toward a stronger, healthier, and more self-sufficient community.

“DEAP has become an integral piece of the Dził Dítł'ooí community, whose programming helps ensure the success of future Native farmers and ranchers, and food systems in Navajo, while providing access to fresh, local, and value-added food and plants through our student agricultural education. Our culturally focused education aims to interrupt cycles of poverty through education for Diné youth that focuses on service learning for community action, land-based learning, cultural revitalization and relevancy, and wellness and perseverance,” said DEAP Executive Director, Kayla Begay.

TRIBES & ENTITIES

\$1,148,204

6 TRIBAL PROJECTS



720 IMPACTED

Funding will impact 720 total Tribal farmers, ranchers, gatherers, fishers, and community members.

TOP 5 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Agricultural Education
- Holistic Agriculture Methods
- Food Systems & Supply Chain Planning
- Training Education and Career Pathways
- Food Production & Supply Chain Activities



- Fort Berthold Land and Livestock
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- San Felipe Pueblo
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
- White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians

TRIBES

THE PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe leads commercial and subsistence shellfish operations, working to manage, conserve, and restore shellfish resources while ensuring sustainable, high-quality harvests. With support from NAAF, the Tribe is advancing its infrastructure by implementing a wet storage system and state-of-the-art shellfish grading and sorting equipment. These enhancements will boost efficiency, improve product quality, and empower Tribal harvesters to maximize both yield and value.

The project prioritizes sustainable farming practices and innovative technologies to reduce risk and protect long-term viability. By increasing product quality and expanding market reach, the Tribe aims to secure better prices and create stronger economic opportunities for Native fishers and harvesters. To combat challenges like limited buyer access — often a barrier to fair pricing — strategic marketing, branding, and promotion efforts elevate product visibility and competitiveness.

This initiative strengthens economic resilience in the S'Klallam community by addressing capital access, promoting sustainability, and fostering deeper integration into markets.

“The S'Klallam Tide to Table Program represents a bold approach to sustainable economic development and cultural preservation. By investing in infrastructure, capacity building, market integration, environmental sustainability, and promoting access to capital, we aim to create a thriving shellfish industry that honors traditions, supports the community, and safeguards coastal ecosystems.” – The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

CDFIs

\$5,608,873

10 CDFI PROJECTS

- Akiptan, Inc.
 - General, Additional CDFI & Regenerative
- Four Bands Community Fund
 - General & Additional CDFI
- Northern Shores Community Development, Inc.
- The Lakota Funds, Inc.
- The People's Partner for Community Development
 - General & Regenerative
- Wind River Development Fund

2024 CDFI grantees include 6 unique CDFIs with 10 total projects.



20 TRIBAL NATIONS

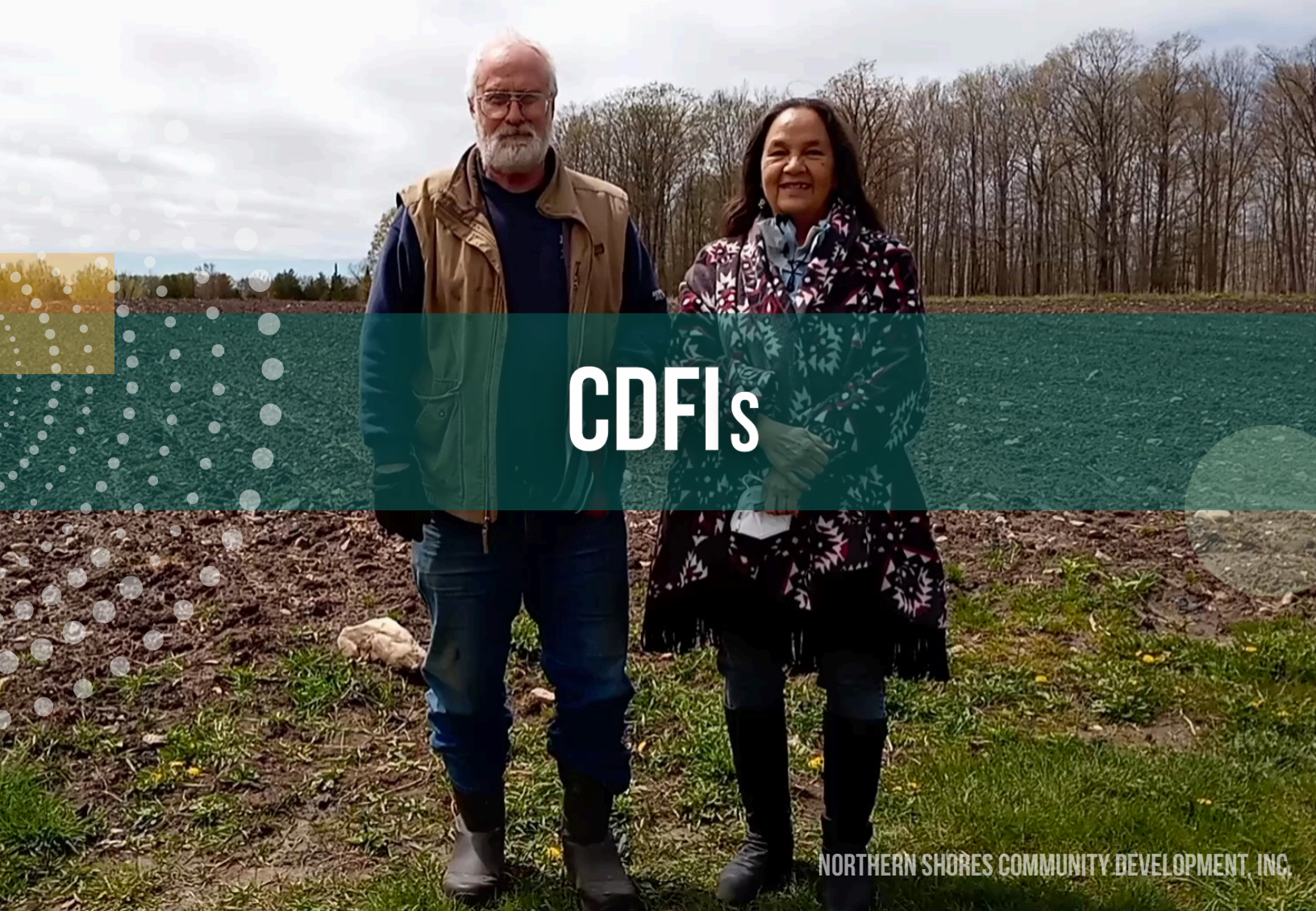
CDFI grantees serve 20 sovereign Tribal nations, with one CDFI serving Tribal producers nationwide.

458 PRODUCERS DIRECTLY IMPACTED/SUPPORTED



Native CDFIs play a vital role in delivering financial solutions that honor the distinct legal, cultural, and economic landscapes of Tribal and rural communities.

With over \$30 million in funding provided to 26 Native CDFIs, NAAF has helped catalyze significant growth in agricultural lending and infrastructure over the past six years. This investment has opened doors to economic diversification and improved quality of life in rural areas for both Tribal members and their neighbors. Continued support for these initiatives holds the key to unlocking the full potential of rural communities—fostering inclusive, sustainable growth for generations to come.



CDFIs

NORTHERN SHORES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

NORTHERN SHORES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Northern Shores Community Development, Inc. is a certified CDFI dedicated to supporting Native American farmers, ranchers, harvesters, and fishers — especially those involved in agriculture and aquabusiness.

NAAF's support provides greater pathways for Northern Shores to improve access to capital, training, and business support. The CDFI serves Tribal Nations across Michigan, empowering citizens through training and access to capital, low-interest business financing; enhancing risk management support through insurance, grants, and consultations; and strengthening partnerships and long-term resource channels for Native-owned businesses in Michigan.

“As a Native CDFI, we understand the passion and pride that our Native business owners bring with them in their business development and sustainment, and we can align the resources they need to succeed,” said Northern Shores Community Development Executive Director, Shanna Shananaquet.

SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS

2 ADDITIONAL CDFI \$799,200

- Akiptan, Inc.
- Four Bands Community Fund

6 REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE \$1,200,000

- Akiptan, Inc.
- Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation
- Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike Building Program
- The Cultural Conservancy
- The Lakota Fund, Inc.
- Wozu Inc.

7 YOUTH \$1,068,243

- Dzil Dtl oo' School of Empowerment Action and Perseverance (DEAP School)
- Ke'yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance
- Kumano I Ke Ala
- Painted Desert Demonstration Projects (STAR School)
- Sinte Gleska University
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency
- Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness

2024 GENERAL GRANTEES



1 **AKIPTAN - EAGLE BUTTE, SD** **\$ 2,600,000**

Akiptan is dedicated to supporting Tribal producers nationwide through a range of financial products, including loans for youth initiatives, start-ups, operational costs, and ownership, alongside technical assistance and financial literacy training. Their mission is to address the ongoing challenge of capital access for producers. To date, Akiptan has provided over \$27 million through 399 loans across 28 Tribal Nations.

Building the Bridge for Native Agriculture Producers focuses on expanding Akiptan's loan services by increasing available capital. This NAAF project supports succession planning — a critical but often overlooked aspect of agricultural management — and provides equity grants for acquiring livestock, infrastructure, or equipment. These resources enhance leverage and serve as effective risk management tools for producers.

Akiptan will also focus on Bridging the Agriculture Gap, which aims to tackle the challenges producers encounter when accessing capital. These challenges include dealing with third-party audits, meeting reporting requirements, and navigating eligibility criteria. This funding will support their efforts to implement grants effectively and maximize their impact. Akiptan will also expand on their efforts to provide essential technical assistance and support to producers nationwide.


 akiptan.org



2 **FORT BERTHOLD LAND AND LIVESTOCK- MANDAREE, ND** **\$ 200,000**

Fort Berthold Land and Livestock is a non-profit organization established under the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota. Its members are Tribal citizens who actively own and manage land and livestock. The organization's mission is to advance agricultural practices, uphold Tribal regulations related to grazing and agriculture, and ensure Tribal producers have a voice in shaping policies that impact them.

As one of the largest land-based Tribes in North Dakota, Fort Berthold Land and Livestock is undertaking the project Fort Berthold Land and Livestock Infrastructure Relief for Range Land Improvement. This initiative seeks to overcome significant infrastructure challenges faced by Native producers by improving access to fencing materials and providing labor to upgrade fences across the reservation's range units.

 mhanation.com/charters



3 FORT LEWIS COLLEGE - DURANGO, CO \$125,000

Fort Lewis College (FLC) is a Native American-serving, non-Tribal institution dedicated to providing higher education opportunities to Native American students. Situated near several Tribal lands, including the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Nation, FLC supports a diverse community of Native American students, who made up 39% of its student body in the fall of 2023. The college offers several specialized programs in agriculture and environmental studies, including the Regenerative Food Systems Certificate and the Farmer-in-Training Program, both of which emphasize sustainable farming practices and food sovereignty.

NAAF has provided funding for FLC to support students and producers from various Tribes nationwide. FLC's new project focuses on hands-on agricultural training exclusively for producers and aims to launch a long-term land access project to prioritize land access for participants.

The initiative will include infrastructure improvements, such as building a pond and a water delivery system, as part of the first two phases of the project. Additionally, FLC is developing mentorship programs and offering paid internships to students to provide them with training in regenerative food systems. The college's comprehensive approach includes practical training programs, infrastructure development, and partnerships that aim to support the agricultural aspirations and economic well-being of producers across the region.

 fortlewis.edu




4 FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND - EAGLE BUTTE, SD \$1,109,915.76

Four Bands Community Fund is a CDFI serving multiple Sioux Tribes, including Crow Creek, Flandreau Santee, Lower Brule, Oglala, Rosebud, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux. Four Bands focuses on providing access to affordable capital and business support to entrepreneurs, farmers, and ranchers who often face barriers to traditional financing. The organization also provides workshops, technical assistance, and training for both agricultural producers and lending institutions, helping to build financial capability and expand economic opportunities.

The proposed Targeted CDFI project will deploy \$999,999 in loan capital to farmers and ranchers, deliver 100 hours of business coaching, and provide ongoing monitoring to ensure loan performance. Through these efforts, Four Bands aims to empower producers, enhance their access to capital, and foster sustainable economic growth within their communities.

The Four Bands Community Fund's general NAAF project focuses on increasing access to capital for farmers and ranchers through several strategies. These include educational activities that improve financial literacy and the ability to secure funding, offering loans or equity grants to agricultural producers, providing technical assistance to producers seeking capital, and training lending institutions to work more effectively with agricultural producers.

By facilitating greater access to affordable capital and supporting economic revitalization, Four Bands aims to create new opportunities for Native American individuals, families, businesses, and communities to overcome systemic economic inequalities and achieve financial independence.


 fourbands.org



5 **HO-CHUNK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION- WINNEBAGO, NE**
\$ 200,000

The Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation (HCCDC) serves the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and focuses on advancing the socio-economic development of the Winnebago people. As part of its mission, the HCCDC leads initiatives in employment, food sovereignty, community farming, housing, education, and health programs. This grant project is designed to expand organic farming practices, enhance food sovereignty, and foster economic growth and social equity within the Tribe.

The project's goals include strengthening public health by increasing access to traditional plants, family gardening, and organic farming classes; revitalizing 2,000 acres of soil over five years using organic practices advanced weed-control methods; and securing USDA Organic Certification to access premium markets, supported by expert consulting and specialty grain partnerships. The project also emphasizes community education, training 12 members as organic farming leaders to drive sustainability and economic growth. By integrating traditional practices, ecological resilience, and market expansion, the initiative seeks to improve public health, cultural preservation, and economic equity for the Tribe.


 hccdc.org



6 **HO-CHUNK HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - TOMAH, WI**
\$ 200,000

Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA) fosters a strong, healthy community through providing members with quality programs that help meet the Ho-Chunk Nation's social, cultural, and community needs. One of these programs is Community Resource Training Center's (CRTC) Seed to Market Project, which empowers producers with enhanced access to capital, technical agricultural training, market branding and developing market partnerships, fostering sustainable agriculture, and economic independence within HHCDA communities.

This project will expand community gardens, upgrade maple syrup production equipment, and develop a local brand to promote Ho-Chunk Nation-grown products. It will also build partnerships, raise community awareness, and offer training on traditional and modern food sustainability through workshops and accessible online resources.


 hhcda.com



7 HOPI TUTSKWA PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE - KYKOTSMOVI, AZ \$ 200,000

Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute, an Indigenous-led non-profit on the Hopi Reservation, is advancing a regional food hub to strengthen food resilience and self-sufficiency across northern Arizona Tribal communities. The project enhances access to capital and grant funding for Hopi farmers through technical assistance, while building farm-to-market infrastructure and organizational capacity.

Through community workshops on sustainable land stewardship practices and workforce development, the initiative reinforces traditional agriculture, supports economic growth, and addresses food insecurity and unemployment within the Hopi and Navajo communities.


 hopitutskwa.org



8 INDIGENOUS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE - FAYETTEVILLE, AR \$ 150,000

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) supports Tribal Nations through various agricultural programming and technical assistance in establishing Tribal nation-to-nation relationships with the federal government in agriculture. This dynamic will be expanded upon by their new project, Unlocking Capital Through Tribal Sovereignty, which will develop Tribal Conservation Districts to drive both better conservation efforts on Tribal lands and driving critical conservation dollars directly to Tribal producers. Tribal Conservation Districts (TCDs) alongside Agricultural Resource Management Plans (ARMPs) and Tribal Departments of Agriculture, provide a powerful and coordinated way for a Tribal Nation to ensure lands are well-managed, that producers' natural resource concerns are linked to corresponding funding and programmatic support from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and that the Tribes' sovereignty over agricultural lands is maintained.


This project will help Tribal Nations build strong legal foundations that drive their investments in agriculture and ensure that Native producers have access to the training they need to continue accessing markets for their products.

 indigenousfoodandag.com




MA KA HANA KA IKE BUILDING PROGRAM - HANA, HI**\$ 200,000**

Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike Building Program is a non-profit organization, which will create a tiered apprenticeship program, Onipa'a 'o Mahele. This project will engage multiple paid Native Hawaiian farmer apprentices (ages 14-24) and unpaid Native Hawaiian community producers in advanced agricultural training over two years. The program includes workshops, professional development, mentorship, and technical assistance. Apprentices and producers will have access to agricultural resources at Mahele Farm to gain knowledge specific to Hāna's micro-climate. The tiered, mentor-led apprenticeship program has a successful two-decade record. Paid apprentices are high school interns and graduates of Hāna School working full-time for advanced training. The project addresses two main challenges in Hāna: inadequate pay for farming and lack of access to land and equipment. It aims to help aspiring Native Hawaiian farmers overcome these barriers, particularly those from low-income households without family businesses or land.


 hanabuild.org
NORTHERN SHORES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC. - PETOSKEY, MI**\$ 410,000**

Northern Shores Community Development, Inc. (NSCDI) is a certified CDFI with a mission to assist Native American entrepreneurs in Michigan with a suite of services that include business training, technical assistance, support for access to capital, and agricultural education, to foster economic development for Tribal communities throughout Michigan.

Continued Expansion of CDFI Support for Native Agri/Aqua Business Growth seeks to impact more than 120 farmers, ranchers, fishers, harvesters and gatherers from across Michigan. This includes fostering engagement through focused relationships, focused training, and networking. They will also provide debt restructuring through refinancing via low-interest loans for credit rebuilding, and will provide re-grants for risk management business products. With these objectives in mind, NSCDI will provide working capital to clients willing to participate in credit counseling and business training shared through workshops in topics such as accounting principles, business plan development and structuring.

 nscdi.org
THE NORTHWEST NATIVE CHAMBER - PORTLAND, OR**\$ 200,000**

The Northwest Native Chamber is a 501c3 organization that provides services to Native American business owners and food producers throughout the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. To address climate feedback, the chamber developed Direct Assistance for Native Farmers, Fishers, and Food Producers. The projects primary goals are to develop Native Agriculture curriculum for comprehensive economic advancement using site-specific video resources on agribusiness development, which they will add to their partner StartUp Northwest platform; they intend to expand technical assistance for producers by hiring a Resource Navigator for agribusiness; they will foster collaboration to leverage resources for producers and develop a support network of collaborators; and they will increase access to capital for producers throughout the Pacific Northwest by researching funders, developing educational materials, hosting workshops, doing capital needs assessments, and providing one-on-one mentorships to clients.

 nwnc.org



12 PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE - KINGSTON, WA

\$ 160,590

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (Nux Sklai Yem [the Strong People]) are descendants of the Salish people located in the Puget Sound region near Port Gamble, Washington. The Salish peoples have been associated with the Salish Sea basin for the last four millennia. The S'Klallam people have remained intricately connected to their coastal ecosystem with the ability to draw sustenance and thrive in an environment that would challenge others. Their traditional knowledge system has allowed them to pass food acquisition practices down through the generations. As Tribal leadership strives to provide stable livelihoods for the people in the current age, they face the modern challenges of lack of access to capital, risk management, environmental challenges, and stagnant market conditions for their surplus production. Such a situation puts Tribal food sovereignty and economic stability at risk.

With S'Klallam Tide to Table Program Development & Sustainability Design, they intend to alleviate some of the risks. A challenge unique to this community is the dependency on marine resources in a frequently traveled and heavily cultivated waterway. The primary objectives of this project include investing in infrastructure and equipment to stabilize capital acquisition. A wet storage system to be placed within their existing wet lab facility will allow for the installation of a shellfish grader/sorter right at the beach, enhancing sorting efficiency and harvest quality. These advancements will initiate a pathway for the community to transition to commercial operations. The S'Klallam people are establishing a community-centric/cultural model of economic development that will incorporate traditional knowledge into culturally appropriate materials that will inform all their marketing efforts. In addition, they will establish a training program to ensure that Tribal members are leaders of the operation.

 pgst.nsn.us/




13 SAN FELIPE PUEBLO - SAN FELIPE PUEBLO, NM

\$ 200,000

The Pueblo of San Felipe consists of approximately 3,700 enrolled Tribal members and approximately 68,000 acres. It is in between New Mexico's capital city of Santa Fe and Albuquerque, its largest city.

Their project supports small-scale San Felipe Pueblo farmers and ranchers whose operational margins are tight. Its primary objective is to provide farmers and ranchers stipends for purchasing essential equipment and supplies or settling ranch-related debts. To qualify for these stipends, participants must attend workshops on financial literacy, business planning, record keeping, or credit repair facilitated by partners such as NMSU Cooperative Extension Service and the First Nations Development Institute. The project includes four training sessions focused on financial literacy and credit building and will guide participants in developing budgets to allocate their stipends effectively. These workshops aim to improve efficiency and knowledge, especially for those juggling agricultural work with other jobs. Additionally, the project plans to offer training on accessing USDA programs and explore the creation of a CDFI to enhance capital access for the San Felipe Pueblo community. NAAF funding will be utilized to leverage additional foundation resources for farmers and ranchers.

 sfpueblo.com




14 **SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS - WELLPINIT, WA**
\$ 199,926.14



The Spokane Tribe of Indians is a rural Tribal community in eastern Washington that values sustainability and supports food sovereignty, security, and safety. In 2024, the Tribe is undertaking the Spokane Tribe Agricultural Management Program and Irrigation Update project which aims to assist farmers, ranchers, and community producers by supporting agricultural management, irrigation, and financial assistance programs. The project will address various challenges faced by Spokane Tribal producers, including administrative and economic hurdles, such as record-keeping, applying for grants and loans, and managing sales and business operations. Additionally, the project will address the threat of noxious weeds in the area.


To tackle these challenges, the project will hire an Agricultural Program Manager and establish an Agricultural Management Program to assist Native producers on the reservation directly. The project's objectives include establishing an Agriculture Resource Management Plan and rehabilitating the irrigation infrastructure at the Little Falls Farm on the Spokane Indian Reservation. This farm has not been actively cultivated for over a decade, and rehabilitating its irrigation system is crucial to providing irrigated acres for agricultural production. The NAAF funds for this project will have long-term benefits that will outlast the 24-month project period. These funds will be leveraged to access additional funding for Tribal agriculture and technical assistance.

 spokanetribe.com

15 **STONE CHILD COLLEGE - BOX ELDER, MT**
\$ 149,900



Stone Child College (SCC), founded in 1984, has been a vital resource for the Rocky Boy Reservation and surrounding communities, offering post-secondary education, workforce training, agricultural education and services, public events, and a welcoming space for the community to gather. SCC's Agribusiness Capital and Credit Enhancement Support Services (ACCESS) Project seeks to create a Tribal Agribusiness Support Services Office to foster a space for agribusiness in the community. This office will offer personalized guidance, host quarterly workshops, and improve access to capital and agricultural risk management resources for producers in the area. The Tribal Agribusiness Support Services Office will also provide personalized financial guidance through a dedicated Financial Services Coordinator. By focusing on financial literacy, credit repair, and risk management, the project aims to bridge the gap between producers and capital sources. This aligns with NAAF's mission by equipping farmers and ranchers with the knowledge and resources necessary to secure funding, fostering long-term growth and sustainability in their agribusiness ventures.


 stonechild.edu

16

SUQUAMISH INDIAN TRIBE OF THE PORT MADISON RESERVATION - SUQUAMISH, WA**\$ 187,815.40**

Suquamish Seafood Enterprises (SSE) plans to upgrade its live seafood storage area to enhance its capacity for processing, storing, and distributing live seafood. The Seafood Refrigeration and Storage project will improve access to fresh seafood for retail and subsistence use, benefiting Suquamish Tribal elders and the broader Tribal community.

The project includes securing funding, beginning construction, and coordinating with the Suquamish Fisheries Department to store and manage a wider variety of seafood. The storage expansion will support food sovereignty efforts and economic growth within the Tribe, enabling SSE to process and store more seafood and ensure a stable food supply.


 suquamish.nsn.us

17

THE CULTURAL CONSERVANCY - SAN FRANCISCO, CA**\$ 200,000**

The Cultural Conservancy is a Native-led 501c3 dedicated to protecting and restoring Indigenous cultures. Through their new project, Building the Learning Farm at Heron Shadow, they aim to expand resources, education, and engagement opportunities for producers through regenerative agriculture and sustainable business development. The initiative focuses on creating a gathering space and supporting local Indigenous farmers and producers with community grants, financial literacy training, and hands-on internships.

The project will empower food producers by integrating traditional agricultural practices with modern business strategies, helping them access capital and manage agricultural risks more effectively. The Cultural Conservancy will host internships, financial literacy workshops, and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) workshops throughout the project. These initiatives aim to provide Native producers with the skills, resources, and knowledge needed to thrive in regenerative farming and business ventures. The project seeks to support long-term food sovereignty and land stewardship within Indigenous communities.


 nativeland.org

18

THE LAKOTA FUNDS, INCORPORATED - KYLE, SD**\$ 544,478.80**

The Lakota Funds is a CDFI leading an economic resurgence of the Oglala Lakota Oyate on the Pine Ridge Reservation through culturally appropriate strategies, reigniting the traditional Lakota spirit of productivity, commerce, and trade.

The Enhanced Access to Capital project focuses on expanding access to capital, supporting both new and existing farmers and ranchers with low-interest loans and equity grants. The project will also offer specialized training to ensure long-term viability and growth of agricultural operations. The grant will serve Tribal members on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations.

 lakotafunds.org





19 **THE PEOPLE'S PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - LAME DEER, MT**
\$ 400,000

The People's Partner for Community Development (PPCD) is a Native CDFI dedicated to providing financial opportunities that stimulate economic development on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

PPCD's project will include re-grant funds, loans and business assistance/training for new or expanding small businesses. With funding from NAAF, PPCD will also hire a full-time ag loan officer to assist these farmers and ranchers.


 peoplespartners.org



20 **TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE- SELLS, AZ**
\$149,689.75

Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) is a two-year college that mainly serves members of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The NAAF funded grant project will help develop a Tohono O'odham Traditional Agriculture Core Course leaning heavily on practicum training sessions; provide scholarships and support for participant engagement; and empower graduates with tools, resources, and skills for entrepreneurship, including access to capital.

The Traditional Agriculture Micro-Certificate Program offers stipends and comprehensive support for potential Native producers, empowering participants to cultivate sustainable, resilient agricultural systems that honor cultural heritage, regenerate the land, and foster community adaptation and resilience.

 tocc.edu




21 **WAMBLI SKA SOCIETY DBA SACRED STORM BUFFALO - RAPID CITY, SD**
\$ 200,000

Sacred Storm Buffalo is a Native-led 501c3 that empowers producers by offering comprehensive services such as access to equipment, training, and capital to foster economic self-sufficiency while preserving Indigenous traditions. By integrating every aspect of the bison's lifecycle, from conception to consumption, they break the dependency on other agricultural systems.

The organization serves Reservation and Tribal land communities, as well as the Indigenous urban community of Rapid City, South Dakota, with a special focus on empowering young Native Americans through career opportunities.

The non-profit's project seeks to empower through education, establishing independent food systems, and promoting economic self-sufficiency. The organization is committed to building a localized food infrastructure, including processing facilities and training programs for meat cutters and traditional harvesters. By implementing these initiatives, they aim to provide communities with sustainable livelihoods, enhance herd health, and create a transformative opportunity for Native peoples to engage with a localized food system that encompasses the entire lifecycle of the buffalo.

 wambliska.org



22 WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS - OGEMA, MN

\$199,872

The White Earth Agriculture Department (WEAD) plays a vital role in advancing agriculture by addressing gaps in bison and food production management among neighboring Tribes. Their Phase I Bison Program offers a replicable model for Tribal farmers and ranchers to enhance their bison production efforts, improving communication between Tribal agricultural interests and federal and state assistance programs. With forthcoming Phases II and III, WEAD plans to provide high-quality bison genetics and management insights, aiming to expand bison herds across North America and share their expertise on bison health and management at intertribal conventions. This initiative promotes food sovereignty, strengthens cultural and spiritual connections, and enhances agricultural knowledge among Tribal members.

The project aims to boost the White Earth Nation's (WEN) agricultural impact through expanded bison management, cultural integration, and ecosystem health, while also supporting local USDA-inspected meat processing. Education and capacity-building are central to this effort, with plans for workshops, cultural events, and training sessions. The department collaborates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Services Administration (FSA), The Nature Conservancy, InterTribal Buffalo Council, and other organizations to secure funds and provide guidance. WEAD will continue offering technical support on bison reintroduction, restoration, and management, with a focus on soil health and financial management to foster agricultural success.



whiteearth.com



23 WIND RIVER DEVELOPMENT FUND - FT. WASHAKIE, WY

\$ 544,478.80

The Wind River Development Fund (WRDF), based on the Wind River Reservation, primarily serves the Northern Arapaho and Shoshone Tribes, focusing on advancing the Native agriculture industry through lending.

Building a Thriving Native Agriculture Economy in Wind River works to expand access to capital for agricultural producers by offering direct loans and grants to producers, providing technical assistance to help strengthen and grow operations. Additionally, they will offer scholarships for Native high school seniors pursuing agricultural studies. To expand on their impact in helping producers access capital and grow their operations, they will work in collaboration with the Wind River Food Sovereignty Project, on the Growing Resilient Food Systems initiative to provide grants to support small-scale and direct-to-consumer agricultural ventures. This includes grants for farmers' market vendors, community producers, and livestock producers to aid in processing and labeling beef for local sale.



wrdf.org





UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

24 WOZU INC. - CANNONBALL, ND \$200,000

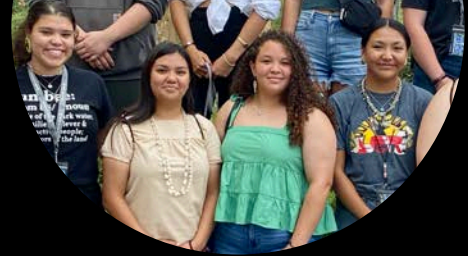


Wozu Inc., based on the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, will use NAAF funding for its Land Stewardship grant project, which is agricultural programming focused on sustainable farming practices, food sovereignty, animal husbandry, and land stewardship. The project aims to foster a sustainable and reciprocal connection with the land, and serves the Standing Rock Sioux community, providing youth and community members with training on regenerative agriculture, conservation, and financial literacy. A key component of this initiative is the Wozu Outdoor Stewardship Program (WOSP), which offers hands-on education in food sovereignty, traditional food processing, and sustainable land management.

To further support access to capital, the project integrates training on land management, financial education, and credit counseling. A unique aspect of the project is the integration of solar energy into their agriculture buildings, providing a model for sustainable energy use in agriculture. Additionally, WOSP participants receive hands-on training in navigating the complexities of land management, which is crucial for accessing capital for farming and ranching. Through innovative approaches such as drone technology and solar power, Wozu Inc. is empowering future generations of agricultural entrepreneurs to navigate Tribal land management and leverage these resources for sustainable economic growth.



wozu.net



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

7 YOUTH PROJECTS

Categories:

4 - 501c3

3 - Educational Org



15 TRIBAL NATIONS

Grantees serve Native youth across fifteen sovereign Tribal Nations



6 STATES SERVED

Grantees serve Native youth across six different states

29 COMMUNITIES SERVED



TOP 3 PROJECT FOCUS AREAS FUNDED:

- Agricultural Education
- Cultural Foodways
- Financial Education and Literacy



2024 NATIVE YOUTH GRANTEES



1 DZIL DITL' OOI SCHOOL OF EMPOWERMENT ACTION AND PERSEVERANCE - NAVAJO, NM \$ 150,000

Dził Dítł'ooí School of Empowerment Action and Perseverance (DEAP School) is a public charter school serving grades 6-12 for the 2023-2024 school year. Supported by the Native American Agriculture Fund, DEAP School's project provides agribusiness education and hands-on training to 55 Diné students, including 10 specialized student farmer interns. The initiative aims to foster food sovereignty, build career pathways in agriculture, and support the next generation of producers as farmer populations age.


 deapschool.org/



K.A.R.M.A.
KE'YAH ADVANCED RURAL MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE

2 KE'YAH ADVANCED RURAL MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE - FLAGSTAFF, AZ \$ 146,423.75


Ke'Yah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance, a 501c3 serving individuals across the Navajo and Hopi reservations, will use funding to create a Youth program titled Fostering Agricultural Resilience and Modern Skills (FARMS) for Native Youth. The FARMS initiative will address food insecurity on reservation lands by engaging youth, farmers, and community leaders in improving local food and water systems through education and advocacy. It includes a week-long camp on marketing and capital access, and the SEEDS funding program, which will provide \$500 grants to 10 farmers and ranchers to enhance operations and promote sustainability.

 wiikarma.technology



3 **KUMANO I KE ALA - WAIMEA, HI**
\$ 197,680


The Kupuna Mahi'ai Apprenticeship Project, led by Kumano I Ke Ala, a 501c3 organization based in the rural community of West Kauai, aims to empower Native Hawaiian youth by providing comprehensive training in traditional Hawaiian taro farming. This two-year program trains participants in indigenous farm production, safety certifications, and business development while providing hands-on experience on unused farmland through a partnership with Gay and Robinson, Inc. Focused on revitalizing traditional Hawaiian taro farming, the initiative includes a farm business incubator and equips graduates to become local small-scale farmers, fostering sustainability, economic growth, and cultural preservation in West Kauai.

 kumanoikeala.org



4 **PAINTED DESERT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS - FLAGSTAFF, AZ**
\$ 75,000

In northern Arizona, adjacent to the Navajo Nation, lies the STAR School, primarily serving Native American students from pre-K through 8th grade. This off-grid school integrates sustainable farming, Navajo culture, and language into its curriculum through a thriving agriculture program, including the STAR 4-H Livestock Club funded by a 2024 NAAF grant. Over 24 months, the program will expand to provide hands-on education in animal care, ranching, and science, equipping students with skills in breeding, raising, and slaughtering animals while promoting career pathways and independent ranching opportunities.

 starschool.org

PAINTED DESERT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

THE STAR SCHOOL

Welcome To The STAR



5

SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY - MISSION, SD

\$ 199,139.60

Sinte Gleska University's project is designed to expand and enhance Sunkawakan Oyate community outreach by offering youth engaging, year-round opportunities in equine care and agricultural programs. The initiative will recruit horse handlers and teens to run an equine program with camps and activity days, teaching youth horse care, ranching, and farming tasks to spark interest in the agriculture and environmental fields. It will also establish a community garden, provide financial literacy training, and partner with tribal lenders and organizations to offer workshops on launching farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses.

 sintegleska.edu




6

SOUTH PUGET INTERTRIBAL PLANNING AGENCY - SHELTON, WA

\$ 150,000

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) is an intertribal non-profit 501c3 that aims to meet the needs and directives of the consortium Tribes by providing direct services, planning, and technical assistance to eligible Native Americans residing in the SPIPA service area.

The SPIPA Food Sovereignty Youth Project aims to support and enhance food sovereignty across the five consortium Tribes in western Washington by providing essential community agriculture supplies tailored to each Tribe's specific needs.

 spipa.org


7

WABANAKI PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS - BANGOR, ME

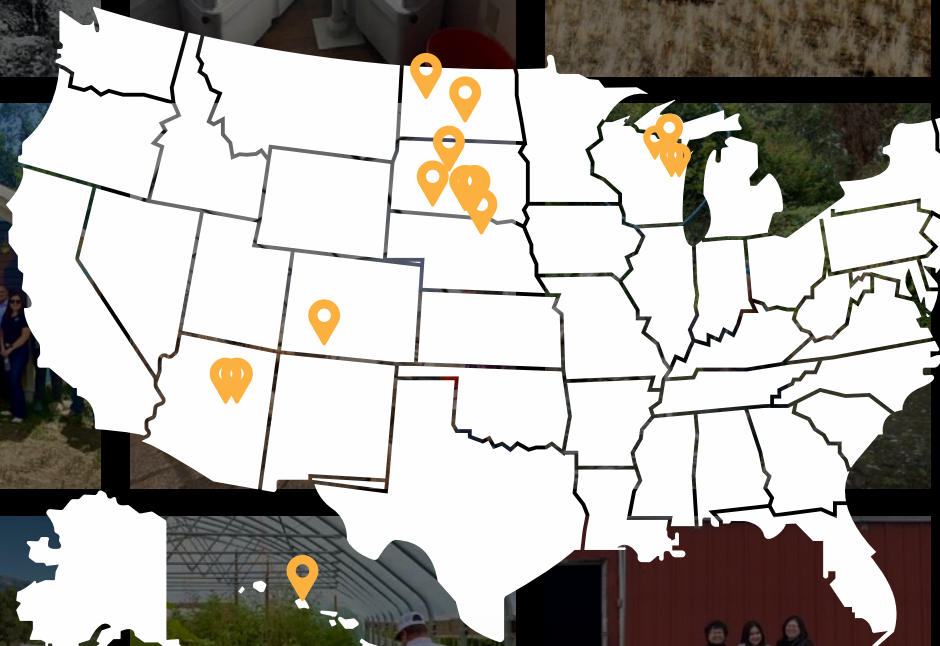
\$ 150,000

Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW) is a Tribal organization committed to the healing power of food and connection to the land. In 2019, WPHW launched the Nuci-micuwakonuhkecik project (Passamaquoddy for food gatherers), to engage Wabanaki youth in traditional food practices, teaching skills like seed saving, gardening, hunting, fishing, and ocean farming while fostering food sovereignty.

With NAAF support, the program will expand to include traditional art, butchery workshops, financial literacy, and business operations, preparing youth for careers in Indigenous agriculture and entrepreneurship.

 wabanakiphw.org

BEHIND THE SCENES, BEYOND THE NUMBERS



GRANTEE SITE VISITS 2024

- College of Menominee Nation
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Fort Berthold Land and Livestock
- Fort Lewis College
- Homestead Community Development Corporation
- Makoce Agriculture Development
- Ohe.laku: Walking Among the Cornstalks
- Oneida Nation
- Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township
- Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry Company
- Penobscot Nation
- Sicangu Community Development Corp.
- Sitting Bull College
- STAR School
- Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community
- Tolani Lake Enterprises
- United Tribes Technical College
- Wabanaki Public Health



WIDENING THE CIRCLE

A large, blue, triangular sign for Haskell Indian Nations University is the central focus. The sign features the university's name in gold lettering and a circular gold seal with a Native American face. It is set against a backdrop of green trees and a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are purple flowers and a string of white, circular bokeh lights.

HISTORIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES IN TRIBAL AGRICULTURE



NAAF AND HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

The Bureau of Indian Education and the Native American Agriculture Fund announced a historic investment in a new agriculture business degree program in partnership with Haskell Indian Nations University.

The educational effort will be housed within Haskell's business school, and the program will cover areas such as lending operations, risk management, regulatory compliance, and customer service, encompassing comprehensive fundamental lending principles that will improve the relationships farmers and ranchers have with their financial institutions.

"Haskell Indian Nations University looks forward to working with the Native American Agriculture Fund to advance the career opportunities and skillsets available to Native communities and individuals," said Haskell Indian Nations University President Francis Arpan. "Through this grant, we hope to expand valuable resources to Native communities in the areas of agribusiness and beyond."

The program will offer students degree and certificate options in both agriculture and finance, ensuring students possess a deep understanding of lending processes specific to Indian Country and the agricultural industry. This represents a significant step towards nurturing the next generation of skilled professionals who understand the unique requirements of Tribal agriculture production and lending and thus empower economic opportunities for American farmers and ranchers.



NAAF AND BIE EXPAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE STUDENTS

The Bureau of Indian Education and the Native American Agriculture Fund announced a new partnership that will allow more BIE students to benefit from comprehensive, culturally relevant agricultural training and education.

The supplemental agricultural materials developed as a part of this partnership integrate project-based learning and students engage deeply with the principals and practices of traditional agriculture, fostering an understanding of Indigenous agricultural systems. The agreement and the initial implementation for this education resource piloted in at Wingate High School in New Mexico, Chemawa Indian School in Oregon, and Sequoyah High School in Oklahoma.

“Agricultural education is a fundamental focus for NAAF, offering a pathway for students, producers, and Native communities to engage in tribal agriculture, sustain food systems, bolster credit and lending opportunities, and support tribal economies,” said NAAF CEO Toni Stanger-McLaughlin.



NATIVE AG COMMUNICATORS GROUP FORMALIZING GROUP MEETINGS

NATIVE AG COMMUNICATORS WORKGROUP



The Native American Agriculture Fund, with support from the Intertribal Agriculture Council and Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, officially launched the Native Agricultural Communicators Work Group. The group features communication professionals working across Tribal food and agriculture, including farmers, producers, non-profits, educational entities, and more. The bi-monthly meetings serve as an opportunity to hear from other

communicators in this space, brainstorm ideas, and gain key professional development skills required to succeed in the fast-paced field of communications and digital media.

The workgroup is a byproduct of the feedback and connections forged through the two-part webinar series hosted by NAAF, IAC, and IFAI in 2023.



STATE OF NATIVE AGRICULTURE

In March, the Native American Agriculture Fund broadcasted the 2nd Annual State of Native Agriculture Address focusing on the Native producers that feed, fuel, and sustain communities throughout Indian Country.

NAAF is dedicated to uplifting Native producer voices, as they are the backbone of our economies and represent the strength of our food security for multiple generations to come.

Producers, citizens, and leaders across the nation play a key role in revitalizing Tribal economies and improving food security.

The annual broadcast seeks to highlight Tribal successes while also providing space for bringing Native producers together alongside key policymakers to foster discussions around the policy that governs agriculture in America.



STACY LEEDS APPOINTED TO NAAF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In 2024, Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) proudly announced the appointment of Stacy Leeds as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. Leeds brings a wealth of experience and passion for agricultural law, education and economic development.

Leeds currently serves as Willard H. Pedrick Dean, Regents and Foundation Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She was the first Indigenous woman in the United States to become a law school dean, having led the University of Arkansas School of Law.



During her tenure at the University of Arkansas, Leeds co-founded the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI), a legal and policy research educational institution that provides Tribal governments, producers and food businesses with educational resources, policy research and strategic legal analysis to inform tribally driven solutions that advance agriculture in tribal communities.

“Indigenous agriculture is key to the economic prosperity of Native American communities, but legal barriers often limit potential. NAAF’s grants aim to remove those barriers and support Native producers, avoiding the harms faced by Keepseagle claimants,” Leeds said. “As Chair, I’m excited about NAAF’s future and grateful to the Trustees for their foundational work. With dedicated leadership, we will continue creating lasting impact and investing in innovative solutions to increase capital access for Native producers.”

The Board of Trustees for NAAF serve in an important role as fiduciaries of the fund that provides grantmaking to Tribes, educational institutions, non-profits and CDFIs.



NAAF RELEASES 5-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

NAAF's 5-Year Impact Report highlights the projects and impacts that NAAF grantees have accomplished through NAAF support, including \$83 million in total grants and program initiatives, resource development, and more.

"Reflecting on the past five years at the Native American Agriculture Fund, our unwavering quest to support and sustain Native American agriculture has not only cultivated tangible successes but has also sown the seeds of an enduring legacy."

NAAF OUTREACH

Throughout 2024, NAAF actively engaged with producers, organizations, and leaders who are transforming food systems across Indian Country.

Whether through national conferences, regional convenings, or community site visits, these opportunities allowed NAAF to listen deeply, strengthen relationships, celebrate successes, and better understand both local challenges and emerging opportunities.

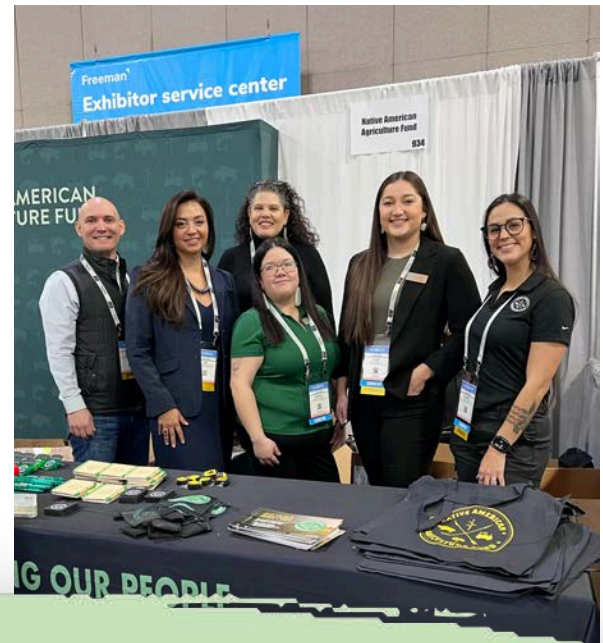
Each connection, convening, and investment contributes to a growing ripple effect — one that spreads innovation, resilience, and opportunity

By showing up in the communities served through NAAF's grantmaking and on national stages alike, NAAF continues to build meaningful partnerships that expand access and amplify agriculture's impact across the country.



New Frontier American Farm Bureau Convention

The 105th Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation provided a platform for NAAF to engage with producers on the emerging agricultural policies and trends directly impacting operations, as well as promote access to funding opportunities for farmer, ranchers, and producers within broader agricultural networks.



Land Investment Expo

The Land Investment Expo convenes investors, landowners, and agricultural stakeholders from across the country to focus on national trends in land ownership, agricultural markets, and investment strategies shaping the future of the agricultural industry. This conference helps inform economic and policy shifts and ensures responsible stewardship of funding and alignment with agricultural investment trends that impact producers.



Rural Coalition Winter Forum

The Annual Winter Forum, hosted by Rural Coalition — a national alliance of farmers, farmworkers, Indigenous communities, and rural advocates — provided a powerful space for connection and collaboration. As an event sponsor, NAAF engaged with partners to develop collective strategies that strengthen rural economies and food systems through local, regional, and national efforts. The forum generated key opportunities to advance agricultural policies and reinforce the economic vitality of rural and Tribal communities.



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Winter Convention

NAAF sponsored and presented at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' (ATNI) Winter Convention, a regional intertribal organization representing Tribes across the Pacific Northwest. The convention included discussions on food sovereignty and agricultural policy priorities impacting Native communities in the region. NAAF funded nearly \$17 million in projects in the Pacific Northwest through 2023. The convention allowed NAAF to amplify funding opportunities and project work that strengthens food systems and economic development through agriculture in the region.



HHS Food is Medicine Summit

Hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Food is Medicine Summit brings together policymakers, advocates, and researchers to explore the link between nutrition and health. The 2024 event underscored how culturally grounded approaches — like food traditions — align with modern health strategies.



Agricultural Outlook Forum

The 100th USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum is an annual convening of agricultural leaders, policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders, focusing on emerging trends, economic forecasts, and USDA priorities shaping the future of agriculture. 2024's event fostered broader connections across the sector while exploring opportunities to support food and agricultural systems growth.



Grantee site visit Tolani Lake Enterprise



WATCH ON YOUTUBE
NOW @NATIVEAGFUND

Tolani Lake Enterprises (TLE) is a non-profit dedicated to empowering Navajo and Hopi communities in the Little Colorado River Valley by revitalizing agricultural practices and fostering economic security. NAAF visited TLEI to highlight the expansion of their programming to provide training, technical assistance, and mini-grants to producers across the U.S.



Grantee site visit STAR School

The STAR School, an off-grid institution, integrates agriculture into its curriculum, featuring sustainable farming, a thriving gardening program, and a livestock club funded by a NAAF grant. This club enables students to raise sheep and cattle, blending classroom learning with Navajo culture, PBIS, and pathways for independent ranching and future careers.



Department of the Interior, Department of the Treasury

Interagency meetings with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of the Treasury focused on the long-term value of integrating agriculture education in BIE schools, as well as the critical role of CDFIs in expanding access to capital for Native producers. This work directly supports NAAF's mission by advancing both financial empowerment and workforce development in agriculture through systems-level partnerships.



Commodity Classic

Commodity Classic is a premier farmer-led conference hosted by major commodity groups, spotlighting innovation, policy, and technology in agriculture. NAAF's participation helped raise awareness of funding opportunities and expand networks that support producers within the food and agriculture sector.



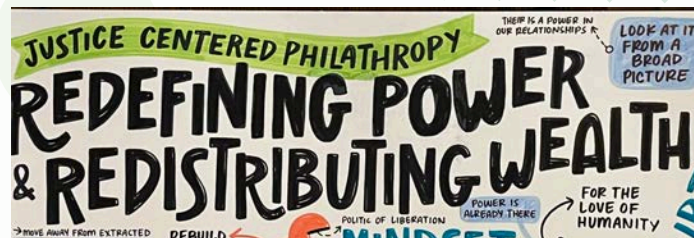
Indigenous Innovators Summit

The Indigenous Innovators Summit, hosted by MIT's Solve initiative, is a vital gathering for Indigenous leaders advancing solutions across sectors including technology, education, and sustainability. The event uplifts Indigenous-led innovation, like the work of NAAF grantee Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike. This conference is a leveraging opportunity for changemakers in Native communities and economies, including the space of agriculture and education.



Change Lab Solutions

ChangeLab Solutions is an organization that provides legal and policy tools to address health disparities and advance equity in communities. ChangeLab hosted a panel on U.S. food system work and explored structural barriers within the food system and highlighted policy-based solutions to promote equitable health outcomes. This work can uplift producers and strengthen the legal and policy frameworks needed to build resilient food systems.



ChangeLab Solutions

Fearless Female Farmer Podcast

NAAF was featured on the *Fearless Female Farmer* podcast, hosted by Katherine Harrison, a fifth-generation farmer who records episodes from her own operation. The episode highlighted NAAF's work and included personal reflections from NAAF's Director of Programs, Chanel Ford, on growing up in a ranching household, offering listeners a deeper understanding of the lived experiences behind Native agriculture.



Reservation Economic Summit

The Reservation Economic Summit (RES) is the nation's largest and longest-running American Indian business conference, hosted by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). The conference brings together business industry experts, Tribal leaders, and entrepreneurs. Native agriculture is a powerful economic driver and serves as a growth opportunity for producers, agricultural businesses, and Tribally led food businesses to leverage resources for food production and land stewardship.



Grantee Site Visit

Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community

Stockbridge Munsee Indian Community has developed a wash and pack facility for processing crops and is expanding its operations with a Native Food Hub supported by NAAF grants. Their initiatives include wetlands, three-sister mounds, fruit trees, and plans for a teaching facility to enhance community education on farming practices.



Grantee Site Visit

Ohe.Laku: Walking Among the Cornstalks,

Ohe.laku is an organization led by Oneida Tribal members that focuses on cultivating and preserving Tuscarora white corn, a traditional and culturally significant crop. They manage the entire process, and then it is distributed as part of the Tribal Elder Food Box program, providing nutritious meals to elders in the Oneida community.



Grantee Site Visit

Oneida Nation

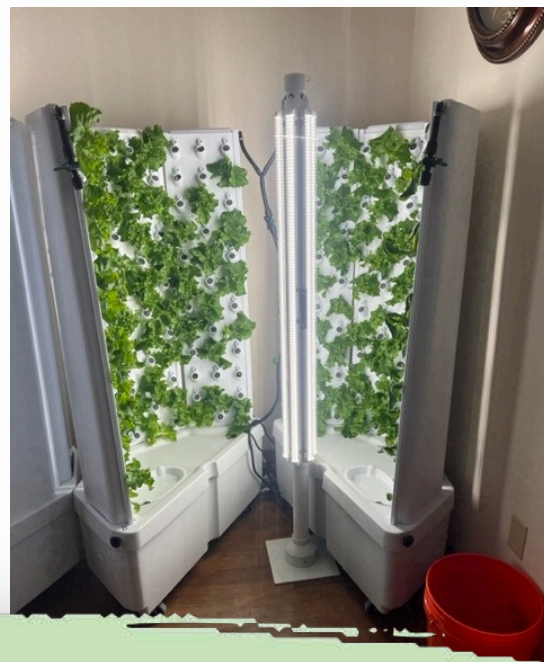
The Oneida Community Development Department revitalized a neglected 16-acre property, transforming it into a hub for youth agroculture activities and community engagement. The site now includes a retrofitted barn, a traditional plant gathering loop, an improved wetland, a greenhouse, soil research plots, fruit trees, and berry groves. These efforts promote cultural education, environmental stewardship, and hands-on learning for the community's youth.



Grantee Site Visit

College of Menominee Nation

The College of Menominee Nation (CMN) integrates traditional knowledge with innovative practices to support education and sustainability. Projects include a vertical farming unit for growing crops like lettuce, a Wildcrafting program where students learn traditional medicine plant gathering with elders, and an aquaponics system combining fish farming with plant cultivation.



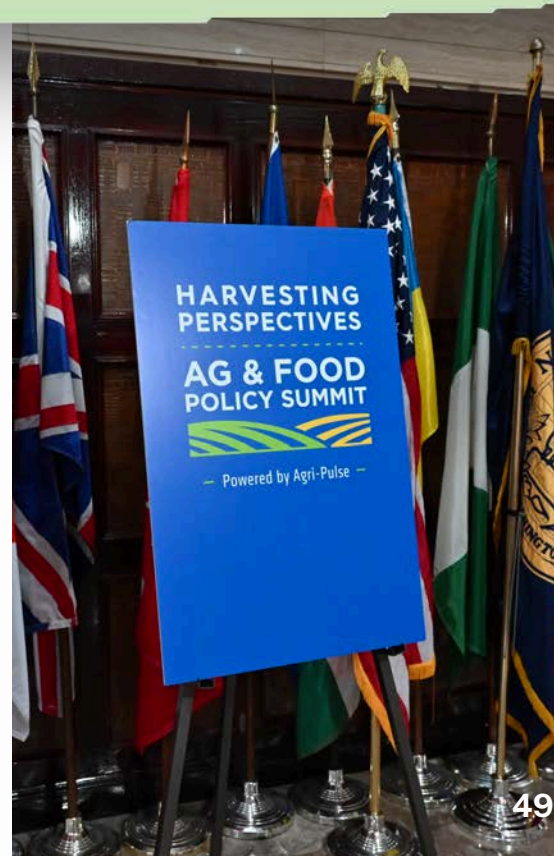
MANRRS Conference

The National MANRRS Conference is a gathering focused on empowering students and professionals from diverse backgrounds in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. This conference connects students, educators, and partner organizations to strengthen educational pathways and expand opportunities for student success in agricultural fields.



Agripulse Food and Policy

NAAF sponsored the Agri-Pulse Food & Policy Summit, a media-focused convening that explores topics such as local food systems, environmental markets, and global trade opportunities. Agri-Pulse is a leading agriculture-focused media outlet that reports on the national narrative around agricultural policy and innovation. As a sponsor, NAAF is working to ensure that Native agriculture is a part of the story - highlighting the contributions of Native producers and the policies that support rural and Tribal food systems through the evolving policy landscape affecting production and market access.



Cultivating Conservation in Indigenous Agriculture Summit

The Cultivating Conservation in Indigenous Agriculture Summit, held in April 2024, drew almost 150 participants.

Through the virtual event, NAAF facilitated panels, presentations, and discussions, which provided a space to highlight how policy, federal programming, capital, traditional ecological knowledge, and the impact of holistic management practices on land stewardship.



Meet the Grantmakers

At the “Meet the Grantmakers” panel hosted by the Grantsmanship Center, NAAF connected directly with nonprofit and community leaders to share insights on providing capital through strategic, community-informed grantmaking. By elevating Native-focused funding priorities, NAAF helps reshape how grantmakers approach investments in Tribal agriculture, food systems, and rural economic development.



Native American Finance Officers Association

The Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) annual conference is focused on advancing Tribal economies and strengthening financial leadership in Indian Country. NAFOA’s work supports the growth of independent and culturally vibrant communities through economic policy and financial strategy. NAAF is committed to building strategic partnerships in supporting financial capacity as a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture and economic development.



Regenerative NYC & NB Education

The Regenerative NYC & NB Education event explores the intersection of sustainability, finance, and food production, offering insights into emerging trends and innovative strategies shaping the future of agriculture. For NAAF, participating in events like this ensures that Native voices, values, and priorities are represented in critical conversations that influence national food and finance systems.



US Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance

The US Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Network's conference brought together Indigenous leaders, Indigenous community programs, academics, policy experts, and other data actors and rights holders to better establish an Indigenous data governance strategy in the US. This conference aimed to achieve this by creating an Indigenous data standard via nation-to-nation partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government.



USDA Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) which serves as an advisory body on agricultural Indian affairs and provides guidance and recommendations to the Office of the USDA Secretary and Congress.

NAAF's Director of Communications and Policy, Whitney Sawney, is one of the 11 appointed members to the inaugural USDA Tribal Advisory Committee.



USDA Regional Equity Commission Convening

Power of Rural Partnerships provided space for a day of conversation and action focused on advancing partnerships in communities across the region and rural communities. Topics included discussions around natural resource management, workforce development, and agricultural workforce housing.



American Farm Bureau Media Conference

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Media conference connects AFBF communicators from across the United States. NAAF helped foster collaborations between communicators and Native agriculture, highlighting opportunities to engage with producers and increase visibility for Tribal agricultural contributions in rural areas.



Tamástslikt Cultural Institute

USDA Leaders, including Katherine Ferguson, Chief of Staff for USDA, and members of the Equity Commission, invited rural partners and stakeholders to the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute for a day of conversation and action focused on advancing partnerships in our communities.



Grantee Site Visit Four Bands Community Fund

NAAF visited the Four Band farmer's market. This local market in Eagle Butte brings local produce directly to the community. Four Bands provides capital, training, and support entrepreneurs, including farmers and ranchers, to help them build assets and achieve financial goals. Developing this access to the market helps provide additional support to encourage local businesses.



Grantee Site Visit Sicangu Community Development Corporation

As a NAAF grantee, Sicangu Community Development Corporation, invited NAAF to participate in one of the largest harvests since the Wolakota bison project started. The relative was 606.32 lbs and equates to serving about 1,819 people. This harvest taught intern groups how to harvest a bison safely, and all parts of the bison benefited the community.



Grantee Site Visit Makoce Agriculture Development

Makoce Agriculture Development is supporting increased agricultural production and food access through its poultry program. These classes provided an exciting new agricultural possibility in their region, and their new mobile poultry processing station will continue to grow the poultry industry in their region.



Grantee Site Visit United Tribes Technical College (UTTC)

The United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) in North Dakota provides agricultural education and programming. Through NAAF funding, UTTC designed and created a Net-Zero greenhouse, which offers space for students to grow food year-round. This greenhouse adds value to UTTC's agriculture programming and provides the opportunity for food sovereignty in the UTCC student and Tribal community.



Grantee Site Visit Fort Berthold Land and Livestock Association

The Fort Berthold Land and Livestock Association uplifts livestock production agriculture on the Fort Berthold reservation. NAAF funds have helped support new fencing along well-traveled paths across the reservation. The fencing program was offered to Native producers, and the fencing covered rough, rocky, and hilly terrain. NAAF funds purchased personnel and fencing supplies required to ensure safe reservation range units.



Grantee Site Visit Sitting Bull College

Sitting Bull College (SBC) provides agricultural education and programming in North Dakota and South Dakota. SBC tailors its curriculum and offerings to address local and regional priorities in Native food and animal systems. SBC has expanded its efforts to meet the critical demand for veterinary medicine services across the northern Great Plains.



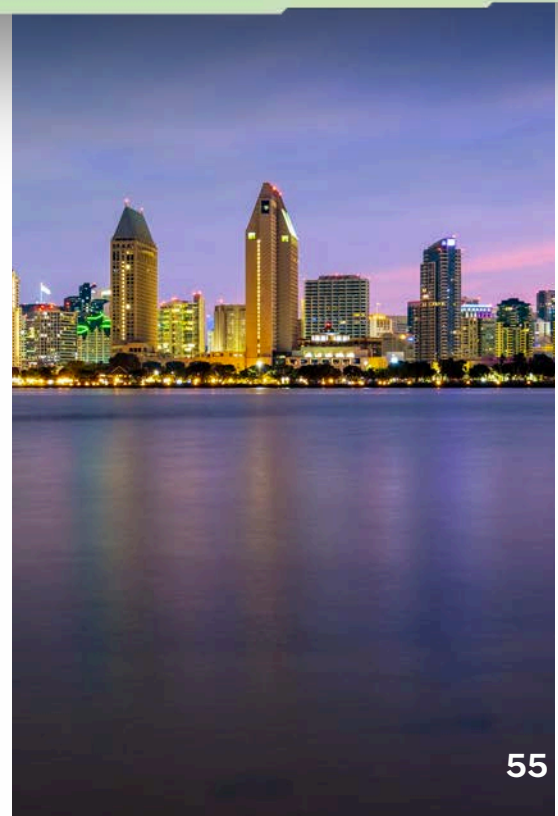
IAC Regional Conference

The Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) regional conferences provide a valuable platform for producers, Tribal leaders, and agriculture-serving organizations to share strategies, strengthen networks, and support Indigenous-led food systems. During IAC's Northwest Regional Conference in Pendleton, Oregon NAAF connected with regional grantees and partners working to elevate Native agriculture across the Northwest.



2024 NAFOA Fall Finance and Tribal Economies Conference

The Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) hosted their Fall Finance and Tribal Economies Conference, a national forum for Tribal financial professionals and economic development advocates. NAAF focused on investment strategies in Native agriculture, highlighting the essential role of financial infrastructure in food sovereignty and sustainable economic growth in rural and Tribal communities.



2024 Farm Aid Forum

The 2024 Farm Aid Farmer Forum, “A Rural Call to Action for All,” held on September 20, provided space to tackle critical issues such as community building and strengthening rural-urban coalitions. NAAF was a proud sponsor of the 2024 Farm Aid Forum



2024 Food Sovereignty Summit

The 2024 Native Food Sovereignty Summit hosted by the First Nations Institute is a national forum dedicated to sharing knowledge and building healthy food systems within communities.

Tribal leaders, food sovereignty supporters, and community members from across the country gathered to discuss caring for lands and strengthening Tribal sovereignty and partnerships.



NW Native Economic Summit

At the 2024 Northwest Native Economic Summit, NAAF discussed the intersection of commerce and modern trade as well as the unique role digital platforms have on shaping the future of food systems in Indian Country.



Indian National Finals Rodeo

The Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) served as a platform for NAAF to engage directly with agriculturalists, producers, and community leaders from across Indian Country. Throughout the event, NAAF educated on funding opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and representatives from Tribal and rural communities, sharing the organization's mission to strengthen food systems and advance agricultural initiatives.



National FFA Convention

During the 2024 National FFA Convention, NAAF and the Tribal Agriculture Fellowship connected with FFA members, advisors, and sponsors from across the nation. NAAF, TAF, and the National FFA have a formal partnership to nurture the next generation of agricultural leaders, advancing opportunities, and fostering growth across Indian Country.



IAC Annual 2024

The Intertribal Agriculture Council's 2024 Annual Conference is an annual gathering of Native producers, agricultural leaders, and ag-vocates. The conference offers meaningful opportunities to engage in dialogue around strengthening local and regional food systems, with a focus on collaboration, innovation, and producer empowerment. NAAF was a proud sponsor of the event to reinforce commitment to supporting Indigenous-led solutions that drive food sovereignty and long-term agricultural success in rural and Tribal communities.



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recognized leader in economic development,
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SANTANA NEZ-COLEMAN

Navajo Nation)

Agriculture specialist and scientist; rancher;
Tribal Agriculture Fellowship (TAF) fellow



JUANITA COLE CRASCO

(Gros-Ventre Tribe)

Rancher with more than 40 years of experience
on one of the largest Native-owned operations
in Montana; Additionally, she has held
leadership positions in agriculture both within
the State of Montana and her Tribe.



ROSS RACINE

(Blackfeet)

Former Executive Director,
Intertribal Agriculture Council;
rancher



TYLER PEARSON

(Cherokee)

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

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