



# NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

2026 REQUEST FOR  
APPLICATIONS WEBINAR



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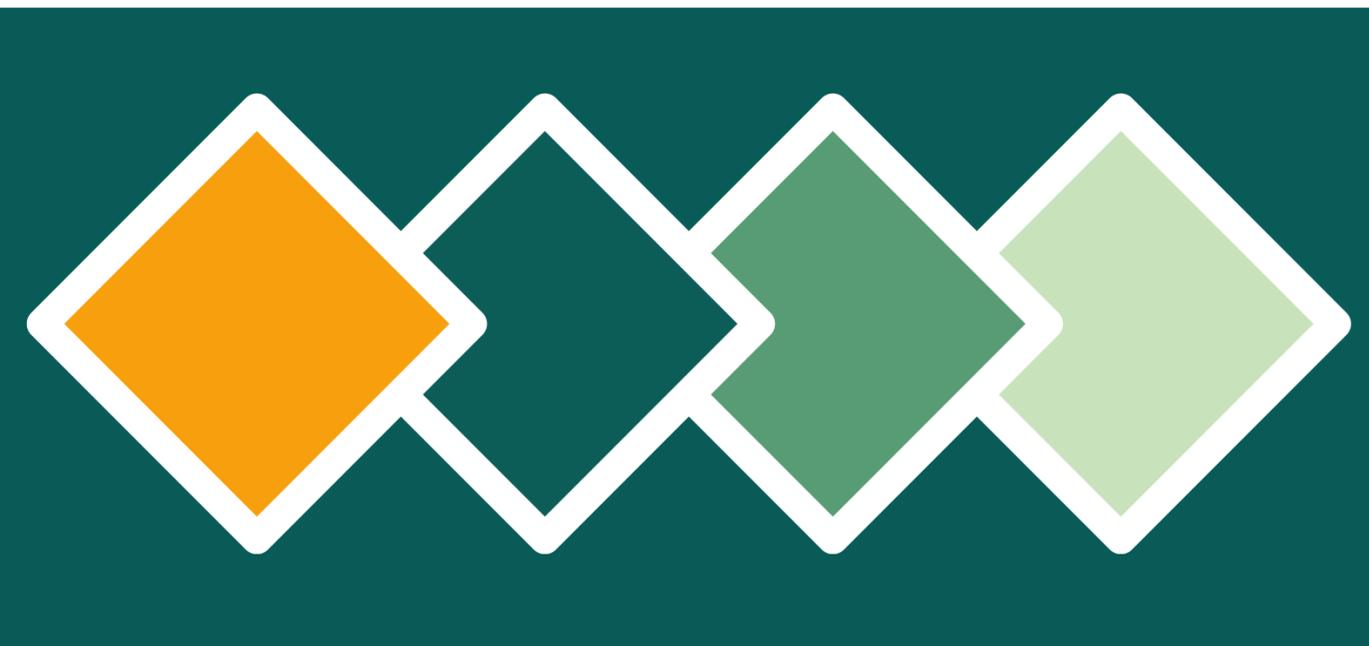
2026 REQUEST FOR  
APPLICATIONS WEBINAR

**WE WILL BEGIN SOON!**

# HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS



- Submit questions via the Questions box
- We will do our best to answer all questions in the time allotted
- Additional resources will be provided following the Q&A session for those that are not able to have their questions answered today



# ABOUT NAAF

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*Keepseagle v. Vilsack* settlement

Private charitable trust created in 2018

Expires in 2038

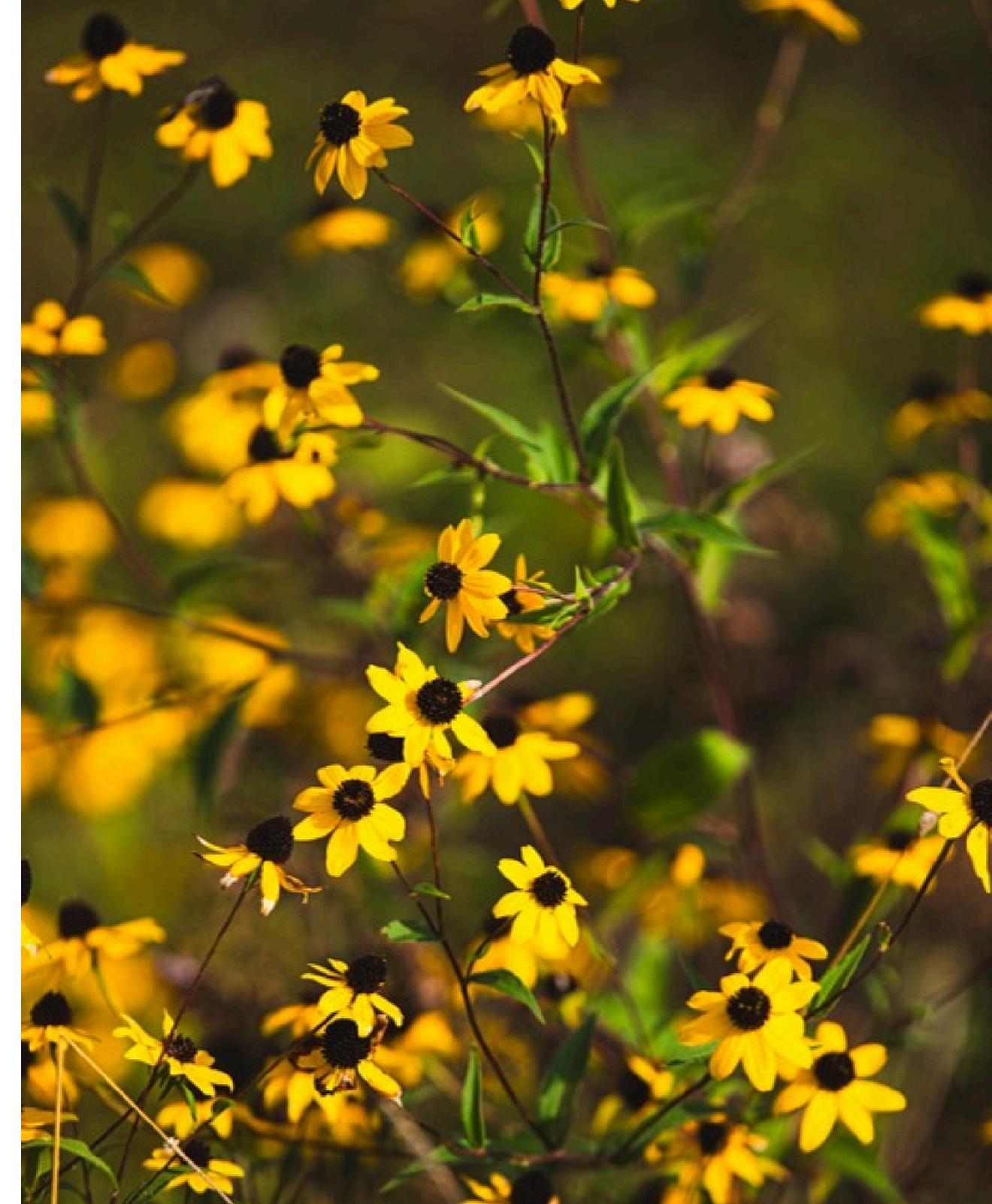
## NAAF Grants

Fast Track 2022

2019 - RRF 2023

2020 2024

2021 2025



**Hugo, Minnesota**  
Dream of Wild Health

# MISSION

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*To provide*

- *business assistance*
- *agricultural education*
- *technical support, and*
- *advocacy services*

*to Native American farmers and ranchers  
to support and promote their continued  
engagement in agriculture.*



**Bismarck, North Dakota**

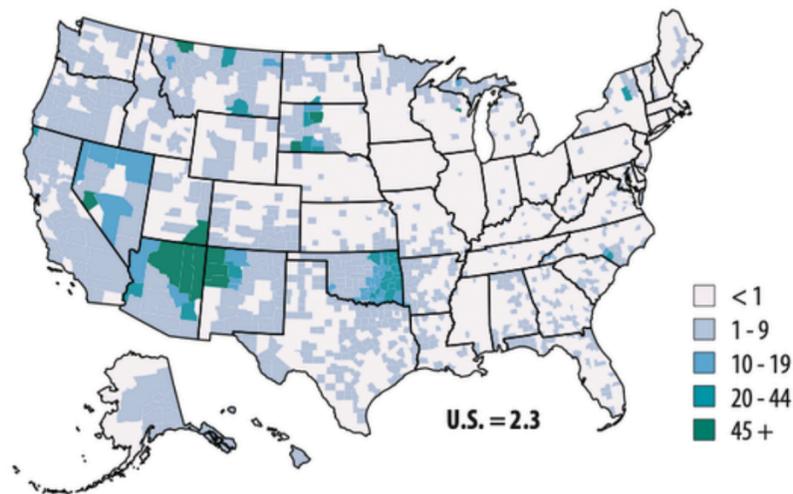
Courtesy of United Tribes Technical College

# NAAF INVESTMENTS & AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE AGRICULTURE

NAAF funded nearly \$86 million in grants from 2019-2025 to Tribes, 501c3s, Educational Institutions, and Community Development Financial Institutions

## NATIVE PRODUCERS THROUGHOUT THE US

AI/AN-Operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



Note: Based on 40,621 farms with producers who identified themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native alone.

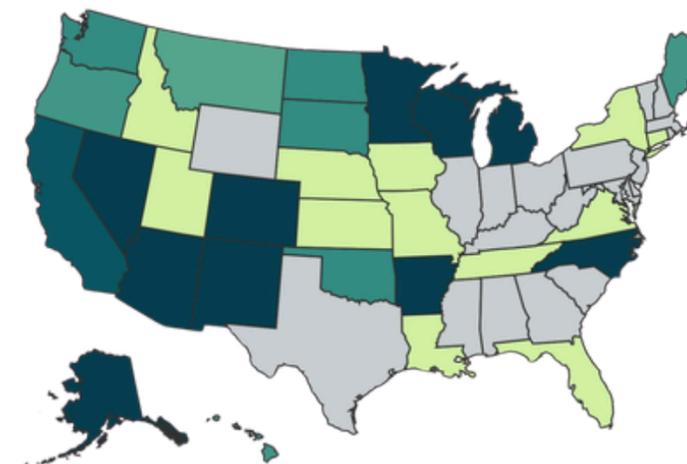
2022 Census of Agriculture

States with largest number of AI/AN producers

- 1 Oklahoma 18,211
- 2 Arizona 17,087
- 3 New Mexico 8,479

## TOP FUNDED STATES INCLUDE: (BY TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS)

States with highest NAAF-funded programs:



- 1 South Dakota
- 2 New Mexico
- 3 Arizona

# NAAF INVESTED:

*Nearly*

# \$86 MILLION

across **590 programs** from 2019 - 2025 that have helped expand economic opportunities and access to capital, build capacity, and strengthen agriculture.

**501c3s**  
\$22,959,529

**TRIBES**  
\$15,712,132

**EDUS**  
\$12,083,093

**CDFIs**  
\$35,243,609



# 105,538

## INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED

From 2019 - 2025, grantees have directly impacted **51,957** students and youth as well as **53,581** ranchers, farmers, harvesters, and fishers with NAAF support.

### 21,638

Farmers

### 14,078

Ranchers

### 14,010

Harvesters

### 21,260

Students

### 30,697

Youth

### 3,855

Fishers



# 2026 RFA OVERVIEW





**Kingston, Washington**

Courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation

# ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 501c3 organizations
- Educational organizations
- Community Development  
Financial Institutions
- Tribes and their  
instrumentalities



# IMPORTANT NOTICE



To ensure accountability and timely reporting, existing **grantees who are not in compliance**, such as those behind on quarterly, mid-year, annual, and final reporting and updates relating to past grant awards and projects, **will be ineligible to apply for 2026 funding**.

- We also commit to working closely with each grantee who needs help bringing their existing projects into compliance.

NAAF encourages start-up nonprofit organizations that have applied for 501c3 status from the IRS but not yet received a favorable determination to apply through a fiscal sponsor who can also provide important technical support for proposed project activities.

If fiscal sponsors are used, the fiscal sponsor must be an eligible 501c3 organization and should follow the guidance in NAAF's fiscal sponsor information.

Note: The relationship between grantees and the fiscal sponsor is not managed by NAAF and are the sole responsibility of the grantee.



**IMPORTANT:  
FISCAL SPONSOR**

**Ravenswood Market Stand**

Courtesy of Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation

# NAAF 2026 RFA OVERVIEW

- ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS
- COLLABORATORS, COOPERATORS, LEVERAGING
- UNALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS
- ADDRESSING ACCESS TO CAPITAL
- LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS
- INITIAL REVIEW ON ELIGIBILITY
- COST SHARING OR MATCHING FUNDS
- ELIGIBILITY OF PREVIOUS GRANTEES



# 2026 UPDATE

## No Special Emphasis Areas

- NAAF will not offer a special-emphasis funding category in the 2026 General RFA.
- This decision follows careful evaluation of current sector needs and funding impact.
- We are focusing on the most effective ways to maximize NAAF's long-term investment in Native agriculture.

# ACCESS TO CAPITAL

- Access to capital was at the core of the Keepseagle case
- A conversation on access to capital is available on our website
- Applications that don't address access to capital will not be funded in 2026

# TARGETED PROJECTS - 501C3 ORGANIZATIONS



## GENERAL FOCUS:

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE, AG  
EDUCATION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
AND/OR ADVOCACY SERVICES



## 2025 GRANTEES

- Tolani Lake Enterprises, Inc
- To Nizhoni Ani
- Pohaha | Ka Lani
- Native Agriculture Financial Services
- Michigan State University
- Intertribal Agriculture Council
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture



AVAILABLE POOL - \$ 1,000,000

MINIMUM - \$ 100,000

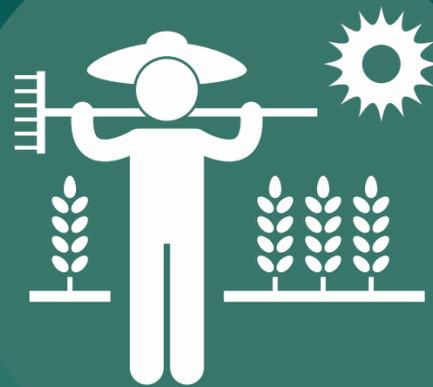
MAXIMUM - \$ 250,000

# TARGETED PROJECTS - EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



## GENERAL FOCUS:

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE, AG  
EDUCATION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
AND/OR ADVOCACY SERVICES



## 2025 GRANTEES

- Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona
- Bay Mills Community College
- Cherokee Nation
- University of Arkansas, Indigenous Food And Agriculture Initiative
- Little Priest Tribal College
- Regents of the University of Michigan
- United Tribes Technical College
- Wingate High School, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- United Tribes Technical College



AVAILABLE POOL - \$ 1,000,000

MINIMUM - \$ 100,000

MAXIMUM - \$ 200,000



# EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION REMINDERS

## BROAD DEFINITION

- Covers all those under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the IRS Code, including K-12 and post-secondary institutions, such as
  - Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)
  - Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs), and
  - other institutions (must have history and experience in serving Native farmers and ranchers)
  - Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools

## FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- For institutions with FRTEP agents, RFA should be developed to include the FRTEP agents participation.

**Morton, Minnesota**

Lower Sioux Indian Community

## **NOTE - BIE SUPPORTED OR CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

NAAF encourages Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools to apply for funding.

NAAF is interested in investing in programs that provide information and guidance to Native youth interested in choosing food and ag as their future career choice, as well as specifically reaching out to Native students who attend these schools.





# TRIBES - IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Required - no exceptions

## INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Feasibility or market studies only

# TARGETED PROJECTS - TRIBES



## GENERAL FOCUS:

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE, AG  
EDUCATION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
AND/OR ADVOCACY SERVICES



## 2025 GRANTEES

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Hunkpati Processors
- Fort Berthold Land and Livestock
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Umpqua Indian Development Corporation



AVAILABLE POOL - \$ 1,000,000

MINIMUM - \$ 100,000

MAXIMUM - \$ 250,000

# INSTRUMENTALITIES

Instrumentalities of Tribes (state or federally recognized) can mean any number of things. Tribal governments have the latitude to determine which entities are instrumentalities of their governments; NAAF only needs proper documentation of that status. If an organization wishes to be considered as an instrumentality of a Tribal government, the organization must secure and submit an authorizing document from their Tribal government to that specific effect. *A statement from an organization other than a Tribal government will not suffice for this purpose.*



**Katmai National Park, Alaska**

# SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

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Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private charitable trust created by the 2010 settlement of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class-action lawsuit. The final settlement agreement provided for the distribution of grants to federal and state recognized Tribal governments and their instrumentalities. NAAF recognizes that Tribes are immune from suit or action as a sovereign government and that sovereign immunity is vital to the functioning of Tribes, and all of its subdivisions and subordinate bodies. The waiver of a Tribe's immunity from suit or action is occasionally required when entering into certain transactions.

Cont. →

# SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

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The court-approved Trust Agreement that created NAAF contains a provision that requires Tribal governments to provide a limited waiver of sovereignty immunity in order to receive NAAF grant funding. The reason for this requirement stems from NAAF serving as a fiduciary of the trust funds with a duty to protect its funds from fraud or gross mismanagement.

For grant purposes, acceptable waivers of Tribal sovereign immunity are limited to the amount of the NAAF grant and to the duration of the grant relationship.

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# SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAIVER

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If a Tribe or Tribal entity wants to accept NAAF grant funding, it must work with the Tribe's legal counsel to adopt a waiver of sovereign immunity related to NAAF AND a resolution for the Tribal governing body.

- Tribal governments and instrumentalities must provide waivers and resolutions within three (3) months of receiving the NAAF grant award.
- Failure to submit an executed waiver and accompanying resolution in a timely manner will result in forfeiture of any award amount.
- Both documents can be pre-approved by NAAF to expedite the effort. Getting your documents pre-approved will save time during the application and post-award period.

# TARGETED PROJECTS - CDFI'S



**GENERAL FOCUS:**  
LOAN CAPITAL, RE-GRANTING  
CAPITAL & TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE/BUSINESS  
ASSISTANCE



## 2025 GRANTEES

- Akpitan, inc.
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Pacific Northwest Tribal Lending
- Peoples Partner for Community Development



**AVAILABLE POOL -**  
\$ 5,500,000  
**NO MINIMUM BUT CANNOT  
REQUEST FULL AVAILABLE POOL**

# YOUTH PROGRAMMING

- All eligible entity types
- Note that the youth application is combined with the general application this year
- Available pool - \$1,000,000
  - Minimum - \$20,000
  - Maximum - \$200,000
- Projects can include hands-on food production, support for 4-H, FFA, scholarships, youth councils, and other youth and/or education activities, to name a few.
- Due May 1, 2026



**Porcupine, South Dakota**  
Makoce Agriculture Development

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Impact on Access to Capital (25% weight)
- Proposed Results/Outcomes (25% weight)
- Farmer and Rancher Demand (20% weight)



- Team/Organizational Capacity and Collaborators (10% weight)
- Evaluation (10% weight)
- Innovation (10% weight)



# APPLICATION REVIEW

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## COMPONENTS

- Outcome/Results Based Projects
- Access to Capital
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- Grantee Meeting
- Resume of Key Personnel
- Cover Letters
- Support Letters (optional)



COMPONENTS CONT.

# IMPORTANT NOTE

THERE ARE NOW ONLY **12** AND **24** MONTH PROJECTS

We have decided to eliminate 18-month projects. Instead, grantees now have the choice to pursue projects lasting either 12 or 24 months. Please note that all grants retain the flexibility to complete their projects ahead of schedule.



# BUDGET NOTES

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- NAAF's Indirect Limit is 15%  
- no exceptions
- Applicants must follow the budget guidelines and use required templates
- Applicants must abide by request minimums and maximums as listed in each category



# CRITICAL DEADLINES

## REMINDER:

There is no opportunity to edit the application after the deadline

## NAAF 2026 GENERAL & YOUTH RFA CLOSES:

**May 1, 2026**

11:59 PM CT

## REMINDER:

The last day to ask staff questions regarding your RFA application is April 23<sup>rd</sup> 5 pm CT

# FOUNDANT - ONLINE APPLICATION

- Returning applicants: logon with existing credentials
- New applicants: click "Create New Account" button to access application

Logon Page

Email Address\*

The Email Address\* field is required.

Password\*

The Password\* field is required.

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Native American Agriculture Fund's Online Portal

**New Users:** Please "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials. Completing this step will enable you to enter the application site and begin your application.

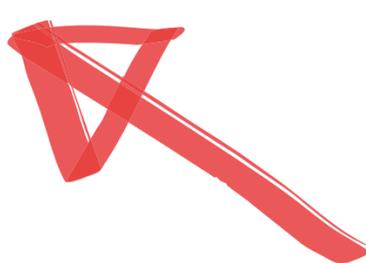
**Existing Users:** If you have already created an account, please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "forgot your password" link to the left to reset your password.

**Not Sure?** If you think that you or someone within your organization or tribe may have already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact [grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org](mailto:grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org) to confirm the correct login information and receive your username and password.

**Before you create an account be sure to review the following documents on our website:**

- The Trust Agreement
- The Application Instructions
- The full Request for Funding Application Questions

<https://nativeamericanagriculturefund.org/grants/>



# FOUNDANT - APPLICANT DASHBOARD

**FOUNDANT** Technologies **SANDBOX** **APPLY** **ORGANIZATION HISTORY**

**Access College Foundation**

Quick search

**ASSIGNED TO YOU (4)**

- Progress Report **Past Due** **Start**  
Fall Grant Cycle
- Application **Open** **Continue**  
Spring Grant Cycle
- Application **Due Soon** **Continue**  
Spring Grant Cycle
- LOI **Due** **Continue**  
Winter Grant Cycle

**UPCOMING (2)**

- Application **Open**
- LOI **Due**

**Action Needed (4)**

- Fall Grant Cycle
  - Progress Report **Past Due**
  - Final Report - Fall Grant Cycle **Due Soon**
  - Grant Agreement - Fall Grant Cycle **Due**
  - 1 Document
- Spring Grant Cycle
  - Application **Open**
- Spring Grant Cycle

**No Action (5)**

- Fall Grant Cycle
  - Application **Submitted**
- Summer Grant Cycle
  - LOI **Approved**
- Fall Grant Cycle 2024
  - Application **Submitted**
- Fall Grant Cycle

**Historical (1)**

- Fall Grant Cycle
  - First Generation college support **Closed**
  - 1 Document

# FOUNDANT - HOW TO APPLY



SANDBOX

APPLY

ORGANIZATION HISTORY



Apply

NAAF

Quick Search

Request for Applications — General & Youth

Accepting Submissions 3/1/26 - 5/1/6 at 11:59 p.m. central

APPLY

Apply here to seek Targeted Funding for 501(c)(3) organizations, educational organizations, CDFIs, and Tribes/instrumentalities. This includes general focus and special focus areas (Climate and Regenerative Agricultural Practices and Additional and Additional CDFI and Native CDFI Support).

Preview

# FOUNDANT - APPLICATION

Application Public Profile Copy Previous Answers

Process: Request for Applications - General & Youth

Contact Info Request Documents 0

Applicant: [Redacted] Organization: [Redacted]

Contact Email History

Application Question List

*Due by 05/01/2026 11:59 PM CDT.*

*Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.*

Introduction





# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



# CONTACT US

Email

[grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org](mailto:grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org)

Phone/Voicemail

479-445-6226

# SAVE THE DATES

## NAAF RFA Webinar Series 2026

- March 19, 2-4 p.m. central
- April 2, 2-4 p.m. central
- April 9, 2-4 p.m. central

*Remember: final questions related to the 2026 RFA must be submitted to NAAF at [grants@NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org](mailto:grants@NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org) by 5:00 p.m. CT. Questions will not be answered after this deadline.*





