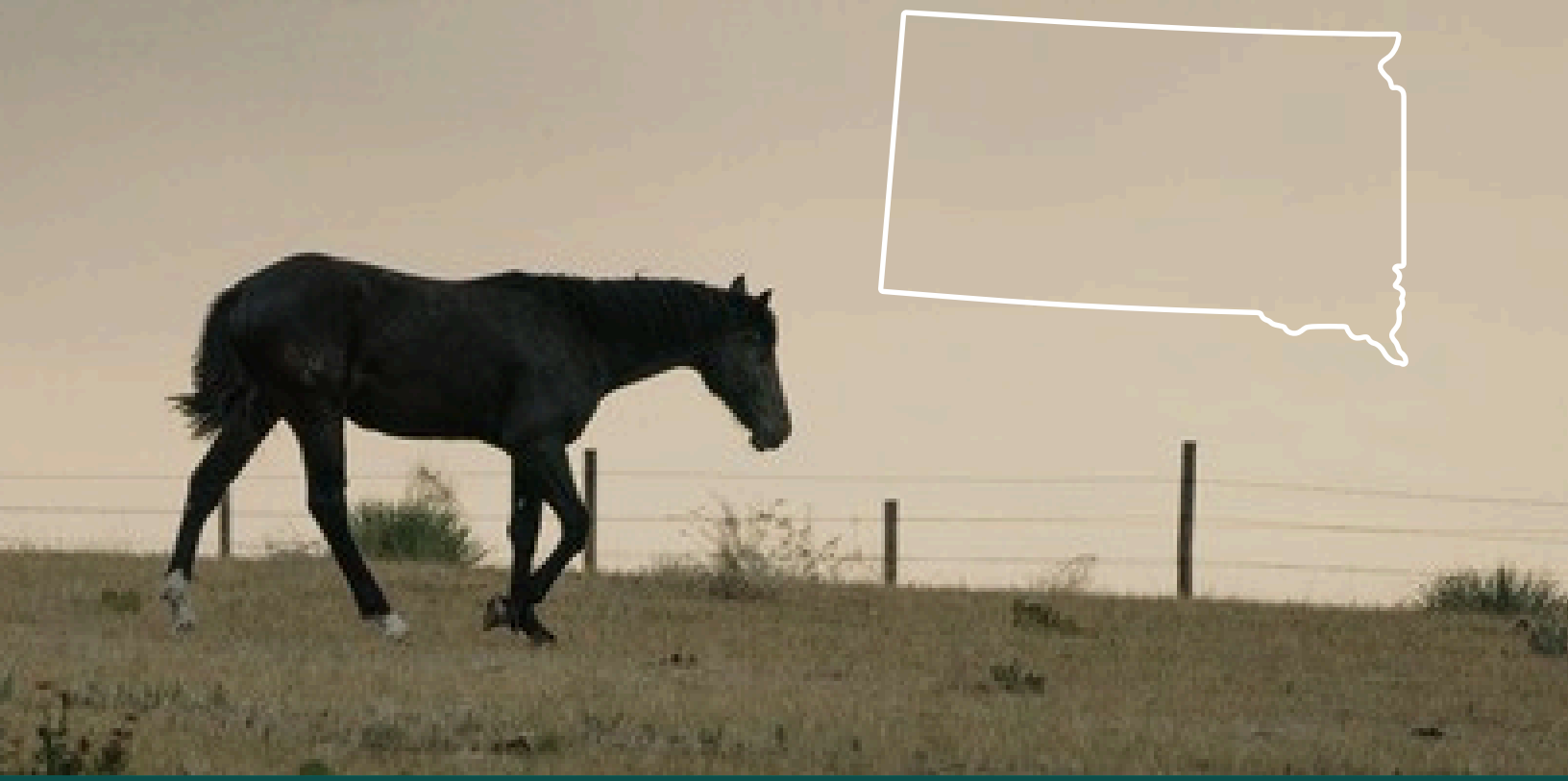
SOUTH DAKOTA



NAAF GRANTEE IMPACT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK



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SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE

South Dakota ranks among the nation's top agricultural states, with producers selling nearly $12.9 billion in products in 2022. This included 59% from crops like soybeans, corn, hay, and wheat, and 41% from livestock production.

Within the state there were 964 farms with American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) producers counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture that are primarily cattle producers. In fact, 65% of their $219.6 million in sales is from livestock, with cattle and calves alone bringing in roughly $135 million. Wheat, corn, hay and forage are the leading crops by acreage.

South Dakota had 538 Keepseagle claimants, a reminder that grantees and partners are central to the mission of NAAF.

Tribal Nation	Reservation	Enrolled members (approx.)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Cheyenne River Indian Reservation	15,993
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	The Crow Creek Indian Reservation	3,429
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	The Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation	736
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	The Lower Brule Indian Reservation	3,410
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Pine Ridge Reservation	46,855
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	Rosebud Indian Reservation	33,210
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Standing Rock Indian Reservation	16,102
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (ND/SD)	Lake Traverse Reservation	~11,300
Yankton Sioux Tribe	Yankton Indian Reservation	11,594



SOUTH DAKOTA

WHERE THE BUFFALO RETURN, A NEW GENERATION TAKES ROOT

A Look at Native Agricultural Impact in South Dakota

On the Cheyenne River Reservation, teenagers move through the rows of the Winyan Toka Win garden, checking the Three Sisters plantings, pulling weeds, and tasting what they have grown. Each year, Cheyenne River Youth Project participants help produce nearly 10,000 pounds of food on the project's three-acre garden while learning how to plant, harvest, and preserve. This is what Native agriculture looks like on the ground across the Great Plains, and it is thriving. Since 2019, NAAF has invested in programs like this one across the Great Plains, and the stories that follow show what that investment makes possible.



Something powerful is taking root across the region. The buffalo are returning in numbers not seen in generations. A new wave of young farmers, ranchers, and food producers are stepping onto the land with skills, capital, and confidence. The first Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in the nation was founded in South Dakota in 1986, and today it serves as both a birthplace and a proving ground for Native-led agricultural innovation.

Between 2019 and 2026, NAAF's investment of $27.9 million across South Dakota has directly served more than 5,000 farmers, ranchers, harvesters, fishers, students and youth through lending, buffalo restoration, youth programs, food processing infrastructure, and food sovereignty work.

Much of that investment flows through lenders who put flexible, patient capital directly in producers' hands.



CAPITAL MEETS A RISING GENERATION OF PRODUCERS

Lakota Funds, founded on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1986 as the country's first Native CDFI, began by making $500 loans when only two Native-owned businesses existed on the reservation, and today carries a loan portfolio of more than $27 million, with agricultural loans making up nearly half of it. On the Cheyenne River Reservation, Four Bands Community Fund and Akiptan pair loan capital and equity grants with hands-on coaching, credit repair, and succession planning, meeting producers where other lenders will not. On the Rosebud Indian Reservation, Tatanka Funds is building that same capacity for Sicangu farmers and ranchers. Together, these institutions have made the Great Plains a place where producers can finally access the capital to grow.



That capital meets a rising generation of producers. On the Pine Ridge Reservation, Makoce Agriculture Development trains local families in poultry production, guiding parents and children through building their own chicken tractors and raising flocks from day-old chicks. The nonprofit has built the first certified poultry processing plant on Tribal lands. At the Cheyenne River Youth Project, young people run a food sovereignty program that guides them from the garden to the kitchen to the farmers market, reconnecting them to traditional Lakota foods and to the land.



ACROSS THE STATE, THE BUFFALO ARE COMING HOME

On Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Sicangu Co ecosystem's 7Gen Internships immerse youth in food production, buffalo harvests, and financial literacy, asking them to imagine and build the community they want to inherit.

Across the Great Plains, the buffalo are coming home, and with them the infrastructure to sustain them. The InterTribal Buffalo Council, headquartered in Rapid City, helps member Tribes restore buffalo to Native land, while the Tanka Fund provides small grants and technical assistance to family buffalo caretakers. REDCO's Wolakota Buffalo Range on Rosebud Indian Reservation has grown into one of the largest Native-owned herds in the world. To turn that abundance into food on the table, Tribes are building processing capacity of their own. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe opened Hunkpati Processors on its ranch to supply members with local beef, buffalo, and wild game, and has expanded its grain storage and range infrastructure to capture more value from its own land. On the Cheyenne River Reservation, the Tribe's Buffalo Authority acquired a processing plant of its own to open new markets for producers.

The stories in this report offer one view of Tribal agriculture through the programs NAAF has had the privilege to support in the region. But the work, and the success, reach far beyond our grants.

Across the Great Plains, Tribal Nations and producers are strengthening access to credit, caring for their land, improving processing, storage, and markets, and preparing the next generation to carry it all forward.





NAAF'S SOUTH DAKOTA GRANTEES

2019
- Akiptan, Inc
- Cheyenne River Youth Project
- Four Bands Community Fund
- InterTribal Buffalo Council
- Lakota Funds
- Rosebud Economic Development Corporation
  - CDFI
  - Tribe
  - Traditional Foods
  - Hemp
  - Youth
- Tanka Fund

2020
- Akiptan, Inc
  - Rapid Response
  - General
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation
- Cheyenne River Youth Project
  - Rapid Response
  - General
- Four Bands Community Fund
  - Rapid Response
  - General
- InterTribal Buffalo Council
  - Rapid Response
  - General
- Lakota Funds
  - Rapid Response
  - General
- Lakota Youth Development
- Oyate Networking Project
- Rosebud Economic Development Corporation
- Sicangu Community Development Corporation
- Tanka Fund

2021
- Akiptan, Inc
  - General
  - Youth
- Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance
- Cheyenne River Youth Project
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Makoce Agriculture Development
- Tanka Fund
- Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

2022
- Akiptan, Inc
  - General
  - Youth
- Cheyenne River Youth Project
- Four Bands Community Fund
  - General
  - Special Emphasis
- Lakota Funds
- Makoce Agriculture Development
- Rosebud Economic Development Corporation
- Sicangu Community Development Corporation
- Sinte Gleska University (FRTEP)
- Tanka Fund

2023
- Akiptan, Inc
  - General
  - Youth
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe – Hunkpati Processors
  - General
  - Special Emphasis
- Four Bands Community Fund
  - General
  - Special Emphasis
  - Special Emphasis
- Tanka Fund

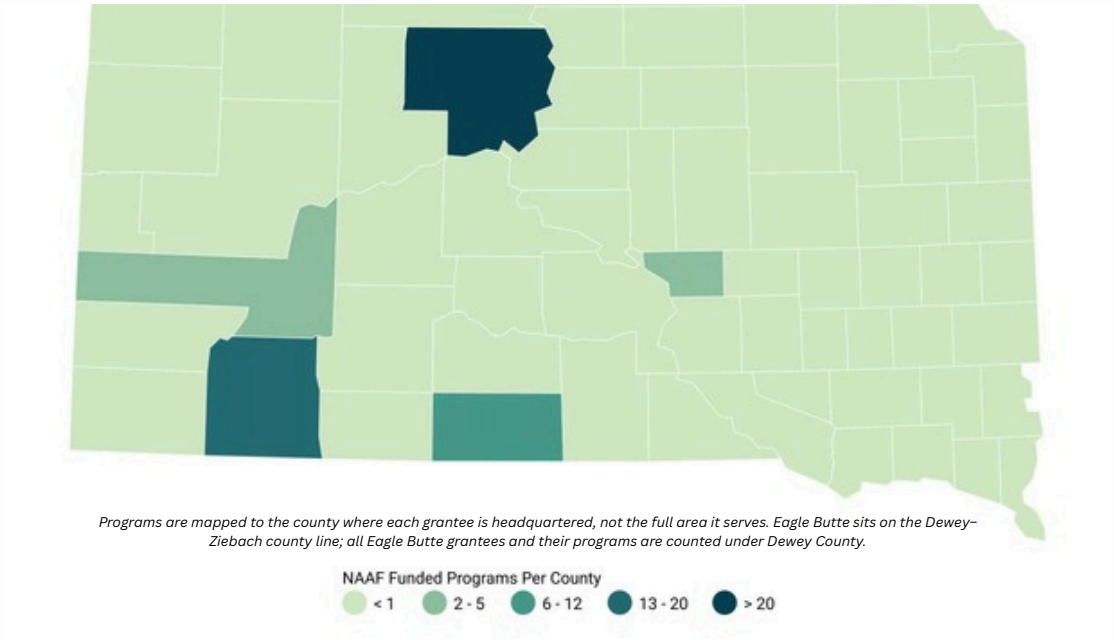
2024
- Akiptan, Inc
  - General
  - Youth
  - Special Emphasis
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Lakota Funds
- Sinte Gleska University

2025
- Akiptan, Inc
  - General
  - Youth
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe – Hunkpati Processors
- Four Bands Community Fund

2026
- Akiptan, Inc
- Four Bands Community Fund
- Sinte Gleska University

NAAF'S SOUTH DAKOTA GRANTEES

GRANTEE LOCATIONS:



Programs are mapped to the county where each grantee is headquartered, not the full area it serves. Eagle Butte sits on the Dewey–Ziebach county line; all Eagle Butte grantees and their programs are counted under Dewey County.

GRANTEE PRODUCER IMPACT NUMBERS:

70 PROGRAMS FUNDED

152 HARVESTERS SERVED

658 FARMERS SERVED

2,524 STUDENTS & YOUTH SERVED

2,779 RANCHERS SERVED

21 FISHERS SERVED

3,861 COMMUNITY PRODUCERS SERVED



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

AKIPTAN, INC.

Overview:
Akiptan, Inc. is a national Native-led CDFI located in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, committed to changing the paradigm of investments in Indian Country agriculture and food systems. Akiptan provides loans, capital, and comprehensive technical assistance supporting producers nationwide as well as invests in the next generation of agriculturalists through internships, scholarships, and more.

▶ TOTAL FUNDING: $15,472,175

Continued on following page

AKIPTAN, INC.

NAAF GRANTS

2019 General Grant - $500,000

Through NAAF funding, Akiptan successfully provided essential financing and technical support, aiding seven producers with growing their agricultural operations and three youth get their start in agriculture. Each producer that receives Akiptan funding, services, and training, continues to contribute to bridging the substantial gap in Native agriculture's access to capital.

2020 - General + Rapid Response Funding - $1,013,206

Akiptan provided financing and support to help producers grow their agricultural operations. Alongside funding to improve producers' creditworthiness and access, NAAF's grant powered one-on-one technical assistance in financial readiness and business training. During the coronavirus pandemic, Akiptan expanded programming to include client webinars, financially empowering producers to build a thriving future for agriculture, even during times of uncertainty. Funding served one farmer, 20 ranchers and two community members.

2021 - General + Youth - $2,556,000

NAAF funding provided essential financing and support to help 1 farmer and 26 ranchers grow their agricultural operations. In addition, Akiptan awarded 11 scholarships. NAAF's funding strengthened the grantee's capacity to administer scholarship programs, which play a critical role in helping youth build a successful future in agriculture.

2022 General + Youth - $2,140,000

NAAF's investment in Akiptan reached 52 individuals, including 22 students and youth. The scholarship program grew through direct outreach to schools, colleges, high school counselors, and partners, along with social media marketing. Akiptan improved the program based on participant feedback, adding a business plan contest and updating its career readiness programming. Because not every agricultural career requires a four-year degree, Akiptan's scholarship program continues to welcome students in four-year, vocational-technical, and veterinary technician programs.

Continued on following page

AKIPTAN, INC.

NAAF GRANTS

2023 General + Youth - $2,062,969

In 2023, Akiptan helped 38 producers complete their first succession plans through Yuwinyeya Succession Planning. NAAF funds also supported more than 4,300 hours of technical assistance, directly serving 82 producers. Twenty students received support for their education through Akiptan's Okhichanye Scholarship program, which aims to build the next generation of agricultural leaders.

2024 General + Youth - $2,600,000

Akiptan's program, *Building the Bridge for Native Agriculture Producers,* focuses on expanding its loan services by increasing available capital. It also supports succession planning and provides equity grants for livestock, infrastructure, and equipment. These resources help producers leverage additional financing and manage risk.

NAAF also funds Akiptan's *Bridging the Agriculture Gap*, which aims to help producers navigate challenges including third-party audits, reporting requirements, and eligibility criteria.

2025 General + Youth - $2,600,000

With NAAF funding, Akiptan is building on its record of bringing capital into Indian Country to help producers grow. Access to loans remains a chronic need across Indian Country, and Akiptan works to help fill that gap. Because agriculture is inherently risky, Akiptan has taken the lead on risk management by piloting a succession planning framework that helps producers build intergenerational wealth and weather short-term financial challenges. With these grants, Akiptan continues to deploy capital while expanding its succession planning services and supporting the next generation of producers and agriculturalists.

2026 General - $2,000,000

Akiptan's project, *Pathways to Financial Sustainability,* expands financial opportunities for producers through outreach, technical assistance, equity grants, succession planning grants, and ongoing post-closing support. Equity grants strengthen producers' balance sheets and provide greater flexibility to invest in livestock, equipment, infrastructure, and other operational needs. Recognizing the inherent volatility within agriculture, Akiptan also provides education and resources focused on risk mitigation, including farm and ranch insurance, price protection, estate and succession planning, conservation practices, operational diversification, and savings.



NAAF'S SOUTH DAKOTA GRANTEES

BUFFALO NATIONS GRASSLANDS ALLIANCE

Overview:
Rooted in a Tribal working group formed in 2015 with the World Wildlife Fund and formally established as a nonprofit in 2021, Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance (BNGA) takes its name from the centrality of buffalo to the cultures of the region and its commitment to protecting "grasslands for generations."

TOTAL FUNDING: $150,000

NAAF GRANT

2021 - General - $150,000
NAAF funding helped BNGA strengthen access to capital for farmers and ranchers across the 16 Native Nations of the Northern Great Plains. BNGA worked to ensure Native Nations have the technical and financial resources to plan and act on their visions for their traditional lands and waters, protecting the resources their communities depend on for ranching, farming, fishing, hunting, and gathering. By treating access to capital as a foundation for long-term success, BNGA advanced sustainable stewardship and economic opportunity rooted in Native-led conservation. With NAAF funding, BNGA served 30 farmers, 50 ranchers, 20 fishers, 10 harvesters, 20 community producers, and 90 students and youth.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE BUFFALO AUTHORITY CORPORATION

Overview:
The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation (CRSTBAC), also known as Pte Hca Ka, Inc., is a Tribally chartered corporation managing the buffalo herd of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. Raising all-natural, grass-fed buffalo on the Reservation's native prairie, CRSTBAC provides food, jobs, and revenue for Tribal members while advancing food sovereignty and honoring the deep cultural and spiritual relationship between the Lakota people and the buffalo.

TOTAL FUNDING: $202,500

NAAF GRANT

2020 - General - $202,500
The CRST Buffalo Authority Corporation acquired West Side Meats, a state-inspected meat processing plant in Mobridge, South Dakota, to create new market opportunities and strengthen food sovereignty for the Tribe and its producers. The facility lets the Buffalo Authority process Native-raised meat, source all of its buffalo and about 75% of its beef from producers, and help producers launch and market their own meat labels through hands-on technical assistance. The plant has since opened new regional and national markets, along with USDA Farm to School and local foods contracts. The Buffalo Authority has also opened a second West Side Meats location, a retail meat market in Eagle Butte, turning local food security and sovereignty into reality. With NAAF funding, the Buffalo Authority served 1,050 ranchers.


PHOTO BY CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT

NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT

Overview:
The Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP) is a Lakota-led 501c3 nonprofit in Eagle Butte, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Its mission centers on giving Lakota youth access to a vibrant, secure future through culturally grounded programs, projects, and facilities. Their work also seeks to build strong, self-sufficient families and communities.

TOTAL FUNDING: $156,461

Continued on following page

CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - Youth - $24,975

Through its Food Sovereignty program, the Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP) engaged 200 Lakota children ages 4–12 in a Garden Club, where they learned to prepare the land, plant, tend, harvest, and preserve food from their own Three Sisters Garden while discovering the importance of traditional Lakota foods in a healthy diet. Additionally, 10 teens gained intensive, hands-on experience in healthy eating and food sovereignty through Food Sovereignty Internships, and another 10 teens gained skills in the farm-to-restaurant movement and retail through Social Enterprise Internships that added value to the garden's fresh harvest. Together, participants planted, grew, harvested, and processed 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of food. With NAAF funding, CRYP served 310 students and youth and 1,000 community members.

2020 - Rapid Response - $23,717

NAAF funding helped CRYP continue its programming through the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant provided garden tools, safety supplies, and Chromebooks for youth internships, along with direct support for the garden itself. These investments kept CRYP's programs running and its garden growing, advancing its goal of raising resilient Lakota youth who can feed themselves while reconnecting with their traditional foods. Funding supported one rancher, 600 students and youth, 850 community members, and 400 elders.

2020 - General - $30,000

CRYP continued its work to strengthen food systems across Cheyenne River communities, guiding 24 Lakota teens through 50-hour Indigenous Cooking Internships, double its goal of 12. Interns learned to forage, cook, and preserve traditional Lakota foods like wasna, chokecherries, and timpsila. CRYP also expanded the market for Indigenous-made food products through new partnerships with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, and Bird Cage Mercantile, a Lakota woman-owned business. With NAAF funding, CRYP served two ranchers, six harvesters, and 24 students and youth.

PHOTO BY CRYP

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX YOUTH

NAAF GRANTS

2021 - Youth - $37,769

CRYP continued strengthening food systems across Cheyenne River communities, engaging 59 Lakota youth ages 4 to 18 in hands-on programming at its three-acre Winyan Toka Win garden. Together, they produced nearly 10,000 pounds of food, learning to plant, harvest, and preserve traditional crops like the Three Sisters along the way. CRYP also expanded its food sovereignty internship curriculum, giving older youth deeper training and a pathway toward careers in agriculture and food. With NAAF funding, CRYP served 59 students and youth.

2022 - Youth - $40,000

Through NAAF funding, CRYP directly impacted 172 students and youth community members. This included engaging Lakota youth ages 4–18 in age-appropriate food sovereignty programming, and CRYP's *Youth Leaders in Food Sovereignty* project prepared youth for futures in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and food sovereignty. In combination with other support, CRYP grew more than 11,000 pounds of pesticide-free food and guided 62 teens through food sovereignty internships.

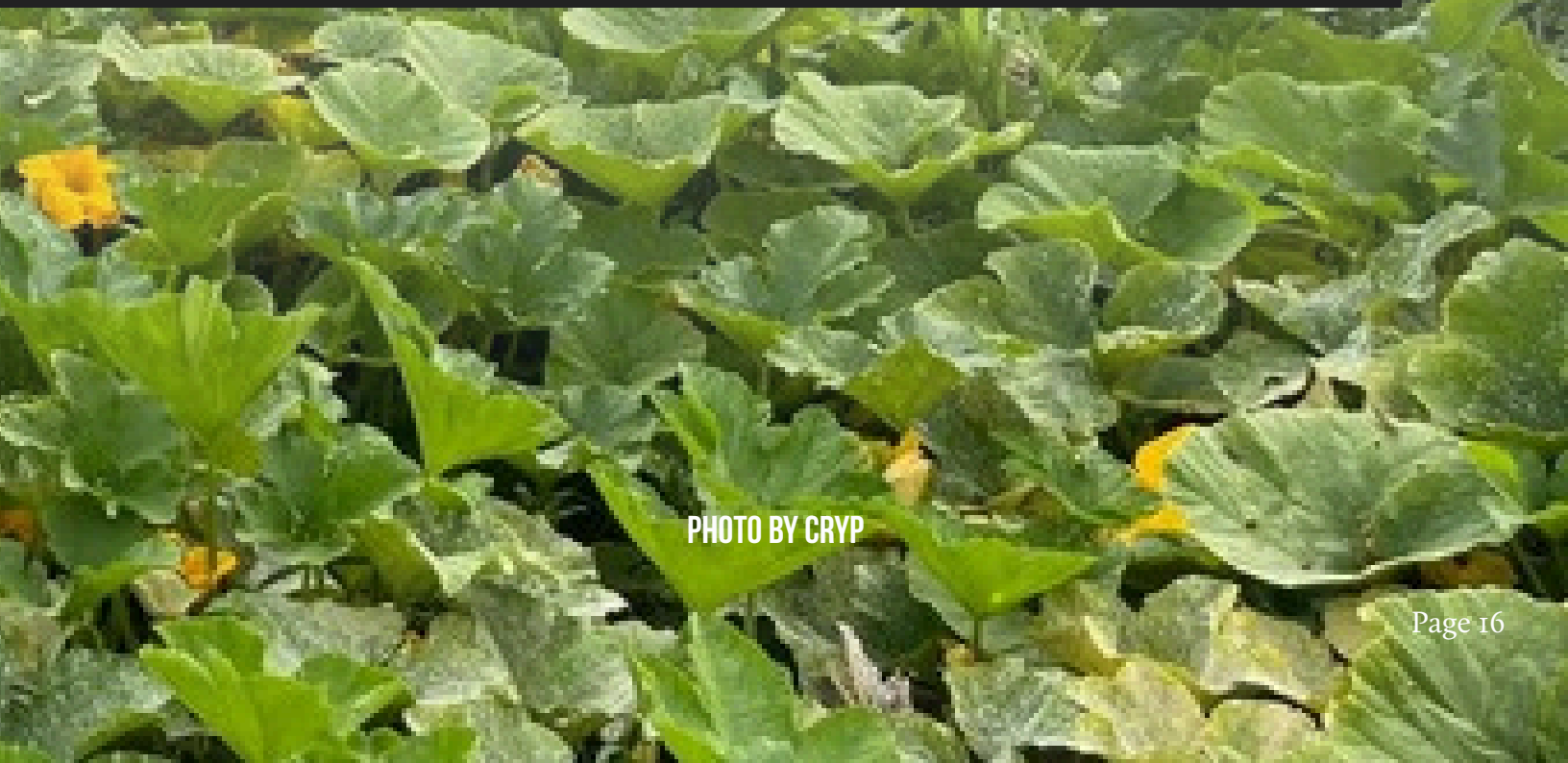


PHOTO BY CRYP



NAAF'S SOUTH DAKOTA GRANTEES

CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE

Overview:
The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe agricultural operations span ranching, grain farming, meat processing, and value-added marketing. The Tribe maintains a large-scale farm and ranch operation, raising cattle and growing row crops. Its Crow Creek Farms operation handles grain production, storage, and marketing, while Hunkpati Processors, a Tribally owned meat processing facility opened in 2021, supplies Tribal members with local beef, buffalo, and wild game and trained community members as butchers to run it.

TOTAL FUNDING: $549,475

NAAF GRANTS

2023 General - $299,475
NAAF funding supported Crow Creek Farms, an enterprise of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, in a major expansion of its grain bin storage to improve the efficiency and safety of its grain handling. The added storage transformed the farm's capacity, allowing it to better manage harvest timing and capture favorable market prices. The new bins have already been filled with milo and corn, marketed, and drawn down to fulfill ongoing contracts. By strengthening its ability to store, market, and manage grain, Crow Creek Farms improved both production and profitability and served two farmers.

2025 - General - $250,000
NAAF funding supports the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe's efforts to replace outdated, deteriorating fencing across its range units to protect its cattle, buffalo, and crop fields. The new fencing improves herd safety and makes rotational grazing possible, helping the Tribe reclaim stewardship of its lands. By building this critical infrastructure, the project advances the Tribe's food and land sovereignty and long-term economic sustainability.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND

Overview:

Four Bands Community Fund is a CDFI based in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Four Bands formed from a community economic development plan in the 1990s and brings access to capital and economic growth to Native Americans in South Dakota. According to a recent report, Four Bands has deployed over $53 million in loans while creating and retaining more than 1,300 jobs since their founding.

TOTAL FUNDING: $6,518,738

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - General - $200,000

Four Bands Community Fund has a long history of helping entrepreneurs, including farmers and ranchers, start and grow businesses. With NAAF funding, Four Bands offered ranchers loan capital, equity bundles, and customized assistance, along with programming focused on education, employment, financial wellness, assets, and networks. Together, these resources positioned producers to start, expand, or transition their agricultural operations. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served 50 ranchers.

Continued on following page

FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND

NAAF GRANTS

2020 - General + Rapid Response - $524,500

In 2020, NAAF funded Four Bands Community Fund twice: a General grant to expand access to capital for farmers and ranchers on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, and a Rapid Response Fund grant to stabilize producers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, these investments helped Four Bands deploy loan capital, equity bundle grants, technology tools, and individualized technical assistance, so producers could weather the pandemic and keep building long-term financial resilience. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served 87 producers across the two grants: one farmer and 56 ranchers through the General grant, and 15 ranchers and 15 community producers through the Rapid Response Fund grant.

2021 - General - $1,000,000

NAAF's 2021 grant helped Four Bands Community Fund expand access to capital in Indian Country through loan capital, equity bundle grants, matched retirement accounts, and financial literacy training. Four Bands offered patient capital tailored to each producer's situation, lending to those who had struggled to access credit or been turned away by traditional financial institutions. It also structured loan payments around the realities of agricultural operations rather than conventional lending timelines. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served 77 producers.

2022 - General + Special Emphasis - $900,000

In 2022, NAAF funded Four Bands Community Fund through two grants: a General grant for lending and technical assistance, and a Special Emphasis grant dedicated to beginning farmers and ranchers. Together, the grants furthered Four Bands' investment in both established and emerging producers on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Four Bands provided loan capital, equity bundles, business coaching, and credit repair assistance, and launched a targeted effort to help beginning farmers and ranchers buy the assets they needed to get their operations started. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served 50 producers across the two grants.

Continued on following page

FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND

NAAF GRANTS

2023 - General & Special Emphasis - $627,828

In 2023, NAAF funded Four Bands Community Fund through three grants: a General grant for lending and technical assistance, an input cost regrant program, and a Special Emphasis grant focused on market access. The three grants reflect Four Bands' growing capacity to meet producers' needs in multiple ways. Four Bands provided loan capital, equity infusions, individualized business coaching, and input cost relief. It also led a first-of-its-kind effort to formalize and expand a farmers market on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, increasing access to locally produced food while building participating producers' marketing and business skills. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served 64 producers across the three grants.

2024 General - $1,109,916

NAAF funding supports Four Bands Community Fund in providing loan capital, financial education, equity grants, and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, along with training for lending institutions. Through its Targeted CDFI project, Four Bands is deploying $999,999 in loan capital, delivering 100 hours of business coaching, and monitoring loan performance to strengthen producers' access to affordable, patient capital. With NAAF funding, Four Bands served two farmers and 14 ranchers.

2025 General - $1,156,494

NAAF's 2025 grant supports Four Bands Community Fund in providing farmers and ranchers on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation with loan capital to expand and improve their operations, equity bundles that build long-term financial stability, and personalized business coaching to sharpen skills and strengthen risk management. By pairing direct investment with culturally attuned, hands-on coaching, the program helps producers create jobs, grow the local economy, and sustain Native-owned operations for generations to come.

2026 General - $1,000,000

Four Bands Community Fund's project, *Increasing Access to Capital for Native Agriculture Producers*, helps farmers and ranchers on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation start, sustain, and expand their operations through a strategic combination of loan capital, equity bundles, and customized coaching and technical assistance focused on profitability. By expanding access to flexible, affordable capital, Four Bands aims to grow the number of Native-owned agriculture operations and build greater equity across the region's agriculture sector.



INTERTRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL

Overview:
The InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), founded in 1992 and headquartered in Rapid City, South Dakota, is a Tribal collective working to restore buffalo to Indian Country and preserve the cultural, traditional, and spiritual relationships between Native people and the buffalo. Its member Tribes collectively manage more than 20,000 buffalo, having restored the animals to nearly one million acres of Tribal land. Beyond restoration, ITBC provides members with training and technical assistance to build sustainable Tribal buffalo programs in a way that advances cultural enhancement, spiritual revitalization, ecological restoration, and economic development.

▶TOTAL FUNDING: $237,062

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INTERTRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - General - $75,000

Through NAAF funding, ITBC developed value-added agricultural opportunities within Tribally-managed buffalo herds through research and planning as well as delivered marketing training and curriculum. The program funded outreach at four buffalo marketing programs across ITBC's membership, allowing ITBC to assess opportunities and challenges. It also supported four regional training sessions, and the curriculum developed has become an official part of ITBC's marketing training across its member Tribes. The program directly served 76 producers.

2020 - Rapid Response - $46,000

ITBC's Rapid Response Fund grant helped offset processing costs that Tribes struggled to cover during the COVID-19 pandemic, when local processing space was scarce and Tribes often had to transport buffalo to distant facilities at added expense. ITBC located processing availability, arranged transport, and reimbursed both processors and Tribes directly. The grant funded the processing of 55 buffalo for 11 Tribes, exceeding ITBC's goals and providing about 88,000 meals across Indian Country.

2020 - General - $116,062

ITBC used NAAF funding to advance Tribal food sovereignty by funding buffalo processing for member Tribes and mapping the long-term needs of the Tribal buffalo supply chain. ITBC coordinated 109 processing awards across 27 Native Nations and completed processing and reimbursement for 27 animals across nine Tribes, helping bring buffalo back to the center of Tribal food systems as a local, culturally significant source of nourishment. Its initial supply chain assessment identified persistent barriers producers face: long distances to USDA-inspected processors, limited Tribal ownership of processing infrastructure, regulatory burdens, and a lack of coordinated distribution networks. Those findings established a groundwork for future infrastructure investment. With NAAF funding, ITBC served 500 farmers, 500 ranchers, 500 community producers, and 200 students and youth.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

LAKOTA FUNDS

Overview:
Lakota Funds is the country's first Native American CDFI, based on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Kyle, South Dakota. Its mission is to promote economic sustainability and self-reliance for the Oglala Lakota people across Pine Ridge, the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and the surrounding service area by providing capital, technical assistance, and financial education that break the cycle of generational poverty. What began as a microlender making $500 loans, at a time when only two Native-owned businesses existed on the Reservation, has grown into a cornerstone of the local economy with a loan portfolio now exceeding $27 million. Lakota Funds offers both business and agricultural loans and was the first Native CDFI approved as a USDA Farm Service Agency guaranteed lender, extending patient, accessible capital to farmers and ranchers.

▶TOTAL FUNDING: $2,217,214

Continued on following page

LAKOTA FUNDS

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - General - $400,000

NAAF funding supported Lakota Funds' efforts to strengthen the financial and business capacity of ranchers on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations through agricultural education, technical assistance, lending, and equity grants. Lakota Funds hosted monthly Ag Business Planning classes, along with an Ag Bookkeeping class and a Livestock Supplements and Nutrition class taught with South Dakota State University Extension. The classes drew 25 ranchers, and Lakota Funds delivered technical assistance to 23. It met its lending goal with six loans to four ranchers, and 10 ranchers received equity grants totaling $49,998. With NAAF funding, Lakota Funds served 33 ranchers.

2020 - Rapid Response - $47,600

A Rapid Response Fund grant helped Lakota Funds stabilize ranchers and strengthen food security on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the cattle market collapsed and processing plants shut down. Lakota Funds provided $1,000 in direct relief to 24 ranchers and invested $5,000 in three Pine Ridge nonprofits working to improve food security: One Spirit, which runs a meat processing plant; the Oyate Teca Project, which runs community gardens; and Knife Chief Buffalo, a buffalo ranch. Beyond the dollars, these investments deepened Lakota Funds' relationships with its ranching clients and built new partnerships with food security organizations, creating a foundation for continued collaboration. With NAAF funding, Lakota Funds served 24 ranchers.

2020 - General - $476,500

Lakota Funds' 2020 grant provided flexible capital to livestock operations on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations. Over the 18-month grant term, Lakota Funds deployed $5,323,374 across 145 loans, including $1,999,085 in agricultural loans to 49 ranching operations. It used the grant for $50,000 in equity injections to reduce producers' loan balances and for personnel support. By using the grant to deploy its own capital, Lakota Funds grew agricultural lending to nearly half of its portfolio. That lending has consistently had zero delinquencies and is strongly backed by USDA Farm Service Agency loan guarantees, which expands Lakota Funds' access to capital for future lending. With NAAF funding, Lakota Funds served 55 ranchers.

LAKOTA FUNDS

NAAF GRANTS

2022 - General - $748,635

Through its Lakota Resource Management Program, Lakota Funds provided loan capital and equity grants to help producers on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations strengthen their operations, along with training in resource management, livestock management, and herd health. Between November 2022 and October 2024, NAAF funding supported nine agricultural loans totaling $552,108 and 11 equity injections totaling $195,777. That support brought new clients to Lakota Funds and helped producers' loans work financially at a time of volatile cattle prices. It also came during a period of strong growth for Lakota Funds, which made 99 agricultural loans totaling $4.8 million over the same period. In 2024 alone, it made 150 loans totaling $9.5 million as it continued building its self-sufficiency. With NAAF funding, Lakota Funds served 174 ranchers.

2024 - General - $544,479

NAAF funding supports Lakota Funds' Enhanced Access to Capital project, which helps new and existing farmers and ranchers on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations grow their operations through low-interest loans and equity grants. The project also provides specialized training to support the long-term viability and growth of Native-owned agricultural operations.



LAKOTA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Overview:
The Lakota Youth Development (LYD) is a grassroots nonprofit serving youth of the Rosebud Reservation and surrounding communities. The organization pairs after-school and summer programs, weekend retreats, and equine life skills training with youth-led social enterprises and land-based stewardship that root young people in traditional Lakota relationships to food, plants, and the land.

TOTAL FUNDING: $25,000

NAAF GRANT

2020 - Youth - $25,000
Lakota Youth Development acquired land near its campus in Herrick, South Dakota, to expand Honey Lodge, its youth-led honey social enterprise, laying the groundwork for future construction. With volunteer support, LYD cleared more than 15 loads of debris from the site, secured additional funding, and commissioned a feasibility study and business plan for Honey Lodge's expanded vision. Meanwhile, Honey Lodge grew its production and wholesale reach across South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska, landing a food distribution contract and a wholesale contract. Youth helped at every stage of filling and delivering orders. LYD also promoted Honey Lodge as an agritourism destination through South Dakota Tourism and national and international tourism events. With NAAF funding, LYD served nine farmers, 73 ranchers, 25 harvesters, 81 students and youth, and 257 community producers.



PHOTO BY MAKOCE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

MAKOCE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Overview:
Makoce Agriculture Development is a nonprofit on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation working to build a community-owned, holistic local food system. Its name means "homeland" in Lakota. Grounded in Native values and practices, Makoce creates the infrastructure and training to grow, produce, and distribute local food from "seed to shelf," pursuing food and economic sovereignty on a reservation long underserved by food infrastructure. Its work includes a production farm, the Makoce Food Hub, hemp production infrastructure, and a Food Systems Institute that teaches cooking, nutrition, and farming. Through the Oceti Sakowin Food Systems Alliance, Makoce also advocates for Tribal food policy and expanded land access for producers. Through these efforts, it is cultivating a new generation of food producers and land stewards.

TOTAL FUNDING: $400,000

Continued on following page

MAKOCE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

NAAF GRANTS

2021 - General - $200,000

Makoce Agriculture Development expanded its poultry producer training on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, selecting 13 community and family members from more than 20 applicants. Participants, ranging in age from 6 to 80, completed a three-month virtual course, followed by hands-on training in humane poultry handling, feeding, business development, land access, and food safety. Each built their own chicken tractor and brooder box and raised 75 chicks, totaling nearly 1,000 birds for the season. Makoce also secured full right-of-way approval to develop its 40-acre production farm, hired a farm manager and an intern, and built a poultry processing plant. It submitted its food safety plan and application for a federal grant of inspection to USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, with the goal of becoming the first poultry processing plant on Tribal lands. Over the training's first three years, Makoce trained more than 15 families and processed more than 4,000 locally raised chickens, building lasting momentum for a community-led food system. With NAAF funding, Makoce served 103 community producers and 150 students and youth.

2022 General - $200,000

NAAF funding helped Makoce Agriculture Development lay the foundation for business and economic development on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation through two goals: a community master plan, and the growth of its food hub and poultry producer training. Makoce created the Makoce Woksape Master Plan with a community advisory board of chefs, teachers, cultural bearers, youth, and artists to guide the design of the reservation's first business district, and unveiled it at a community reveal event. It also advanced plans for a multipurpose community food hub, the first of its kind in Indian Country. Makoce hired a food hub manager and a construction manager, completed a model business plan, and engaged more than a dozen local food entrepreneurs as potential tenants. It deepened community engagement through its annual convergence, cultural foods courses, community harvests, and plant walks, and partnered with a local community development financial institution (CDFI) to deliver business planning and financial literacy training to more than 30 community members. With NAAF funding, Makoce served five farmers, five ranchers, five harvesters, 115 community producers, and 200 students and youth.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

OYATE NETWORKING PROJECT

Overview:
The Oyate Networking Project is a Native-led nonprofit in Kyle, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, serving more than 700 Oglala Lakota youth and their families through cultural, educational, health, and food sovereignty programming.

TOTAL FUNDING: $50,000

NAAF GRANT

2020 -General - $50,000
With NAAF funding, the Oyate Teca Project purchased a custom-built refrigerated mobile farmers market, the first on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The project also ran weekly gardening classes covering planning, planting, nutrition, harvesting, and preservation, and supported 56 community gardens that were planted, fenced, and irrigated. Together, the gardens produced 48,000 pounds of food. Oyate Teca delivered fresh produce to six of the reservation's nine communities, distributed more than 200 vegetable bags to elders, and sent 1,500 pounds of produce to COVID-19 emergency food sites. It also created new retail outlets for local growers, even winning bulk produce orders from a convenience store that had once turned the program away. With NAAF funding, Oyate Teca served 42 farmers, 65 harvesters, 56 community producers, and 46 students and youth.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

ROSEBUD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Overview:
Based in Mission, South Dakota, the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) is the wholly owned economic development arm of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Chartered to operate independently of Tribal government, REDCO gives the Tribe's businesses the stability to grow over the long term and advances economic self-determination for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. It generates revenue and creates jobs through subsidiaries in industries such as supply and procurement, construction, and agriculture. REDCO operates under the 7Gen Vision, a 175-year plan for prosperity it pursues alongside its sister organizations, the Sicangu Community Development Corporation and Tatanka Funds. Its flagship Sicangu Food Sovereignty Initiative, launched in 2016, reconnects Sicangu Lakota communities with local and traditional foods, and its Wolakota Buffalo Range has restored buffalo to 28,000 acres, building one of the largest Native-owned herds in the world. Through this work, REDCO advances food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and long-term prosperity for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate.

▶TOTAL FUNDING: $759,208

Continued on following page

ROSEBUD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - General (Tribe & CDFI) & Three Special Emphases - $400,395

NAAF funded REDCO across five projects advancing food sovereignty and agricultural development for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. REDCO completed a feasibility study and business plan for a Tribally-owned processing plant for bison, cattle, and wild game. The study engaged 82 ranchers and confirmed the plant's financial viability, while identifying skilled labor recruitment and retention as the central challenge. REDCO's traditional foods initiative reached 201 people, including 14 harvesters, 112 students and youth, and 75 community members, through buffalo harvests and wild-food harvests of timpsila, chokecherries, and wild mint, along with harvesting guides, recipe booklets, and videos. A hemp initiative brought 10 farmers and 30 community members into a feasibility study and first planting that, despite drought losses, identified a resilient variety and produced growing recommendations. Through a youth Food Empowerment Program adapted for the pandemic, 11 middle school students learned hands-on food systems and sustainable agriculture at Keya Wakpala Gardens. Finally, funding built the capacity of Tatanka Funds, which delivered financial literacy training, made $35,190 in agricultural loans, and distributed $108,475 in direct assistance to two farmers, 31 ranchers, and 33 community members.

2020 - Rapid Response - $39,802

NAAF funding helped REDCO increase food production at Keya Wakpala Gardens and build community food resilience on the Rosebud Indian Reservation as the pandemic drove up demand for local foods. REDCO expanded its growing capacity with more seeds and starter plants, silage tarps to prepare and rebuild soil, and caterpillar tunnels that extended South Dakota's short growing season. The tunnels let the farm plant earlier and harvest later. As a result, REDCO opened its farmers market in May instead of August, giving local growers about three more months of sales than they would have had otherwise. All produce was sold through REDCO's seasonal farmers market, mobile market, and community supported agriculture (CSA) program, and that revenue helped REDCO buy chest freezers and expand its infrastructure. To bring food production into homes, REDCO gave 120 families home gardening kits with seeds, tools, and planting guides, empowering them to grow their own food. With NAAF funding, REDCO served five farmers and 618 community members.

Continued on following page

ROSEBUD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NAAF GRANTS

2020 - General - $119,011

REDCO used NAAF funding to strengthen food sovereignty, economic development, and community resilience across the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's food and agriculture systems through three goals. First, it completed a COVID-19 food system impact assessment and a regional market opportunity study to measure the pandemic's effects and identify opportunities for Tribal agricultural enterprises. Next, it developed a Tribal and regional strategy, researching successful models and creating high-level business plans for promising food and agricultural enterprises. Finally, REDCO co-developed a five-year strategic action plan for its Three Sisters initiative to align its food sovereignty efforts. This work laid a strong foundation for long-term sustainability, deeper community collaboration, and youth involvement, positioning the Sicangu Lakota Oyate to thrive for generations to come. With NAAF funding, REDCO served 20 farmers, 10 ranchers, 20 harvesters, and 20 community producers.

2022 - General - $200,000

NAAF's grant for Investing in Sicangu Farmers and Ranchers expanded the lending and education capacity of Tatanka Funds, the emerging Native CDFI within Sicangu Co that made its first agricultural loans in 2021 with NAAF support. Tatanka Funds hired a full-time loan officer in May 2023 to focus on agricultural lending and serving Sicangu farmers and ranchers, and it continued lending with two more agricultural loans in early 2025. With that added capacity, Tatanka Funds broadened its technical assistance and education for Tribal members pursuing agriculture, developed agricultural resources for local producers, and launched the Sicangu Ag Coalition of local farmers, ranchers, and gardeners. Its staff also led financial literacy and agriculture-focused learning for youth in REDCO's seven-week 7Gen Internships. Tatanka Funds met or exceeded each of the project's goals. With NAAF funding, it served 12 farmers, 58 ranchers, seven harvesters, 19 community producers, and 37 students and youth.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

SICANGU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Overview:
The Sicangu Community Development Corporation is a community-based 501c3 on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota and the sister organization to REDCO, working to transform the systems of food, health, education, and housing for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate

TOTAL FUNDING: $72,787

NAAF GRANTS

2020 Youth - $34,083
Sicangu Community Development Corporation (Sicangu CDC) grew its youth internship into the 7Gen Internship Program, using food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, and traditional Indigenous food knowledge to empower the next generation of Sicangu leaders. The program paired hands-on food production, a buffalo harvest, and food preservation with financial literacy, storytelling, and social-emotional learning. It culminated in community-based "Change Projects" that interns presented to their families and community. Sicangu CDC also partnered with the Sicangu Nation Employment Training Program and launched a fall extension program to deepen interns' skills in seed saving, food preservation, and Indigenous wellness. With NAAF funding, Sicangu CDC served 10 students and youth.

2022 - Youth - $38,704
This grant deepened Sicangu CDC's Food Sovereignty Initiative work with Rosebud youth through culinary education, the 7Gen Internship, and school-based agriculture partnerships. Funding supported 24 cooking classes at schools, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Sicangu Harvest Market, using simple recipes that swapped in Indigenous ingredients. Through the 7Gen Internship, youth spent immersive weeks learning food production, canning, and traditional processing, along with financial literacy with Tatanka Funds. NAAF funding also provided a greenhouse for Spring Creek Elementary, a remote school; a high tunnel for the Boys & Girls Club gardens; and supplies for the Rosebud Head Start program's first buffalo harvest. With NAAF funding, Sicangu CDC served 123 students and youth and 476 community members.



NAAF'S SOUTH DAKOTA GRANTEES

SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY

Overview:
Sinte Gleska University is a Tribally controlled, land-grant university in Mission, South Dakota, on the Rosebud Reservation that grounds higher education in Lakota culture, language, and values while serving primarily Native students.

TOTAL FUNDING: $758,577
[INCLUDES 2022 FRTEP GRANT OF $359,960]

Continued on following page

SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY

NAAF GRANTS

2024 - Youth - $199,140

NAAF funding supports Sinte Gleska University's project to expand its Sunkawakan Oyate (Horse Nation) outreach, offering Rosebud Indian Reservation youth year-round opportunities in equine and agricultural programs. The project recruits horse handler coordinators and teen handlers to run a comprehensive equine program, with at least four camps and 10 community horse activity days each year. Youth learn to connect with, groom, and ride horses, and are introduced to ranching, farming, and gardening to spark their interest in agriculture. The project also establishes a community garden as a source of food and income, and offers financial literacy training and business startup workshops that connect youth with Native lenders like Tatanka Funds, Lakota Funds, and Akiptan to launch farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses.

2026 - General - $199,477

SGU is helping the next generation of producers explore opportunities in agriculture through its *Sicangu Lakota Youth Ranchers and Farmers Project*. Grounded in Lakota teachings, elders' knowledge, and hands-on time with SGU's 27-year-old bison herd, the program pairs gardening, ranching, and farming skills with a strong access-to-capital component. In partnership with CDFIs, such as Tatanka Funds, Akiptan Inc., Oweesta, and the Lakota Fund, as well as SGU's Business Education Department, youth gain financial literacy, build startup business plans, and meet with lenders to learn more about the industry and accessing capital. In doing so, the project reconnects youth to the land and traditional foodways while building the long-term capacity for agriculture.



NAAF'S
SOUTH DAKOTA
GRANTEES

TANKA FUND

Overview:
Established in 2014 and based on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Tanka Fund is a Native-led 501c3 dedicated to returning buffalo to the lands, lives, and economies of Native people. Working at the intersection of food systems, economic development, and cultural revitalization, Tanka Fund provides regranting dollars and technical assistance to buffalo producers nationally, with a strong presence in South Dakota and across the Great Plains, supporting established ranchers, new caretakers, and those transitioning from cattle to buffalo. Tanka Fund advances food sovereignty, ecological restoration, and long-term economic strength while honoring the sacred relationship between the Buffalo Nation and Native communities.

▶TOTAL FUNDING: $562,669

Continued on following page

TANKA FUND

NAAF GRANTS

2019 - General - $75,000

Tanka Fund exceeded its technical assistance goal, working with 12 buffalo projects on seven Native land bases in four states. Surveys of each project consistently identified infrastructure gaps, like corrals and holding facilities, along with the difficulty of covering leases and land taxes. Tanka Fund connected producers with expert partners, including the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the National Bison Association, and staff from USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Because many lenders had turned producers away, citing the lack of an established market value for buffalo, Tanka Fund also worked to open financing pathways with USDA and Native CDFIs like Akiptan and Lakota Funds. It awarded more than $45,000 in regrants to help projects cover range leases, fencing, water facilities, and equipment repairs. It also advanced a buffalo business planning template, an informal producer network, and a producer portal developed with ITBC and buffalo experts. Through this work, Tanka Fund built a strong foundation for continued ecological and financial support of buffalo caretakers. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund served 16 ranchers, 25 students and youth, and 130 community members.

2020 - Rapid Response - $47,669

This Rapid Response Fund grant helped Tanka Fund award $5,000 regrants to 10 buffalo projects, meeting critical needs for community, cultural, and commercial herds at a time when few other funding sources existed for buffalo producers. The funds covered a wide range of essentials, including lease payments, fencing, corral panels, a holding chute for tagging buffalo calves, and equipment and water facility repairs. Each project was required to show matching funds or in-kind support. Tanka Fund raised additional dollars from other foundations to expand its regrants and paired the funds with technical assistance, supporting projects ranging from established herds to those still building the infrastructure needed before buffalo arrive. This work reinforced Tanka Fund's role as one of the few sources of direct financial relief for buffalo caretakers and strengthened the foundation for its growing regrant program. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund served 10 ranchers, nine students and youth, and eight elders.

Continued on following page

TANKA FUND

NAAF GRANTS

2021 - Special Emphasis - $200,000

NAAF funding helped Tanka Fund expand its regrants and technical assistance to 16 Native buffalo projects across five states and six reservations. All 16 projects received regrants, and Tanka Fund transferred 343 buffalo from three of The Nature Conservancy's preserves to 12 of the projects. Twelve projects also developed business and conservation plans through cohort meetings and site visits. Tanka Fund engaged students and youth through buffalo education events like the Tatanka Celebration at Red Cloud School, advancing multigenerational buffalo restoration across the cohort. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund served 26 ranchers, three community producers, and 154 students and youth.

2022 - Youth - $40,000

Tanka Fund launched the Young Adult Buffalo Lifeways Society, a cohort of seven young adults who joined Tanka Fund staff and an elder to help shape the organization's long-term vision for buffalo restoration. Working with Sweet Grass Consulting, the cohort explored the themes and ideas that will guide future generations of buffalo caretakers, giving young people a direct voice in what buffalo restoration can look like for years to come. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund served 77 students and youth.

2023 - General - $200,000

Tanka Fund created an equipment-sharing program for Native-owned buffalo ranches in South Dakota, buying two ATVs, two trailers, a skid steer, and an auger. Oglala Lakota and Sicangu ranches on and around the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations shared the equipment at no cost, using it for fencing, water tank and H-brace repairs, dam building, and pasture maintenance. Tanka Fund covered maintenance and delivery to ease the financial burden on producers. The project also trained 12 young adults in equipment use and safety, passing hands-on buffalo ranching skills to the next generation. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund served 19 ranchers, 12 students and youth, and three community producers.

BEYOND *the* GRANT

Taking a deeper dive into investment in Native agriculture across the Great Plains.

South Dakota's nine reservations hold some of the widest gaps in the country between what the land can produce and what reaches Native families. Reservations and trust land make up more than 12% of the state, yet food access, housing, and on-reservation jobs remain the hardest hurdles Native producers name. Oglala Lakota County, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, is the poorest county in the nation, and roughly 49% of Native people in South Dakota live below the poverty line, the highest rate of any state.

How can we begin to address access to capital needs? On reservations where housing and jobs are the steepest barriers, CDFIs put flexible capital directly in producers' hands.

- Four Bands Community Fund, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, pairs loan capital and equity bundles with customized coaching so farmers and ranchers can start, sustain, and expand their operations.
- Akiptan, also based in Eagle Butte on Cheyenne River, extends access to capital and technical assistance to producers across Indian Country.
- Lakota Funds, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, lends to producers while also confronting the two hurdles sitting underneath every farm and ranch, which are housing and jobs, through its *Building Jobs, Building Homes initiative,* which trains individuals in construction trades and as certified appraisers and inspectors across all nine reservations.

What kind of infrastructure is needed? Processing, irrigation, and land access are the capital-intensive foundations everything else is built on.

- Makoce Agriculture Development, in Porcupine on Pine Ridge, runs the first certified poultry processing on the reservation through a mobile processing unit, giving local producers a path to raise and sell poultry locally.
- On the Rosebud Reservation, the Sicangu Nation operates a 400-acre organic farm and is transitioning more than 1,400 acres of center-pivot irrigated farmland to certified organic production.
- The Wolakota Buffalo Range keeps nearly 28,000 acres under Native management as home to the largest Native American-owned buffalo herd in the world

How does Tribal governance support economic development? Investments that sit inside Tribal institutions build robust local and regional economies. South Dakota's three Tribal Colleges: Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University, and Sisseton Wahpeton College, added $182.8 million to the state's economy in FY 2022–23 and supported 2,839 jobs, with alumni working in the state accounting for $134.9 million of that total, the equivalent of 1,936 jobs, and every public dollar invested returning $2.30.

- The Rosebud Sioux Tribe owns Rosebud Ranch and Farming Enterprise, which breeds Angus cattle and teaches Lakota youth about rangeland grasses and traditional plants used for food and medicine.
- The Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, the Tribe's economic arm, runs a Food Sovereignty Initiative and farmers' markets.
- The Tribal Colleges anchor the region's agricultural workforce, supplying trained producers and keeping earnings inside the state economy.

BEYOND *the* GRANT

How do we go beyond the grant? And how does investment scale? Agricultural investment scales when it becomes an asset that Tribes and producers steward. In 2024, buffalo from the Wolakota herd replaced roughly 75% of the red meat the Sicangu Tribal school would otherwise have served. Additionally, Lakota-language immersion classes visit the range, and spiritually important items like hides and skulls return to the community. Capital delivered through equity bundles and milestone-based regranting stays with producers, and youth range workshops and agriculture scholarships build the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The same land base is opening new economies alongside agriculture. The South Dakota Native Tourism Alliance is reframing tourism as an engine for economic development across the nine reservations. This includes outdoor recreation, medicine walks, and cultural exchange rooted in the same grasslands and buffalo. In South Dakota, Tribal conservation, land stewardship, and cultural revitalization move together.

Across the Great Plains, agricultural opportunities continue growing from initial investments. Herds expand, processing plants open, lenders reach more producers, and a new generation is stepping up to carry the work forward.



APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

Year	Grantee	Funding Total
2019	Akiptan, Inc	$500,000
2019	Cheyenne River Youth Project	$24,975
2019	Four Bands Community Fund	$200,000
2019	InterTribal Buffalo Council	$75,000
2019	Lakota Funds	$400,000
2019	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – CDFI	$195,500
2019	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – Tribe	$75,000
2019	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – Traditional Foods	$50,000
2019	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – Hemp	$55,000
2019	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – Youth	$24,895.00
2019	Tanka Fund	$75,000
2020	Akiptan, Inc – Rapid Response	$48,206
2020	Cheyenne River Youth Project – Rapid Response	$23,717
2020	InterTribal Buffalo Council – Rapid Response	$46,000
2020	Lakota Funds – Rapid Response	$47,600
2020	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – Rapid Response	$39,802.00
2020	Tanka Fund – Rapid Response	$47,669
2020	Akiptan, Inc – General	$965,000

**Rapid Response Grants Not Included in NAAF's Total South Dakota Funding*

APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

Year	Grantee	Funding Total
2020	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Buffalo Authority Corporation	$202,500
2020	Cheyenne River Youth Project – General	$30,000
2020	Four Bands Community Fund – Rapid Response	$48,000
2020	Four Bands Community Fund – General	$476,500
2020	InterTribal Buffalo Council – General	$116,062
2020	Lakota Funds – General	$476,500
2020	Lakota Youth Development	$25,000
2020	Oyate Networking Project	$50,000
2020	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation – General	$119,011.00
2020	Sicangu Community Development Corporation	$34,083.00
2021	Akiptan, Inc – General	$2,500,000
2021	Akiptan, Inc – Youth	$56,000
2021	Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance	$150,000
2021	Cheyenne River Youth Project	$37,769
2021	Four Bands Community Fund	$1,000,000
2021	Makoce Agriculture Development	$200,000

**Rapid Response Grants Not Included in NAAF's Total South Dakota Funding*

APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

Year	Grantee	Funding Total
2021	Tanka Fund	$200,000
2021	Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation	$200,000
2022	Akiptan, Inc	$40,000
2022	Akiptan, Inc	$2,000,000
2022	Akiptan, Inc.	$100,000
2022	Cheyenne River Youth Project	$40,000
2022	Four Bands Community Fund - General	$800,000
2022	Four Bands Community Fund - Special Emphasis	$100,000
2022	Lakota Funds	$748,635
2022	Makoce Agriculture Development	$200,000
2022	Rosebud Economic Development Corporation	$200,000
2022	Sicangu Community Development Corporation	$38,704
2022	Sinte Gleska University - FRTEP	$359,960
2022	Tanka Fund	$40,000
2023	Akiptan, Inc. - General	$2,000,000
2023	Akiptan, Inc. - Youth	$62,969.00
2023	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe - Hunkpati Processors General	$200,000
2023	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe - Hunkpati Processors Special Emphasis	$99,475

APPENDIX A: COMPLETE GRANT TABLE

Year	Grantee	Funding Total
2023	Four Bands Community Fund - General	$400,000
2023	Four Bands Community Fund - Special Empahsis	$150,000
2023	Four Bands Community Fund - Special Emphasis	$77,828
2023	Tanka Fund	$200,000
2024	Akiptan, Inc.	$400,000
2024	Akiptan, Inc.	$200,000
2024	Akiptan, Inc.	$2,000,000
2024	Four Bands Community Fund	$1,109,916
2024	Lakota Funds	$200,000
2024	Lakota Funds	$344,479.00
2024	Sinte Gleska University	$199,140.00
2025	Akiptan, Inc. - General	$2,500,000
2025	Akiptan, Inc. - Youth	$100,000
2025	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe - Hunkpati Processors	$250,000
2025	Four Bands Community Fund	$1,156,494.00
2026	Akiptan, Inc.	$2,000,000
2026	Four Bands Community Fund	$1,000,000
2026	Sinte Gleska University	$199,477

APPENDIX B: AI/AN FAST FACTS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA



1,265
American Indian/
Alaska Native Producers



4,129,228
Acres Farmed by AI/AN



964
AI/AN Farms

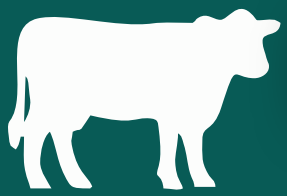


$219,640,000
Market Value of AI/AN
Products Sold

SHARE OF SALES TYPES:



35%
CROP PRODUCTION



65%
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND
PRODUCTS PRODUCTION

SOURCES:

2022 Census of Agriculture, USDA NASS.

American Indian Higher Education Consortium Economic Impact TCUs South Dakota. https://webassets.aihec.org/FrontPageDocs/South%20Dakota_AIHEC%20TCU%20Economic%20Impact%20Study.pdf

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First Nations Development Institute https://www.firstnations.org/projects/keepseagle-fast-track-grant-program/

Sweet Grass Consulting - Four Bands Community Fund https://sweetgrassconsulting.net/blog/four-bands-community-fund-uses-data-to-transform-indigenous-finance

NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND

