

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019





# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

When I wake up in the morning and start the "to do list" for the day, I ask myself one question:

*Is this going to help Native farmers and ranchers?*

If the answer is yes, it goes on the "to do" list. If the answer is no, we don't do it. I have asked myself this question in one way or another every day since NAAF was founded in 2018.

Since those early days, I am proud of the foundation we have built. NAAF is on solid footing. But, as I often share with the NAAF staff members, this isn't about us. This is about the Native farmers and ranchers. They are the reason we are here.

I want our current grantees, future grantees, trustees, valued partners and everyone in Indian Country to know what NAAF stands for and who we serve.

Our mission is to make grants to eligible organizations to fund projects that serve Native farmers and ranchers and promote continued engagement in agriculture across Indian Country. To execute on this mission established by our trust agreement, we needed to build an organization worthy of this investment and begin to plant seeds across Indian Country.

NAAF needed to build a solid foundation. This started with creating good governance. We took steps to protect our investment and set up auditing procedures. We hired very talented staff with a breadth of diverse experience in agriculture and created human resource protocols for our staff. We made sure that NAAF is a solid organization of the highest integrity because that is what the farmers and ranchers who made this organization possible deserve.

With that foundation set, we needed to do what we were directed to do: make grants.

In 2018 Fast Track grants were distributed to 34 tribes and organizations with \$38 million in grants. These funds were the result of a court order from the Keepseagle v. Vilsack class action lawsuit. While these funds were distributed before the creation of NAAF, we monitor, evaluate and keep close relations with these Fast Track grantees.

In August 2019, NAAF opened our first Request for Applications. We funded 80 organizations working on over 100 efforts that will build lasting progress in Indian Country's food and agriculture sector. With an initial first-year \$10,000,000 investment in Indian Country, we were able to start the critical work NAAF is here to do. We are currently working closely with our 2019 grantees to evaluate the progress made by these projects that serve over 30,000 producers.

By March of 2020, the world had changed. With the COVID-19 pandemic, our trustees asked us to provide supplemental funding to our 2019 grantees to address the impacts of the pandemic in our communities. We swiftly distributed \$2 million in funds to 74 grantees. These grants will serve an additional 84,000 producers and over 200,000 Native households. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that food and people are essential. Our Native food people - our farmers, ranchers, fishers, harvesters - who make sure all of us are fed are essential. They are essential to our lives and important to our future.

I am truly amazed by the incredible work the NAAF grantees are doing. Please take the time to read all the project descriptions for the Fast Track and 2019 grantees. I am sure you will feel just as inspired as I am when you read about the remarkable work they are doing. As this report emerges, we are in the midst of our second-year investment process with plans to provide an additional \$15,000,000 to support even more efforts to create thriving and sustainable food and agriculture systems within our communities.

When we look back on what we have accomplished since NAAF was founded, we can only think of how much more is left to do. These are strong first steps, but we have many more in front of us. NAAF is committed to investing in Indian Country's food system. With the help of the amazing people doing incredible work in our tribal communities, my aim is for NAAF to leave Indian Country's food system so much better than we found it and in so doing, honor the work of those Native farmers and ranchers whose courage inspired the creation of NAAF, as well as those who come after us whose work will continue to ensure our survival.

Chokma'shki (Thank you),



**JANIE SIMMS HIPPI (CHICKASAW)**

CEO

NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FUND



## THE STATE OF NATIVE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture across Indian Country is as diverse as our Native nations. Native farmers and ranchers are essential to the success of Native food systems and diversification of our agricultural economies.

There is a lot to be optimistic about regarding the future of Native agriculture. Every day, I see firsthand the critical areas that NAAF grant recipients are addressing, such as credit access, infrastructure development, agriculture education and so much more. The 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture found that American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) farms make up 3% of all farms in the U.S., spanning more than 58 million acres of farmland in our country.

Native agriculture is also a major economic sector, annually generating \$3.53 billion in total sales with the market value of its crops (\$1.43 billion) and livestock (\$2.10 billion) increasing substantially each year. Native agriculture producers are developing innovative ways to feed their people, and NAAF strives to support and cultivate this activity each day.

“Our very first round of applications gave us a glimpse of the huge potential there is to make a significant impact in access to credit for Native farmers and ranchers.”

– *Elsie Meeks (Oglala Lakota),  
Chair, NAAF Board of Trustees*

DATA FROM 2017 USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



79,198

NATIVE PRODUCERS  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY



60,083

FARMS WITH NATIVE  
PRODUCERS



35%

OF NATIVE FARMS  
RAISE CATTLE



36%

OF NATIVE PRODUCERS ARE  
NEW & BEGINNING FARMERS



# FEEDING OUR PEOPLE. GROWING OUR ECONOMIES. BUILDING OUR FUTURE.

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private, charitable trust created by the 2010 settlement of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class action lawsuit, which alleged that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had been discriminating against Native American farmers and ranchers in loan programs and loan servicing since 1981.

The final settlement agreement called for NAAF's creation to manage and distribute grants to four eligible organizations: 501(c)(3) organizations, educational organizations, CDFIs and Native CDFIs, and Tribal governments. These grants support business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services for Native farmers and ranchers across the country.

With approximately \$266 million in funding, NAAF is the single largest philanthropic organization devoted solely to serving the Native American farming and ranching community.



## KEEPSEAGLE V. VILSACK CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

In 1999, the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class action lawsuit was filed alleging that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had engaged in discrimination against Native American farmers and ranchers in loan programs and loan servicing of loans dating back to 1981.

In 2010, after more than a decade of litigation, the federal government and the parties agreed to a settlement. The original settlement resulted in the creation of a \$680 million compensation fund, another \$80 million in debt relief, and tax relief in addition to other forms of programmatic relief to be instituted by USDA. A six-month claims process resulted in approved claims for more than 3,600 Native farmers and ranchers.

As a part of the settlement agreement, a cy pres fund was created. After a significant period of further negotiation, a second compensation payment and additional tax relief to successful claimants was approved, and an additional \$38 million in "fast track" grants to nonprofit and other eligible organizations that support Native farmers and ranchers was also authorized.

In 2018, the court directed that the remaining funds be distributed through a newly created Native American Agriculture Fund. The organization, which is a private charitable trust, must distribute its funds within a period of 20 years.

## MISSION FOCUS AREAS

Since time immemorial, Native people have been feeding their communities. Native agricultural practices have sustained native communities and the land they steward.

NAAF's mission areas – business assistance, agricultural education, technical support and advocacy services – are vital to support the continued engagement and passion for Native agriculture that Tribes have been cultivating.

Understanding how agriculture truly works is critical for sustaining life. You plan for them long before you ever touch the soil and care for them like they are your own children. When the time comes, you harvest them with the good intention of feeding your family and communities.

We cannot be truly sovereign until we can feed ourselves. Agricultural education has forever been the heart of survival for many tribes. This way of knowing is an essential aspect of feeding oneself. We recognize that not everyone has the resources or knowledge to start from scratch, and even those who have been actively producing food for generations could always use guidance or help to make life easier. Business assistance and technical support work together for Native agriculturalists seeking aid. For NAAF, it is essential that we do whatever we can to help Native people succeed, as tribal communities have always done.

Lastly, we acknowledge the crucial need for advocacy services that protect tribal sovereignty and our natural resources while helping us keep our nations fed.



“It is so rewarding to see the number of efforts across the country and the breadth and depth of the work. And this is just the beginning.”

– *Sherry Salway Black (Oglala Lakota),  
Chair of the NAAF Program Committee*





Photographer: Paul

## SUPPORTING NATIVE AGRICULTURE

As part of its mission to support Native farmers and ranchers, NAAF issues formal Requests for Applications (RFAs) for funding to support the Native food and agricultural sector across the country.

In August 2019, NAAF announced its inaugural RFA. Groups eligible for the competitive grants include: 501(c)(3) organizations, educational organizations, CDFIs and Native CDFIs, and state and federally recognized Tribal governments. These grants support the above organizations to provide business assistance, agricultural education, technical support and advocacy services to Native farmers and ranchers. The 2019 RFA placed a special emphasis on projects related to traditional foods/food sovereignty, hemp production feasibility studies, youth programming and agriculture science.

In late December 2019, NAAF announced funding for \$10 million in grants to 80 organizations serving Native farmers and ranchers across the country. The grants fund the work of a variety of Native-led organizations, and strike at the core of the issues that led to the creation of NAAF.

### THE GRANTS SUPPORT:

- Increased access to credit and agricultural services for Native farmers and ranchers
- Agricultural business training for producers and educational scholarships to encourage the growth of the next generation of agriculture leaders
- Innovative, community-led work toward ensuring that food sovereignty and traditional foods flourish within Native communities and are not lost to future generations
- Analysis of the potential for investment in emerging food and fiber markets in ways that will stabilize Native producers and their communities
- Value-added agriculture activities to assist producers in finding new markets for their products
- Youth programming

### TARGETED AREAS



**TARGETED 501C3:**  
Providing services to support Native farmers' and ranchers' continued agricultural involvement



**TARGETED EDUCATIONAL:**  
Conducting advanced agricultural business classroom training for producers



**TARGETED CDFI:**  
Financing agricultural and food production in Indian Country



**TARGETED TRIBE:**  
Promoting value-added agricultural development enterprises as a key to Native economic development

### SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREAS



**TRADITIONAL FOODS & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY:**  
Supporting community-led efforts to increase access to traditional foods and bolster Indigenous food sovereignty



**HEMP PRODUCTION FEASIBILITY:**  
Exploring opportunities for the emerging industrial hemp sector as a component of the overall Native agriculture economy



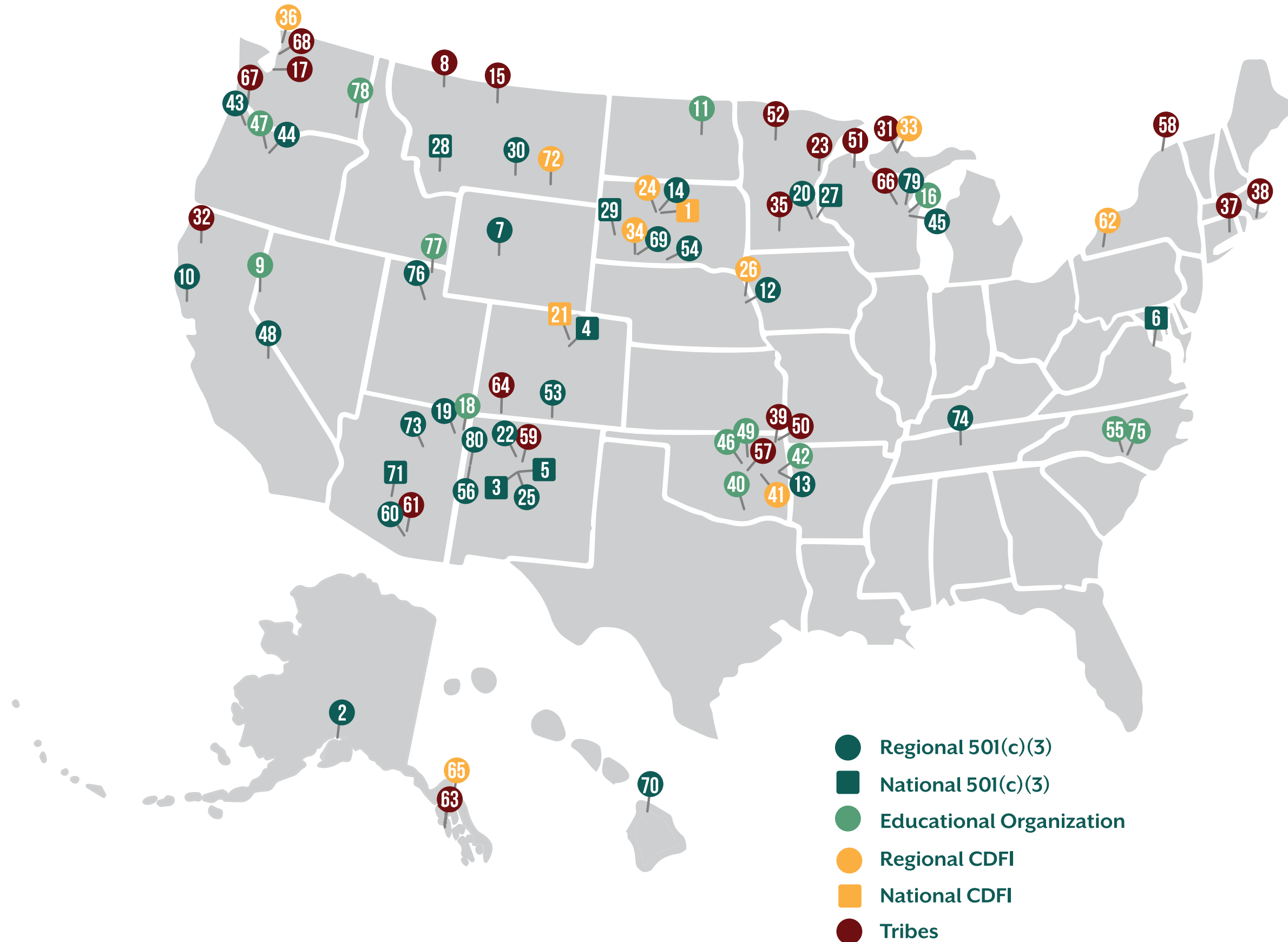
**YOUTH PROGRAMMING:**  
Mobilizing Native youth to be leaders in agriculture



**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE:**  
Sponsoring Native scholars to pursue agriculture degrees



# 2019 GRANTEE MAP





# LEADERS IN NATIVE AGRICULTURE: 2019 GRANTEES



## 1 AKIPTAN — EAGLE BUTTE, SD • (\$500,000)

A national Native-led CDFI, Akiptan seeks to “innovate and change the paradigm of investments in Indian Country agriculture and food systems” by working with Native farmers and ranchers. With NAAF funding, Akiptan will provide loans, capital, and comprehensive technical assistance and financial training for 10 producers.



## 2 ALASKA VILLAGE INITIATIVES — ANCHORAGE, AK • (\$64,888)

Host of the agricultural outreach platform agalaska.net, Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) has been providing services to Alaska Native producers and small businesses for more than 50 years. With NAAF funding, AVI will explore the potential for industrial hemp production in geographically isolated locations in rural Alaska.



## 3 AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE TOURISM ASSOCIATION — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$72,545)

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is the only national organization representing, supporting and expanding tribal tourism in the U.S. With NAAF funding, AIANTA will develop resources for individual Native producers and tribes interested in agritourism and provide training at the annual American Indian Tourism Conference.



## 4 AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND — DENVER, CO • (\$273,370)

American Indian College Fund (AICF) invests in Native students and tribal college education to transform lives and communities. With NAAF funding, AICF will build on their existing scholarship and mentoring support for Native students in farming and ranching by providing stipends for place-based, agriculture-focused career experiences.



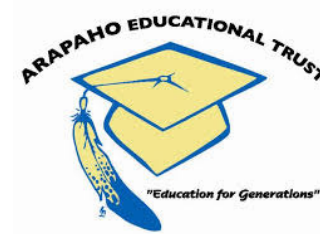
## 5 AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$150,000)

The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) provides financial support for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking higher education. With NAAF funding, AIGC will provide scholarships through the Wilson Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program and host two “Know Before U Go” workshops for Native high school students interested in agricultural degrees.



## 6 AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM — ALEXANDRIA, VA • (\$125,000)

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) is the collective spirit and unifying voice of the nation’s Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Thirty-five of the 37 TCUs are land-grant institutions. With NAAF funding, AIHEC is sponsoring TCUs in delivering technical assistance to Native agricultural producers through trained AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers.



University of Nevada, Reno



## 7 ARAPAHO RANCH FIELD STATION — WIND RIVER RESERVATION, WY • (\$150,000)

The Arapaho Ranch Field Station promotes ranching sustainability on the Wind River Reservation through place-based education and environmental mitigation projects. With NAAF funding, the Field Station will make capital improvements to structures on the land to support their value-added agritourism plans and bring more youth into the ranching tradition.

## 8 BLACKFEET TRIBE AGRICULTURE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN — BROWNING, MT • (\$200,000)

The Blackfeet Tribe’s Agriculture Resource Management Plan (ARMP) team guides the implementation of long-term planning efforts for agricultural and natural resources within the Blackfeet Nation. With NAAF funding, Blackfeet ARMP will finalize planning efforts for a local multi-species processing plant, customize food and agriculture codes, and engage youth in agriculture.

## 9 BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO — HAWTHORNE, NV • (\$483,470)

The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) provides practical agricultural education for citizens through cooperative extension programs. With NAAF funding, UNR will coordinate advanced agricultural business training for Native producers, sponsor scholarships and mentoring for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, and support youth participation in agricultural camps.

## 10 CALIFORNIA INDIAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER — SANTA ROSA, CA • (\$100,000)

California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) and its Tribal Youth Ambassadors revitalize traditional food systems in Northern California through the social enterprise, Acorn Bites. With NAAF funding, CIMCC will train gatherers to steward, collect and process acorns, in addition to sponsoring youth to attend food conferences to strengthen their business development knowledge.

## 11 CANKDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE — FORT TOTTEN, ND • (\$74,838)

Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), located in the Spirit Lake Nation, supports Tribal agricultural production through tilling agricultural land, distributing seeds, operating a farmer’s market and community garden and has started a 4-H program for youth. With NAAF funding, CCCC will irrigate their community garden, cultivate an additional field for traditional corn and increase engagement with Head Start students.

## 12 CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS — LYONS, NE • (\$24,532)

Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) supports beginning farmers and small business owners from diverse rural populations, providing specialized outreach for the Omaha and Santee Reservations. With NAAF funding, CFRA will encourage Native youth to consider agricultural careers through school gardening, exchange programs and classroom training.





**13 CHEROKEE NATION FOUNDATION – TAHLEQUAH, OK • (\$50,000)**

The Cherokee Nation Foundation's mission is to "provide educational opportunities to Cherokee students so they can reach their full potential." With NAAF funding, the foundation will sponsor academic scholarships for 25 Cherokee Nation students pursuing agricultural degrees at accredited institutions.



Cheyenne River Youth Project®

**14 CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT – EAGLE BUTTE, SD • (\$24,975)**

The Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP) has delivered agricultural and food systems-based education to Lakota youth through the Winyan Toka Win (Leading Lady) Garden since 1999. With NAAF funding, CRYP will engage 200 elementary students in gardening and provide hands-on food sovereignty and social enterprise internships for Native teens.



**15 CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE – BOX ELDER, MT • (\$74,816)**

Chippewa Cree Tribe supports tribal farmers and ranchers through outreach, agricultural education and business assistance. With NAAF funding, the Chippewa Cree Tribe will create a tribal regulatory and licensing framework for hemp production and determine the feasibility of industrial hemp processing on Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation.



**16 COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION – KESHENA, WI • (\$336,627)**

College of Menominee Nation (CMN) has worked in food systems sustainability for more than 15 years, focusing on connections between Menominee and their lands. With NAAF funding, CMN will gather input on and provide scholarships for their new sustainable agriculture degree, conduct a hemp feasibility study and introduce students to aquaponics.



**17 COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE – LONGVIEW, WA • (\$25,000)**

Cowlitz Indian Tribe utilizes a community garden to bolster traditional agricultural knowledge and increase access to fresh produce and traditional foods. With NAAF funding, Cowlitz Indian Tribe will provide stipends to seven youth food sovereignty summer interns who will be provided guidance on gardening, traditional foods, food sovereignty and meal preparation.



**18 DINÉ COLLEGE – TSAILE, AZ • (\$155,800)**

Diné College works with local producers to bridge the intergenerational gap in agricultural lifeways. With NAAF funding, Diné College will expand Diné Bichiyaa Summit programming, sponsor youth participation in agricultural camps and award scholarships for its agriculture degree program.



**19 DINÉ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – CHINLE, AZ • (\$114,154)**

Diné Community Development Corporation (DCDC) provides leadership, program and resource development to enhance rural communities on the Navajo Nation. With NAAF funding, DCDC will support at least 50 Navajo farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance and host agricultural workshops for producers and tribal leaders.



**20 DREAM OF WILD HEALTH – MINNEAPOLIS, MN • (\$100,000)**

Dream of Wild Health (DWH) restores health and well-being in the Native community by recovering knowledge of and access to healthy Indigenous foods, medicines and lifeways. With NAAF funding, DWH will expand training capacity by adding staff, purchasing farmland and establishing a year-round youth leader program for Twin Cities residents.



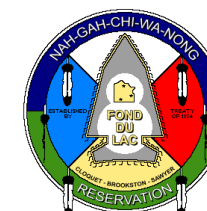
**21 FIRST NATIONS OWEESTA – LONGMONT, CO • (\$369,268)**

First Nations OWEESTA has been providing loan capital and capacity building to Native CDFIs for 20 years. With NAAF funding, OWEESTA will develop the ability of practitioners to deliver training, support and lending products to Native farmers and ranchers, and increase capital access through agricultural lending to Native CDFIs.



**22 FLOWER HILL INSTITUTE – JEMEZ PUEBLO, NM • (\$74,937)**

Flower Hill Institute is a Native-owned, community-driven nonprofit supporting strong, stable tribal communities. With NAAF funding, Flower Hill will develop the Indigenous Farmer and Rancher Association to serve Native producers by creating opportunities for the revitalization of traditional practices in concert with scientific knowledge, peer networking and young farmer mentorship.



**23 FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA – CLOQUET, MN • (\$75,000)**

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been providing agricultural outreach and education programs for its community through the Bimaaji'idiwin Program since 1995. With NAAF funding, Fond du Lac will develop an Agriculture Resource Management Plan (ARMP) through a community-led strategic visioning process.



**24 FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND – EAGLE BUTTE, SD • (\$200,000)**

Four Bands Community Fund has a long history of helping Native entrepreneurs, including farmers and ranchers, start and grow businesses. With NAAF funding, Four Bands will offer loan capital, equity bundles and customized assistance to Native producers and pilot a two-generation integrated entrepreneurial and asset-building program to promote sustainable transition.





**25 HEALTHY FUTURES — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$73,615)**

Healthy Futures partners with community-based organizations to provide agricultural education, business management and technical assistance in Native areas. With NAAF funding, Healthy Futures will organize an extensive curriculum of agricultural workshops targeting 25 Native farmers and 165 Native families in the Torreon and Ojo Encino Chapters of the Navajo Nation.



**26 HOCHUNK COMMUNITY CAPITAL — WINNEBAGO, NE • (\$182,704)**

HoChunk Community Capital (HCCC), a Native CDFI serving the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, supports tribal food sovereignty initiatives. With NAAF funding, HCCC will start the HoChunk Harvest Native Business incubator project, recruiting 30 Native agriculture and food entrepreneurs to launch their businesses with start-up capital and mentoring.



**27 INDIAN LAND TENURE FOUNDATION — LITTLE CANADA, MN • (\$186,489)**

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is a national, community-based organization serving Native American nations and people in the recovery and control of their rightful homelands. With NAAF funding, ILTF will lead the development of the National Tribal Land Agriculture Database, enabling quantification and assessment of alienated agricultural land on Native economies.



**28 INDIAN NATIONS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE — TWIN BRIDGES, MT • (\$60,000)**

Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) helps tribes, tribal conservation districts and Native producers care for the land. With NAAF funding, INCA will tackle the barriers restricting Native participation in NRCS programs, work to restore irrigated lands to production, provide agricultural credit training and support the development of Agriculture Resource Management Plans.



**29 INTER-TRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL — RAPID CITY, SD • (\$75,000)**

Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) has been supporting Native farmers and ranchers by restoring buffalo to tribal lands for nearly 30 years. With NAAF funding, ITBC will develop long-term tools and trainings designed to help tribal buffalo producers capture value-added agriculture opportunities to produce revenue streams for continued herd growth.



**30 INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL — BILLINGS, MT • (\$275,495)**

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) has served Native farmers and ranchers for more than 30 years through regionalized technical assistance and policy advocacy. With NAAF funding, IAC will build on their American Indian Foods program by formalizing a domestic market access process to connect Native producers with business opportunities.



**31 KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY — BARAGA, MI • (\$75,000)**

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) promotes treaty rights fishing, gardening and harvesting of traditional foods in the Lake Superior region. With NAAF funding, KBIC will establish an integrated community food sovereignty system by constructing a food safety certified fish processing facility and using fish byproducts to expand organic vegetable production.



**32 KLAMATH TRINITY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT — HOOPA, CA • (\$75,000)**

Klamath Trinity Resource Conservation District (KTRCD) seeks to maintain traditional ecological knowledge for the next generations of Native people. With NAAF funding, KTRCD will host workshops for at least 160 participants on proper techniques of gathering and preserving local traditional foods obtained through hunting, fishing and harvesting.



**33 LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP — L'ANSE, MI • (\$250,000)**

Lake Superior Community Development Corp (LSCDC) extends credit and financial literacy training to Native people, including farmers and ranchers, throughout Michigan. With NAAF funding, LSCDC will deploy loan capital to meet demonstrated agricultural lending needs and provide business training and tax preparation for Native producers.



**34 LAKOTA FUNDS — KYLE, SD • (\$400,000)**

Lakota Funds, a Native CDFI serving the Oglala Lakota Tribe on Pine Ridge Reservation, has supported Native farmers and ranchers through business lending, coaching and training since 1986. With NAAF funding, Lakota Funds will provide comprehensive financial support for large-scale, full-time ranching operations and develop a youth livestock lending program.



**35 LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY — MORTON, MN • (\$49,775)**

Lower Sioux Indian Community, located in the heart of Minnesota's row crop farmland, is working to generate agricultural interest and economic development among its tribal population. With NAAF funding, Lower Sioux will conduct an industrial hemp production feasibility study to evaluate potential for a processing facility and hempcrete operation.



**36 LUMMI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION — BELLINGHAM, WA • (\$150,000)**

Lummi CDFI offers a trusted place for tribal members considering entrepreneurship, building a business, and/or strengthening their credit by providing access to education, financing and asset growth. With NAAF funding, Lummi CDFI will offer technical assistance and financial tools specifically to Native fishers, divers and harvesters of seafood products.





Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation



Modoc Nation



37 MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION – MASHANTUCKET, CT • (\$43,443)

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN) sponsors the Sugar Shack, a maple syrup production drawing from their traditional food ways and providing economic development. With NAAF funding, MPTN will launch an e-commerce website, expand distribution to tribally owned enterprises, invest in maple syrup marketing materials and increase youth engagement.

38 MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE – MASHPEE, MA • (\$74,989)

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MWT) has a long legacy of harvesting traditional shellfish and promoting food sovereignty. With NAAF funding, MWT will employ a full-time farmer to expand production on Maushop Farm, partner with local education organizations for business training and invite youth to participate in their agricultural heritage.

39 MODOC NATION – MIAMI, OK • (\$142,620)

The Modoc Nation has provided Native bison ranchers with hands-on job training, agricultural education and technical assistance over the past 20 years. With NAAF funding, the tribe will teach cultivation of fish and plants in controlled environment agriculture, work to reclaim traditional food knowledge and conduct a hemp production analysis.

40 MURRAY STATE COLLEGE – TISHOMINGO, OK • (\$75,000)

Murray State College (MSC) – located in the heart of the Chickasaw Nation – is a two-year college providing a wide variety of degree programs to southeastern Oklahoma students. With NAAF funding, MSC will launch a new course on agricultural financial literacy and provide scholarships to Native students in agriculture degree programs.

41 MVSKOKE LOAN FUND – OKMULGEE, OK • (\$200,000)

Mvskoke Loan Fund (MLF), a Native CDFI, provides access to credit through lending capital to Native producers in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's territory. With NAAF funding, MLF will increase lending to farms, ranches and agribusinesses while hosting several technical assistance sessions centered on business planning.

42 NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY – TAHLEQUAH, OK • (\$69,699)

Northeastern State University's (NSU) Center for Tribal Affairs has a unique history of providing cultural programming within the higher education setting. With NAAF funding, NSU will pilot two workshops and an intensive residential seminar to provide training in restorative agriculture through permaculture design, emphasizing traditional and Indigenous practices.



43 NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD – PORTLAND, OR • (\$150,000)

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) has a long history of working collaboratively with the 43 Northwest tribes, especially on projects and initiatives directly involving Native farmers and ranchers. With NAAF funding, NPAIHB will focus on increasing organizational capacity and providing agricultural education and business assistance to Native producers.

44 NUMU ALLOTTEE ASSOCIATION – MADRAS, OR • (\$30,000)

Numu Allottee Association (NAA) is a Native nonprofit providing advocacy training and economic empowerment to recipients of public domain allotments. With NAAF funding, NAA will initiate the Three Sisters Project to accelerate change toward healthier lifestyles through seasonal food gathering, Indigenous language revival and supplemental food access for youth.

45 OHE.LAKU, AMONG THE CORNSTALKS – DE PERE, WI • (\$24,416)

Ohe.laku is a membership organization preserving culture by growing ancestral seeds such as corn, beans and squash through traditional methods. With NAAF funding, Ohe.laku will introduce youth from the Oneida area to the annual growing cycle of white corn and give them a greater appreciation for traditional foods.

46 OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION – STILLWATER, OK • (\$50,000)

Oklahoma State University (OSU) has the distinction of graduating more Native students than any other land grant university in the nation. With NAAF funding, the OSU Foundation will incentivize Native agricultural students to expand their knowledge of commodity futures markets, financial futures and options markets through targeted scholarships.

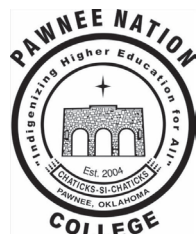
47 OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY – WARM SPRINGS, OR • (\$24,433)

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service has worked with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for more than 50 years to share agricultural information with tribal members. With NAAF funding, OSU – Warm Springs will facilitate a youth agricultural council focused on tribal agriculture, leadership development and policy creation.

48 OWENS VALLEY INDIAN WATER COMMISSION – BISHOP, CA • (\$74,850)

Owens Valley Indian Water Commission (OVIWC) works closely and cooperatively with Payahuunadü Tribes on increasing Indigenous farming and ranching in the Owens Valley and Eastern Sierra. With NAAF funding, OVIWC will bolster food sovereignty efforts by hosting fruit tree grafting workshops and expanding the Bishop Tribal Elder's community garden.





**49 PAWNEE NATION COLLEGE — PAWNEE, OK • (\$203,563)**

Pawnee Nation College (PNC) seeks to meet the higher educational and cultural needs of the Pawnee Nation, other Indian nations and the surrounding communities. With NAAF funding, PNC will provide scholarships to Native agricultural students, organize Master Gardener classes, and conduct a hemp manufacturing research and analysis program.



**50 QUAPAW SERVICES AUTHORITY — QUAPAW, OK • (\$124,630)**

Quapaw Services Authority (QSA) has a strong record of agricultural enterprise development, leading the nation by building the first tribally owned meat processing plant. With NAAF funding, QSA will develop tutorials and a supply rental program for food preservation, establish a seed bank and provide agricultural internships to Native youth.



**51 RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA — BAYFIELD, WI • (\$75,000)**

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe promotes food sovereignty in its homelands along the Lake Superior shoreline. With NAAF funding, Red Cliff will increase production at Mino Bimaadiziwin Farm by constructing a new production and engagement facility and market farm produce through the commercial fish retail facility.



**52 RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS — RED LAKE, MN • (\$100,000)**

Red Lake Nation's economic base is tied to its land and fisheries. With NAAF funding, Red Lake Nation will partner with the Waasabiik Ojibwemotaadiwin Immersion Program on youth agricultural engagement and study the feasibility of hemp production on the reservation for animal feed, human grade consumption and building materials.



**53 RED WILLOW CENTER — SAN LUIS, CO • (\$90,224)**

Red Willow Center works to reclaim the agricultural heritage of Taos Pueblo and to restore its traditional food systems. With NAAF funding, Red Willow Center will provide business assistance to the Red Willow Farmers Market and technical support to existing farmers, while also developing an internship program for community youth.



**54 ROSEBUD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — MISSION, SD • (\$400,395)**

Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) provides services to Sicangu Lakota Oyate farmers and ranchers. With NAAF funding, REDCO will make agricultural loans to producers, train beginning farmers through an incubator farm, study organic industrial hemp production and determine viability for a USDA-certified meat processing facility.



**55 ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE — LUMBERTON, NC • (\$136,778)**

Robeson Community College (RCC) is located in rural southeastern North Carolina, a region with a rich agricultural heritage and vibrant Native population. With NAAF funding, RCC will offer scholarships to students interested in agriculture careers and provide continuing education classes for farmers, ranchers and growers looking to promote their businesses.



**56 ROCK HOUSE PROJECT — ZUNI, NM • (\$75,000)**

Rock House Project is focused on maintaining and protecting the agrarian culture and the physical and spiritual landscape of the Zuni people. With NAAF funding, Rock House Project will serve Zuni farmers and ranchers through a community-wide needs assessment survey, participatory meetings and business plan development trainings.



**57 SAC AND FOX NATION — STROUD, OK • (\$100,000)**

Sac and Fox Nation manages a Black Angus cattle herd. With NAAF funding, Sac and Fox will seek to diversify its operation by researching the feasibility of a livestock processing facility and sponsor youth engagement through travel scholarships for national agricultural programs.



**58 SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE — AKWESASNE, NY • (\$75,000)**

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) agriculture program exists to promote a healthier lifestyle for the Akwesasne community through growth of its own food. With NAAF funding, SRMT will obtain architectural and engineering plans for a teaching farm facility on tribal lands designed to engage future generations in agriculture.



**59 SAN FELIPE PUEBLO — SAN FELIPE PUEBLO, NM • (\$75,000)**

The San Felipe Pueblo provides numerous services to community farmers including field preparation, seeding, cutting, baling, irrigation maintenance and water rights advocacy. With NAAF funding, the San Felipe Pueblo will conduct a feasibility study to assess value-added agricultural opportunities on Pueblo farmland and organize a young farmer mentoring program.



**60 SAN XAVIER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION — TUCSON, AZ • (\$55,000)**

The San Xavier Cooperative Association's (SXCA) mission emphasizes the respect of land, elders, animals, plants and sacredness of water. With NAAF funding, SXCA will investigate the potential for industrial hemp production in the area through testing agronomic conditions, studying economic feasibility, developing harvesting protocols and establishing relationships with market partners.





**61 SAN XAVIER DISTRICT OF TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION – TUCSON, AZ • (\$75,000)**

San Xavier District is focused on increasing access to fresh, healthy food in its community by promoting agricultural production. With NAAF funding, San Xavier District will develop a local food marketplace that celebrates traditional foods and opens the door for business opportunities through Native farmer and rancher outreach and education.



**62 SENECA NATION OF INDIANS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY – SALAMANCA, NY • (\$200,000)**

Seneca Nation of Indians Economic Development Company (SNIEDC), a certified Native CDFI, provides loan products and services to Seneca members. With NAAF funding, SNIEDC will start the Agriculture Micro-Lending Incentive Loan Program to provide low-interest, agriculture-related lending and specialized business planning to Native farmers and ranchers.



**63 SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA – SITKA, AK • (\$74,029)**

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA), situated in southeast Alaska, serves its population through harvesting, processing, and distributing traditional foods such as salmon, deer and seal. With NAAF funding, STA will expand its existing efforts by hiring a traditional foods assistant, upgrading harvesting equipment and providing new food choices.



**64 SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE – IGNACIO, CO • (\$70,970)**

Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) provides a variety of agricultural services to tribal members including market information, weed management and irrigated cropland rehabilitation. With NAAF funding, SUIT will organize a regional hemp symposium for farmers and business owners interested in this new market opportunity.



**65 SPRUCE ROOT – JUNEAU, AK • (\$139,230)**

Spruce Root provides services to Alaska Native food producers in the form of loans and business planning. With NAAF funding, Spruce Root will start a food business program for diverse social enterprises based on ethically harvesting wild edible and medicinal forest products and host a convening for participants to network.



**66 STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE COMMUNITY – BOWLER, WI • (\$66,538)**

Stockbridge-Munsee Community (SMC) provides education and resources to community members interested in agriculture and grows food to build food sovereignty throughout the community. With NAAF funding, SMC will construct a wash-and-pack facility to help Native producers capture more value from their agricultural products.



**67 SUQUAMISH INDIAN TRIBE – SUQUAMISH, WA • (\$75,000)**

Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Indian Reservation invests heavily in fishery and environmental programs that are central to their cultural ways. With NAAF funding, Suquamish will purchase an oyster scow (boat) to diversify the tribe's seafood business and lead to greater financial security for tribal shellfish harvesters.



**68 SWINOMISH TRIBE – LA CONNER, WA • (\$74,304)**

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, a Coast Salish treaty tribe, is committed to preserving and promoting traditional foods. With NAAF funding, Swinomish Tribe will work to increase access to camas – a perennial plant important to Coast Salish people – by developing a viable strategy for camas bulb production on tribal farmland.



**69 TANKA FUND – KYLE, SD • (\$75,000)**

Tanka Fund's goal is to convert 1 million acres of virgin prairie to regenerative agriculture built around a buffalo-based economy. With NAAF funding, Tanka Fund will provide technical assistance to Native buffalo ranchers to create ranch plans, access financing opportunities and explore the value-added agricultural market.



**70 THE KOHALA CENTER – KAMUELA, HI • (\$125,000)**

The Kohala Center has been engaged in agribusiness assistance, adult and youth agriculture education, and farmer training programs since 2011. With NAAF funding, the Kohala Center will offer technical assistance and business training to Native Hawaiian producers and increase consumption of traditional foods through agricultural education.



**71 THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MESA, AZ • (\$75,000)**

The National Center for American Indian Economic Development (NCAIED) is the largest national Native-specific business organization in the U.S. with 40 years of experience. With NAAF funds, NCAIED will address Native agricultural business needs by facilitating access to capital, offering workshops, providing coaching and providing access to online development programs.



**72 THE PEOPLES PARTNER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – LAME DEER, MT • (\$200,000)**

The Peoples Partner for Community Development (PPCD) is a certified Native CDFI serving tribal members on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. With NAAF funding, PPCD will expand lending capacity and credit builder loan programming and increase the availability of financial education for Native farmers and ranchers.





**73 TOLANI LAKE ENTERPRISES – WINSLOW, AZ • (\$75,000)**

Tolani Lake Enterprises (TLE) is dedicated to strengthening agricultural Navajo and Hopi communities in the Little Colorado River watershed. With NAAF funds, TLE will complete workshops on sheep care, wool processing, traditional and modern meat processing, and product marketing, and create 20 new producers through a sheep gifting program.



**74 UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES – NASHVILLE, TN • (\$75,000)**

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is an intertribal organization supporting 27 federally recognized tribes from Maine to Florida to Texas. With NAAF funds, USET will study the existing tribal agricultural programs in their area and propose a model for expansion that incorporates feedback from Native producers and other stakeholders.



**75 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE – PEMBROKE, NC • (\$125,000)**

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) – located in the territory of the Lumbee Tribe – helps small businesses start and grow. With NAAF funding, UNCP will increase education for Native producers, study industrial hemp production, and develop a summer outreach program for youth exploring careers in farming and agribusiness.



**76 UTAH DINÉ BIKÉYAH – SALT LAKE CITY, UT • (\$75,000)**

Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) is a nonprofit organization that supports Indigenous communities in protecting ancestral lands. With NAAF funds, UDB will deliver technical assistance to upscale the production of traditional Four Corners potatoes, and facilitate the funding and planning of community gardens.



**77 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY – LOGAN, UT • (\$57,628)**

Utah State University's (USU) Eastern campus – located 30 miles north of Navajo lands – serves a student base that is 70% Native American. With NAAF funds, USU will help students learn about educational options in agriculture and develop agricultural career plans while increasing the number of Native college students overall.



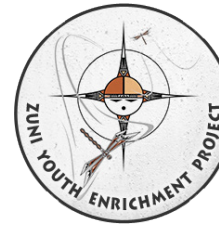
**78 WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY – NESPELEM, WA • (\$100,000)**

Washington State University (WSU) provides research-based outreach education to Native agricultural producers and residents of the Colville Indian Reservation. With NAAF funding, WSU will develop community demonstration gardens, teach food safety certification classes and invest in their 4-H program to increase youth interest in agriculture.



**79 WISCONSIN TRIBAL CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL – GILLET, WI • (\$74,963)**

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) is a nonprofit organization that provides the 11 tribes in Wisconsin opportunities to achieve conservation-oriented goals. With NAAF funding, WTCAC will provide technical assistance and trainings to improve food systems, increase producer knowledge, enhance food sovereignty, and involve youth in agriculture.



**80 ZUNI YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROJECT – ZUNI, NM • (\$25,000)**

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (ZYEP) recruits Zuni children to learn about their culture and history. With NAAF funding, ZYEP will embark on “Common Ground in Youth Agriculture,” a proposal to support new Zuni farmers by providing agriculture learning opportunities, supporting intergenerational connections and empowering youth-led solutions to water scarcity.



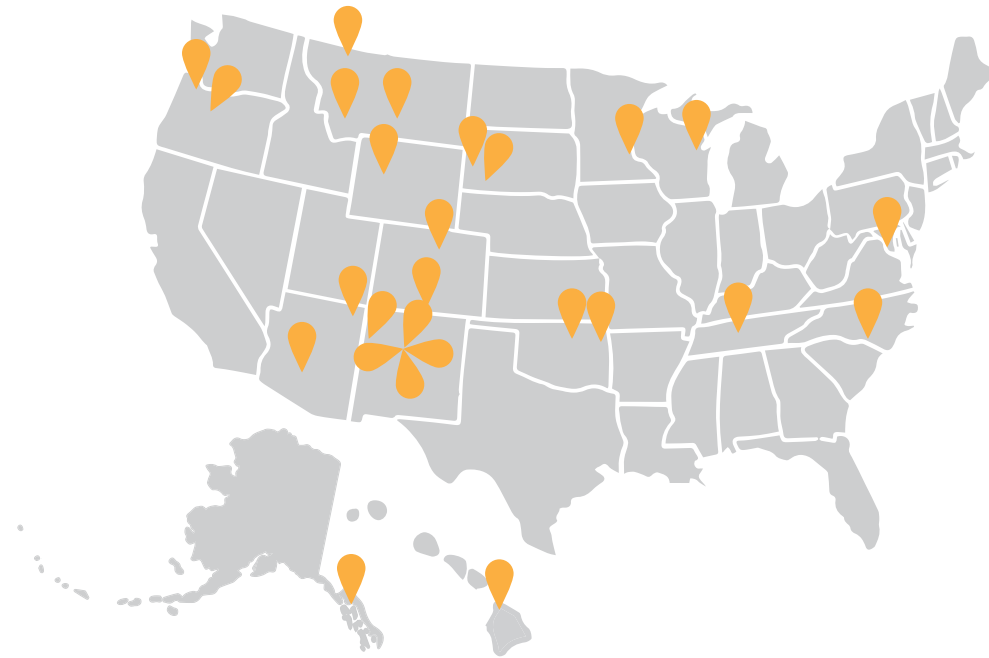
“The 2019 grants demonstrate the organization's ability to get funding to the many issues associated with Indian agriculture. We will persevere in this effort for years to come!”

– Ross Racine (Blackfeet), NAAF Board Member and former Executive Director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council



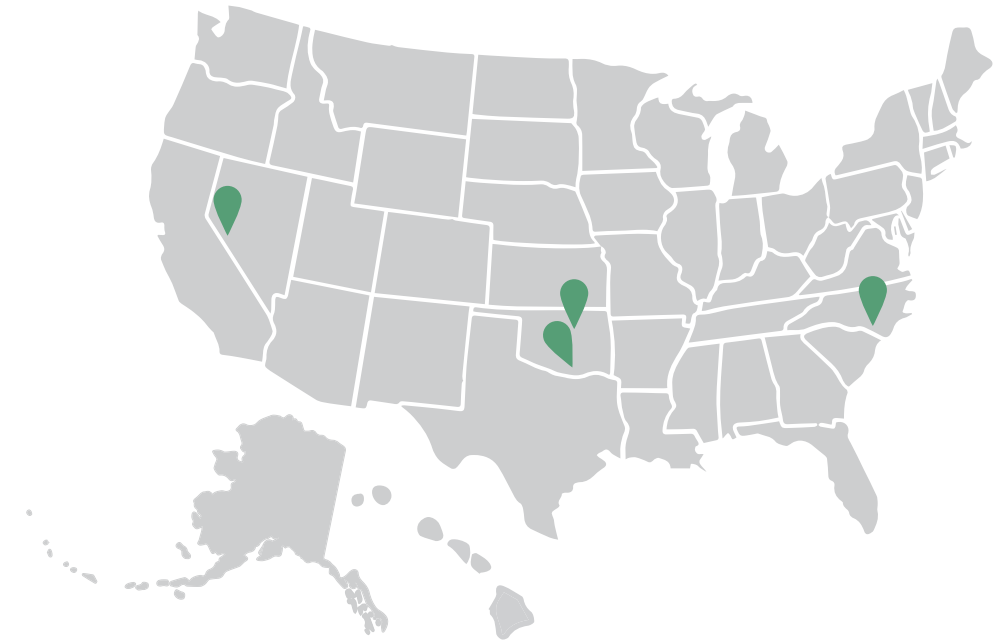
## 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATIONS

Providing services to support Native farmers' and ranchers' continued agricultural involvement



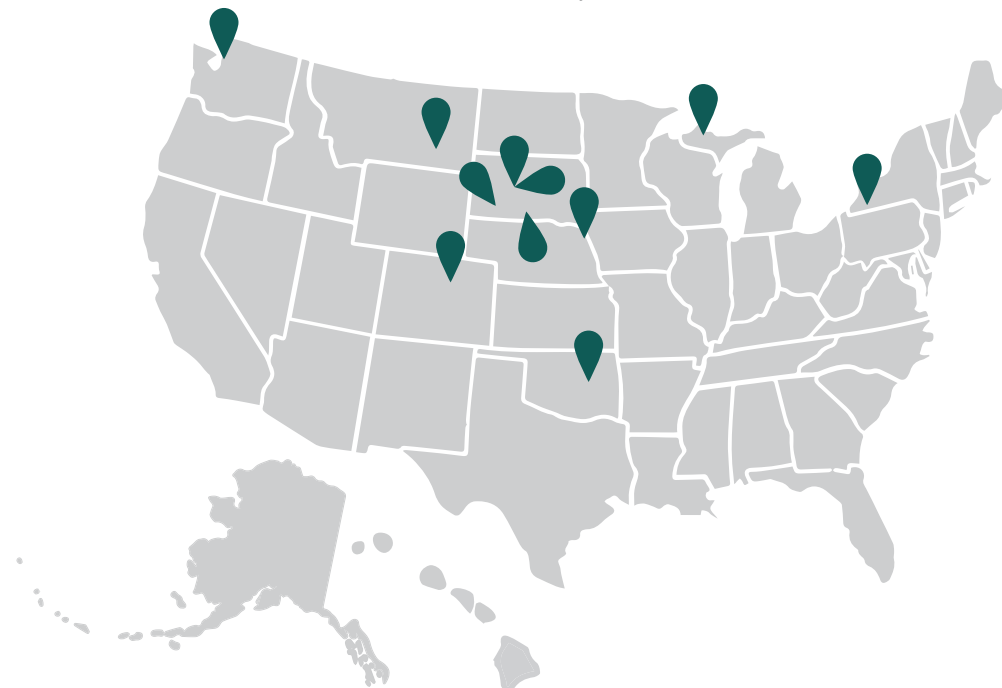
## EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Conducting advanced agricultural business classroom training for producers



## CDFI'S

Financing agricultural and food production in Indian Country



## TRIBES

Promoting value-added agricultural development enterprises as a key to Native economic development





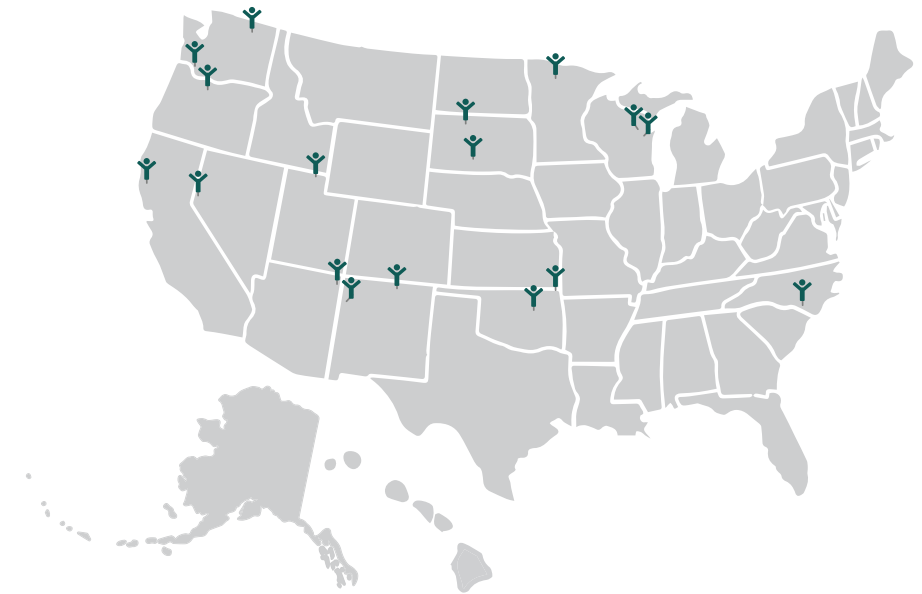
## TRADITIONAL FOODS & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Supporting community-led efforts to increase access to traditional foods and bolster Indigenous food sovereignty



## YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Mobilizing Native youth to be leaders in agriculture



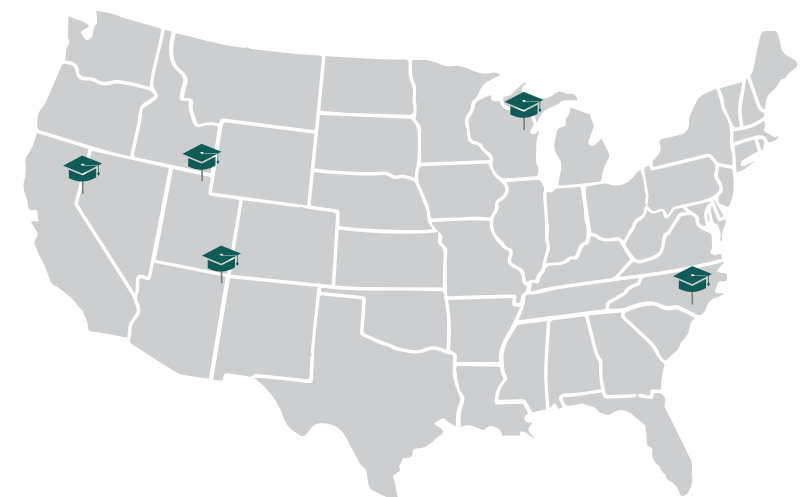
## HEMP FEASIBILITY

Exploring opportunities for the emerging industrial hemp sector as a component of the overall Native agriculture economy



## AG SCIENCES

Sponsoring Native scholars to pursue agriculture degrees



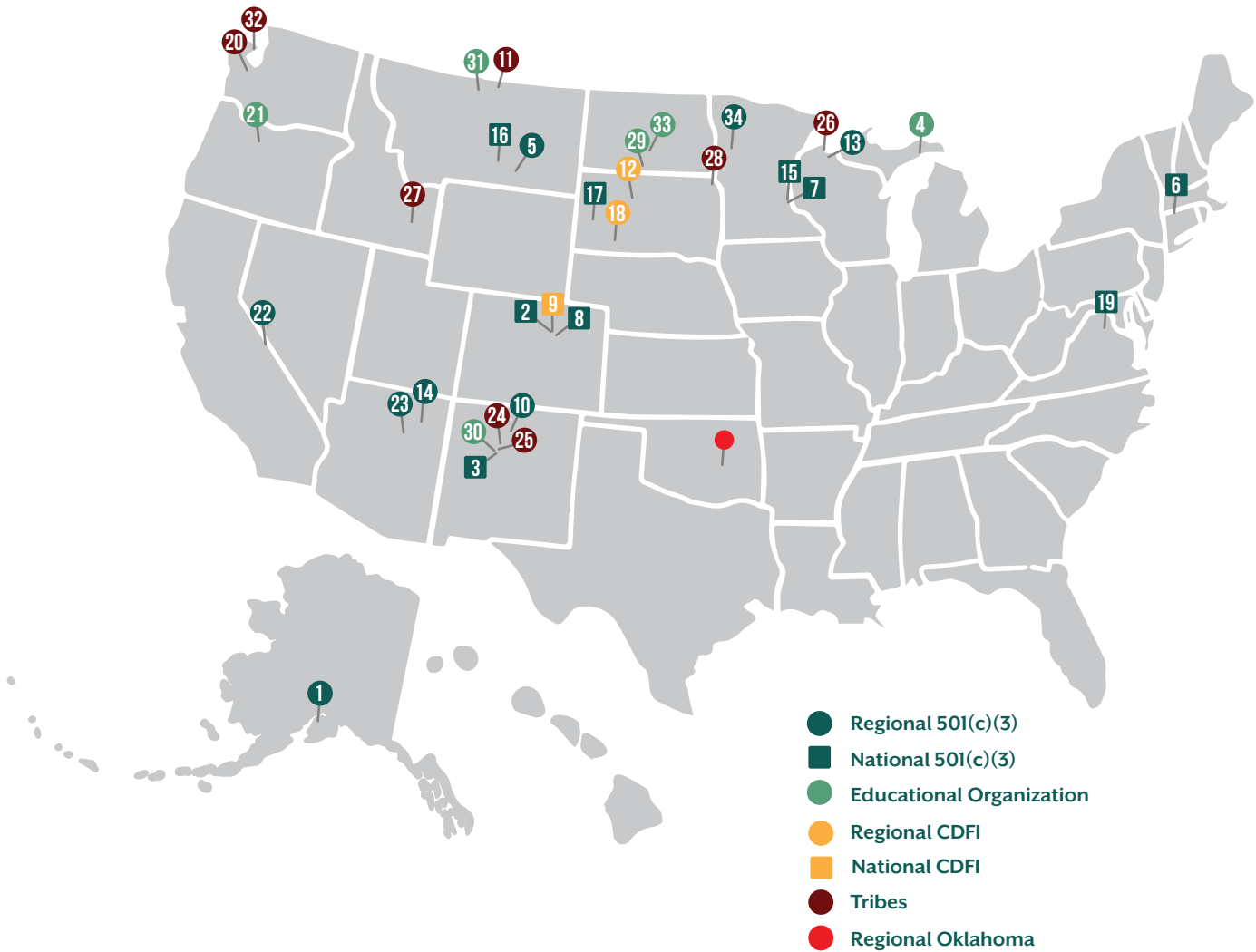




## FUNDING HEALTHY LANDS, HEALTHY PEOPLE AND HEALTHY ECONOMIES

As a part of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class action lawsuit, \$38 million in Native American Agriculture Fast Track Fund grants were awarded in 2018 before the creation of NAAF. Thirty-four tribes and organizations from across the country were selected to receive this funding, designed to support efforts to build stronger foundations for Native agriculture development over the course of two years. Below is a map outlining the 34 dynamic entities that received this funding.

With no Fast Track grantees located in Oklahoma, the Court asked Intertribal Agriculture Council and First Nations Development Institute to focus on that area.





# LEADERS IN NATIVE AGRICULTURE: FAST TRACK GRANTEES



## 1 ALASKA VILLAGE INITIATIVES — ANCHORAGE, AK • (\$1.5 MILLION)

Alaska Village Initiatives is a nonprofit that advocates for Alaska Native people and Native Alaskan villages in federal legislation and providing loans to agriculture producers. Fast Track funding supported the creation of the Alaska Native Outreach and Assistance Project, which is engaged in providing project grants and capacity building, technical assistance and statewide outreach activities.



## 2 AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND — DENVER, CO • (\$824,000)

The American Indian College Fund provides scholarships and other support for Native American college students, administering more than 200 scholarship and career readiness programs for students at all educational stages. Fast Track funding supported the Keepseagle Native American Fellowship for Future Farmers and Ranchers for 40 Native American students studying farming and agriculture-related fields at land-grant institutions.



## 3 AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$714,508)

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) exposes Native students and their parents to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in K-12 and higher education, as well as partnering with other organizations to conduct research within STEM in Native communities. Fast Track funding supported the development of the Advancing Agricultural Science Opportunities for Native Americans program, and was used to fund agricultural research for students, as well as for students and professional mentors to travel to conferences and participate in AISES programs.



## 4 BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE — BAY MILLS TOWNSHIP, MI • (\$298,503)

Bay Mills Community College focuses on sustainable agriculture and food systems, health promotion, recruiting and retention, and community development, in addition to operating Waishkey Bay Farm, a 40-acre training, research and incubator facility focusing on sustainable agriculture and food production that is consistent with traditional Anishinaabe values. Fast Track funding allowed the college's Land-Grant Department to increase the capacity of program staff, purchase new equipment for Waishkey Bay Farm, add classes, and establish a mentorship program, demonstration projects, workshops, internships and a summer youth experience.



## 5 CENTER POLE — GARRYOWEN, MT • (\$343,652)

Center Pole is a Native-led organization on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana that fosters food sovereignty by promoting a healthy community through an elder and youth mentorship program, restoring a Native food economy, and heritage and language education. Fast Track funding allowed the organization to expand its work and purchase a truck, tools, and small equipment so community members – young and old – can have hands-on learning opportunities centered around farming.



## 6 FARM AID — CAMBRIDGE, MA • (\$219,285)

Farm Aid supports family farmers and ranchers through emergency and organizational grants, runs the country's only national farmer hotline, maintains a Farmer Resource Network, facilitates a Farm Advocate Network and operates a Family Farm Disaster Fund. Fast Track funding allowed Farm Aid to create a new program that will establish a Native American Advisory Board and provide advocacy training in 2020 within Native communities.



## 7 FARMERS' LEGAL ACTION GROUP — SAINT PAUL, MN • (\$692,213)

The Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG) is a national nonprofit law firm that provides legal services to family farmers and their communities, in addition to operating a national legal hotline, analyzing policy, and participating in impact litigation. Fast Track funding allowed FLAG to establish a Native American Agricultural Law Center, which will expand legal services to Native American farmers and ranchers and the advocates who serve them.



## 8 FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE — LONGMONT, CO • (\$7 MILLION)

The First Nations Development Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides grants for economic development projects and technical assistance in Native communities. First Nations used Fast Track funding to create a \$5 million endowment to support its agricultural grant program. Because no Oklahoma projects received cy pres funds, First Nations committed to giving 15% of grants to projects in Oklahoma. Additional Fast Track funding was used to provide technical assistance to grantees and to build the capacity of Native food producers through trainings and scholarships.



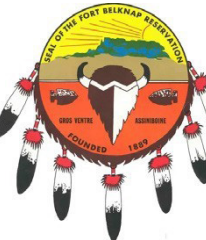
## 9 FIRST NATIONS OWEESTA CORPORATION — LONGMONT, CO • (\$1.5 MILLION)

The First Nations OWEESTA Corporation is the only Native-based Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) intermediary providing technical assistance, financial support, training and related services to Native CDFIs across the country. Fast Track funding supported OWEESTA's Native Fresh Food Fund (increased loan capital), capacity building (including a new webinar series), and annual Capital Access convenings.



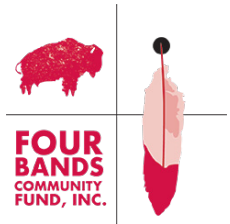
## 10 FLOWERING TREE PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE — SANTA CLARA PUEBLO, NM • (\$184,236)

The Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute in New Mexico teaches classes on holistic techniques and methods of healthy agriculture and farming-based lifestyles. Fast Track funding expanded its training programs in traditional agriculture and funded a retreat center and campground where people can stay and learn about traditional agriculture methods.



## 11 FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTANA — HARLEM, MT • (\$399,574)

The Fort Belknap Indian Community operates a revolving loan fund for tribal members and established the Nakoda Aaniih Credit Agency to better coordinate tribal government support for agriculture. Fast Track funding went toward hiring an agribusiness resource liaison within the Farm and Ranch Services Bureau that helps farmers and ranchers better understand agriculture finance, as well as supported the Tribe's revolving loan fund.



**12** **FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND — EAGLE BUTTE, SD • (\$350,097)**

The Four Bands Community Fund is a Native Community Development Financial Institution active on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota that deploys loans to Cheyenne River tribal members and Native Americans in South Dakota. Fast Track funding provided support for a pilot program combining business development and financial literacy coursework with technical assistance and capital for agricultural loans.



**13** **GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION — ODANAH, WI • (\$147,637)**

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) serves 11 Ojibwe Tribes with natural resource management, conservation enforcement and policy advocacy. Fast Track funding helped build tribal capacity for small-scale food processing and community food systems through technical assistance, new processing equipment, a needs assessment survey by the commission, and development of Mino Wiisinidaa, a cookbook with recipes gathered from elders.



**14** **THE HOPI FOUNDATION — KYKOTSMOVI VILLAGE, AZ • (\$1 MILLION)**

The Hopi Foundation is a Native-led nonprofit that created the Natwani Coalition, which preserves and strengthens the healthy food system and agriculture traditions of the Hopi and Tewa people. Fast Track funding supported two community grant programs following traditional agricultural calendars that promote sustainable agriculture, increase availability of fresh produce, support the growth and preservation of local food production, and restore food self-sufficiency.



**15** **INDIAN LAND TENURE FOUNDATION — LITTLE CANADA, MN • (\$2.2 MILLION)**

The Indian Land Tenure Foundation (ILTF) is a Native-led national foundation which works to restore Native American land to the control of Native Americans. Fast Track funding supported ILTF's regranting of \$1.4 million to Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Programs and allowed for the creation of wills and estate documents for Native American farmers and ranchers, Native landowner trainings, and co-owner management meetings.



**16** **INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL — BILLINGS, MT • (\$8.9 MILLION)**

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) is a nonprofit established by Congress to address and provide solutions to the barriers facing Native American farmers and ranchers. Fast Track funding supported the creation of Akiptan, a nationwide Community Development Financial Institution to provide agricultural investments, grantmaking to Native youth and the formation of an endowment to support the organization's work. Funding also allowed IAC to hire an additional technical assistance specialist in Oklahoma.



**17** **INTERTRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL — RAPID CITY, SD • (\$1 MILLION)**

The Intertribal Buffalo Council is a federally chartered Native organization committed to restoring bison to tribal lands. Fast Track funding was used for its Herd Development Grant program, supporting applications related to the business of buffalo ranching, as well as supporting prairie restoration, corral maintenance, and infrastructure improvement such as handling facilities and outdoor classrooms, and supported cultural revitalization programs and scientific research.



**18** **LAKOTA FUNDS — KYLE, SD • (\$2.6 MILLION)**

Lakota Funds is a Native-led Community Development Financial Institution that provides loans, training and technical assistance to support ag-related businesses and promote sustainable gardening businesses. Fast Track funding supported new agriculture business opportunities for Oglala Sioux tribal members and Native American farmers, ranchers and gardeners across the region, as well as hiring a dedicated agriculture loan officer, setting up an agriculture lending advisory group, and providing loans and business trainings.



**19** **NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS — WASHINGTON, D.C. • (\$388,941)**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest and largest organization serving the interests of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and communities. Fast Track funding supported the launch of a Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative, which will develop a substantial, in-depth report on how to improve the administration of and access to federal land and agriculture programs for Native farmers and ranchers.



**20** **NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE — OLYMPIA, WA • (\$514,234)**

Located in Washington, the Nisqually Tribe's traditional agricultural activities revolve around salmon fishing. Fast Track funding will help improve its existing hatchery and develop a facility to establish a new fishery area on another creek. An engineering firm is currently designing the hatchery expansion with modern water treatment technology.



**21** **OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, WARM SPRINGS EXTENSION — WARM SPRINGS, OR • (\$370,266)**

Oregon State University has a long history of working with farmers and ranchers from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Fast Track funding helped create Growing the Next Gen: Strengthening Tribal Agriculture, a new program for tribal members interested in beginning a small-scale agricultural endeavor. This program will include an online course through Oregon State, disperse start up grants, support students who procure a USDA Farm Service Agency youth loan with up to a 100% loan match and updated equipment at the Warm Springs Tribal Farm.



**22** **OWENS VALLEY INDIAN WATER COMMISSION — BISHOP, CA • (\$428,720)**

The Owens Valley Indian Water Commission is a consortium of three Tribes in California – the Bishop, Big Pine and Lone Pine Paiute Tribes. Fast Track funding provided hands-on training, technical assistance, regranting and equipment purchases for individual Native American farmers and ranchers, as well as funds going toward repairing a half-mile of irrigation pipeline on the Big Pine reservation and enabling Native youth to participate in local 4-H programs.





## 23 PAINTED DESERT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS — FLAGSTAFF, AZ • (\$263,278)

Painted Desert Demonstration Projects is a nonprofit that runs the STAR charter school and supports North Loop Family farms (a tribally run cooperative farm) and the Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Project. Fast Track funding helped create a North American Regional Food Hub on the Tribe's reservation, funded new Waterbox purification systems and supported a program for Hopi youth to apprentice with traditional farmers.

## 24 PUEBLO OF SAN FELIPE — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$239,880)

Agriculture has played an important role in everyday life for the Pueblo of San Felipe in New Mexico. Fast Track funding helped the Pueblo expand and improve its agriculture program by hiring a new program coordinator, provide new fencing for individual farmers, seed Native grasses, construct wells and install new solar pumps for watering stations, and provide summer internships to youth.

## 25 PUEBLO OF SANDIA — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$363,900)

The Pueblo of Sandia in New Mexico has a tribal culture deeply rooted in irrigated agricultural practices and growing traditional foods. Fast Track funding helped the Pueblo rehabilitate on-farm concrete irrigation ditches, which will upgrade approximately 20 miles of on-farm water delivery infrastructure.

## 26 RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS — BAYFIELD, WI • (\$595,000)

Commercial fishing is the cornerstone of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians' reservation economy in Wisconsin, but it had failed to meet its economic potential. Fast Track funding helped Red Cliff build a fish processing facility and supported them in leveraging additional funding with grant applications submitted to the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program.

## 27 SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES — FORT HALL, ID • (\$317,545)

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho have a 549,000-acre land base, of which 445,000 acres is dedicated to farming and ranching. Fast Track support helped them fund the design, engineering and architecture of their new Land Use Resource Range and Agriculture Complex, which will include classrooms, lab space, community outreach programs, technical assistance, permitting and licensing to encourage more tribal members to farm and ranch on their land base.

## 28 SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE — AGENCY VILLAGE, SD • (\$627,785)

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe of South Dakota is in the process of developing an incubator farm to assist tribal members in launching their own farms. Fast Track funding went toward this farm incubator program with seven one-acre plots to train interns and new producers as they produce food, share equipment, develop their markets, and learn from mentor farmers, agriculture professionals and each other.



## 29 SITTING BULL COLLEGE — FORT YATES, ND • (\$549,396)

Sitting Bull College is a tribal college that serves the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. Fast Track funding supported the creation of a Shared Equipment Program that allows the college to purchase and maintain agricultural equipment, which it can then rent to Standing Rock Sioux tribal members.

## 30 SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE — ALBUQUERQUE, NM • (\$1.5 MILLION)

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute is a land-grant college operated by the Bureau of Indian Education. Fast Track funding supported three projects that create a nexus of agriculture resources for the college, including shifting the focus of the Land Grant Office to sustainable agriculture, converting the existing greenhouse into an Agricultural Training Complex, and creating an Indian Food Hub to actively manage the marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

## 31 STONE CHILD COLLEGE — BONEAU, MT • (\$188,804)

Stone Child College is a tribal college serving the Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana. Fast Track funding helped them develop a new one-year Agricultural Technician Certificate training program and support the purchase of a tractor, swather and baler to share with small producers on the reservation.

## 32 SUQUAMISH INDIAN TRIBE — SUQUAMISH, WA • (\$400,000)

The Suquamish Indian Tribe, located in the Pacific Northwest, owns Suquamish Seafood Enterprises and works with neighboring Tribes to manage their resources and ensure they are sustainably harvesting seafood in the Puget Sound. Fast Track funding supported the purchase of a new dive boat that allows tribal members to harvest geoduck clams for domestic consumption and export. The vessel will sustain the Tribe for up to 30 years.

## 33 UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE — BISMARCK, ND • (\$821,225)

United Tribes Technical College is a tribal college owned and operated by the five tribes of North Dakota. Fast Track funding supported the creation of the Native Farm Initiative, establishing an applied associate of science degree in sustainable agriculture and food systems, and provided stipends for agricultural students, summer internships, online classes, various demonstration projects and the creation of an on-campus greenhouse complex.

## 34 WHITE EARTH LAND RECOVERY PROJECT — CALLAWAY, MN • (\$183,163)

The White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP) is a Minnesota-based tribal project that seeks to increase food security and revitalize Anishinaabe culture on the White Earth Reservation. Fast Track funding helped increase support for Native growers and producers through several WELRP programs and scholarships, as well as supported the creation of a White Earth Farmers and Producers Association, Corn Growers Association, and Maple Syrup Association to promote Native leadership and peer-to-peer support.



## BY THE NUMBERS: 2019 GRANTEES

In 2019, the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) awarded grants to 80 dynamic organizations across the country who are working tirelessly to build stronger foundations for Native agriculture and food systems. From farming in New Mexico and fishing in Wisconsin to maple syrup harvesting in Connecticut, aquaponics in Oklahoma and livestock production throughout the country this funding has already allowed many grantees to make meaningful impacts.

The metrics below provide a glimpse into the diverse communities each grant will affect across the country. This data reflects the estimated projected impacts and as their work continues, the full impact of this funding will continue to emerge.

### COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Grants were awarded to 109 different projects across the United States.

### COMMUNITY: FUNDING WILL SERVE —

- 37 Native Reservations
- 52 Rural Native communities
- 16 Urban Native communities

### FUNDING AREAS: FUNDING COMMITTED TO —

- 501(c)(3) — \$2,893,318
- Educational organizations — \$504,555
- CDFI — \$2,847,471
- Tribes — \$787,508

### FINANCES: FUNDING MADE POSSIBLE —

- \$1.7 Million in loans
- \$1.2 Million in scholarships
- \$133,000 in re-grants

PROJECTS IN  
**23**  
DIFFERENT STATES AND  
**9**  
ORGANIZATIONS SERVING NATIONALLY.

“This has the opportunity to create real economic impact in our Native communities, one ag operator at a time, utilizing the greatest resource we have – land.”

– Tawney Brunsch (Oglala Sioux),  
Executive Director, Lakota Funds

**4,774**

INFORMAL LEARNING PARTICIPANTS:  
ATTENDING TRAININGS, WEBINARS, SEMINARS, LUNCH  
AND LEARNS, ETC., TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF AND  
UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR PROJECTS AND NATIVE  
AGRICULTURE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.



# BY THE NUMBERS: FAST TRACK GRANTEES

As part of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class action lawsuit settlement, \$38 million in Native American Agriculture Fast Track Fund grants were awarded by court order on July 19, 2018.

Thirty-four Tribes and organizations from across the country were selected to receive this funding, designed to support efforts to build stronger foundations for Native agriculture development over two years.

The numbers below provide a glimpse into the wide-ranging communities across the country which have been positively impacted during the first full year of Fast Track funding.

## COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS

Fast Track grants were awarded to 34 different organizations across the United States and had a total financial impact of \$38 million. Each organization serves a variety of populations and operates off varying funding sources.

### PEOPLE: FUNDING HELPED SUPPORT —

- 435 farmers and ranchers
- 675 fishers
- 4,249 total producers
- 124 youth

### EDUCATION: FUNDING FOSTERED —

- 1,319 workshop/training participants
- 45 conference attendees
- 32 webinar participants
- 20 new fellowship opportunities
- 21 new mentorship opportunities
- 16 new internship opportunities

IN YEAR ONE, FAST TRACK FUNDING  
HELPED FEED A TOTAL OF

5,458  
PEOPLE

# BY THE DOLLAR: FAST TRACK GRANTEES

## FUNDING IMPACTS

Along with serving many populations and fostering innovative new educational opportunities to help current and future generations learn Native agriculture farming practices, Fast Track grants were also equitably dispersed through a variety of financial opportunities to make a larger impact and serve each community’s unique needs.

## FINANCES:

- 192 scholarships totaling \$318,000
- 41 loans totaling \$184.9 million
- 138 grants totaling \$3.1 million

“This fund [NAAF] represents 266 million seeds that we have to plant for the future of Native farmers and ranchers.”

– Porter Holder (Choctaw),  
Trustee, NAAF

“The grants funded this year are exactly what we hoped could result from creation of NAAF: a focus on ensuring the future success of Native farmers and ranchers.”

– Joe Sellers, lead counsel in the  
Keepseagle litigation



# OPERATIONS



## STEWARDSHIP

### A MESSAGE FROM VINCENT LOGAN (OSAGE),

NAAF Chief Financial Officer and Chief  
Investment Officer

As the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer of the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF), I lead the Finance Group and the Investment Program made up of Chief Operating Officer Kathy Callahan, Staff Accountant Christy Walker, and Investment Program Associate Tom Occhipinti. Under my direction, the Finance Group and the Investment Program are responsible for all day-to-day financial and investment management activity of NAAF. Duties include financial and operational reporting, risk management, internal controls, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and information technology. The team also provides the strategic leadership of the finance and investment departments, including the planning and budgeting of long-term and short-term capital, ensuring sound personnel management as well as the identification of financial priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

The team advises the NAAF Chief Executive Officer on all significant matters and works with other senior staff as well as the NAAF Board of Trustees to develop and implement sound management from a finance and investment perspective.

It became apparent early on in NAAF's journey that to best serve the Native American farming and ranching community, we would need to work with an investment manager that we could trust who understood our mission. The Investment Program conducted a rigorous multi-step nation-wide Request for Proposal process. The primary evaluation points for selecting the Investment Manager were responsiveness, socially responsible investment opportunities, asset allocation, approach to investment management, leveraging opportunities, wrap-around services and fees. Importantly, we sought an Investment Manager that was committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion information, and to Native American employee and client relationships.

The Investment Manager mandate was awarded to Neuberger Berman Trust Company by a unanimous vote of the NAAF Board of Trustees in January 2020.

“We are pleased to be partnering with the Native American Agriculture Fund in support of its mission for the Native American farming and ranching community. We look forward to building an investment program together and supporting NAAF and its constituents’ investment objectives including considering material ESG factors.”

– Joseph Amato, President and Chief Investment Officer, Equities,  
Neuberger Berman



# OUR FIRST YEAR

The Native American Agriculture Fund was officially launched in August 2018. As a part of the Keepseagle settlement, the court appointed a 14-member Board of Trustees to govern the organization and Janie Simms Hipp as the organization's Chief Executive Officer. Through their leadership and expert guidance, NAAF has expanded its talented team to include experts in Native agriculture.

In that short time since its creation, NAAF has:

### BUILT AN ORGANIZATION FROM THE GROUND UP:

- Hired our core employees to begin operation and established policies
- In our first year, we have worked hard to develop strong fiscal management of the fund's portfolio, implement financial systems, and manage the organization's investment program. This includes establishing financial and operational reporting, risk management, internal controls, corporate governance and regulatory compliance practices.
- Through comprehensive financial controls, regular auditing and clearly established procedures for the distribution of funds, we strive to operate at the highest levels of transparency, ethics and good governance.

### PROTECTED OUR INVESTMENT:

- Selected a new investment manager
- Analyzed investments on an ongoing basis
- Drafted new investment policy statement
- Prepared for and experienced our first external audit

### DRAFTED AND IMPLEMENTED THE 2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:

- Implemented the Foundant grant software system
- Received and responded to over 500 inquiries during RFA webinars and by phone
- Reviewed and vetted over 150 applications seeking over 50 million in funding in 2019
- Developed supplemental funding for COVID-19 activities by our grantees

### WORKED WITH FAST TRACK GRANTEEES:

- Conducted a Fast Track grantee meeting of over 30 organizations
- Developed and published a report of the Fast Track grantees highlighting their work

### WORKED IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Spoke at over 50 meetings, conferences and gatherings
- Facilitated farmer and rancher listening sessions
- Presented at Food Sovereignty Summit meetings and the Intertribal Agriculture Council annual conferences
- Developed supplemental funding for COVID-19 activities by our grantees

### BUILT PARTNERSHIPS:

- Met with Farm Credit System leadership to explore ag finance improvements throughout the system
- Met with FFA and supported Native youth at the FFA Washington Leadership Conference to push forward on key assessments of FFA curriculum
- Met continually with USDA to push additional changes that will improve Native farmer/rancher federal program access
- Planned and hosted ag development breakout workshops at numerous intertribal meetings
- Established a NAAF program officer point of contact system with each of our grantees
- Connected with thought leaders within the Native CDFI, educational institutions, Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to build cohesive visions for the future and identify challenges and opportunities

### NAAF IN ACTION

Over the past year, NAAF staff have traveled across the country to meet with Native producers, provide and support technical assistance to grantees, strengthen partnerships with Native-led organizations in this field, present at relevant conferences and advocate on behalf of Native agriculture.



### LEARNING AT GILA RIVER

"Learning about agricultural practices at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona."



"We [youth] will sustain our tribes. We will be the ones up next at the podium, serving as tribal council leaders. Not a lot of youth realize how important they are, how big of a role they have in our futures."

– Ellise David (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), Education Program Assistant, Oregon State University – Warm Springs Extension



### SHARING WITH TRIBES

"Toni Stanger-McLaughlin (left) and Valerie Segrest (right) presented to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians convention."





#### GREENHOUSES AT RED CLIFF

"The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin is increasing production with NAAF funding."



#### ADVOCATING IN D.C.

"Vince Logan met with Tyler Fish, Senior Policy Advisor & Tribal Liaison for the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. "



#### WORKING WITH NATIONAL FFA

"Cindy Farlee met with National FFA Organization at their headquarters in Indianapolis, IN to work on increased Native youth participation in agricultural education."



#### BLACKFEET YOUTH 4-H

"Blackfeet youth engage in 4-H to instill agricultural values on the reservation."



#### NURTURING AG LEADERS

"Fifteen Native high school FFA leaders flew to Washington, D.C. in July 2019 for the FFA Washington Leadership Conference."



#### LEARNING FROM TRIBAL LEADERS

"Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman speaks to NAAF Staff and Trustees about Suquamish Seafoods."



#### HONORING CLAIMANTS

"Trustees Claryca Mandan and Porter Holder were honored by the NAAF Board of Trustees for their leadership during the Keepseagle v. Vilsack twenty-year class-action lawsuit."



#### NETWORKING WITH TCU'S

"Dr. Joe L. Graham and Cindy Farlee met with Dr. David Yarlott, Jr., President of Little Big Horn College and Chair of American Indian Higher Education Consortium, during AIHEC's annual meeting."



# STAFF

**Janie Simms Hipp** Chickasaw  
CEO

**Vincent Logan** Wahzhazhi - Osage  
CFO/CIO

**Kathy Callahan** Cherokee  
Chief Operating Officer

**Cindy Farlee** Itázip'cho Lak'hóta  
Associate Program Officer

**Graham Gaither**  
Executive Administrative Assistant

**Maria Givens** Coeur d'Alene  
Communications and  
Public Relations Director

**Joe L. Graham** Pueblo of Laguna  
Regional Director

**Sarah Hiatt**  
Executive Administrative Assistant –  
Board of Trustees Liaison

**Michael Kotutwa Johnson** Hopi  
Research Associate

**Sandy Martini** Cherokee  
Senior Director

**Karli Moore** Lumbee  
Associate Program Officer

**Tom Occhipinti**  
Associate – Investment Program

**Valerie Segrest** Muckleshoot  
Regional Director

**Toni Stanger-McLaughlin** Colville  
Regional Director

**Maria Wakan** Fort Peck Sioux Tribes  
Grants Program Assistant

**Christy Walker**  
Staff Accountant



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN MONTANA

“Center Pole, a Native led organization and NAAF grantee, promotes a healthy community through an elder and youth mentorship program.”

“NAAF joins with all Native food communities – through working with farmers, ranchers or fishers – in seeking a future where our food economies are thriving, our people are healthy, and our contributions to the food and agriculture community at large is celebrated.”

– *Janie Hipp (Chickasaw),  
CEO, NAAF*



## LEARNING FROM QUAPAW

“Chris Roper, Director of Agriculture for the Quapaw Tribe, shows the NAAF Board their cattle operation.”



## PEPPERS AT THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

“SIPI, a Fast Track grantee, has converted their greenhouses into an Agriculture Training Complex to share knowledge through this land grant institution.”





# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**ELSIE MAY MEEKS**  
**OGLALA LAKOTA**  
**Chair, NAAF Board of Trustees**  
Board Member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines; former State Director, South Dakota Rural Development; rancher



**RICHARD BRYANT WILLIAMS**  
**OGLALA LAKOTA**  
**Vice Chair, NAAF Board of Trustees**  
Consultant; former President and CEO, American Indian College Fund



**HENRY PORTER HOLDER**  
**CHOCTAW**  
**Lead plaintiff; former Vice Chair, Council on Native American Farming and Ranching; rancher**



**CLARYCA ANN MANDAN**  
**THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES**  
**Lead plaintiff**  
Rancher; former board member of several Native agriculture, land tenure and natural resource organizations



**DAVID LEON ARCHAMBAULT, SR.**  
**STANDING ROCK SIOUX**  
**Chairman**  
American Indian Business Leaders; education consultant



**SHERRY SALWAY BLACK**  
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**Chairperson**  
First Peoples Fund; Board Member, Johnson Scholarship Foundation



**CHARLES VINSON GRAHAM**  
**LUMBEE**  
**State Representative**  
North Carolina General Assembly; retired educator and business owner



**PATRICK SHAWN GWIN**  
**CHEROKEE**  
**Senior Director of Environmental Resources,**  
Cherokee Nation; rancher and expert on Native American heirloom seeds



**DR. JOSEPH G. HILLER**  
**OGLALA LAKOTA**  
**Professor Emeritus**  
University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; producer



**JAMES KIRT LADUCER**  
**TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA**  
**Chief Lending Officer, Board Member, and Majority Shareholder**  
Turtle Mountain State Bank; business owner



**BABTIST PAUL LUMLEY III**  
**YAKAMA**  
**Executive Director**  
Native American Youth and Family Center



**MONICA BELVERA NUVAMSA**  
**HOPI**  
**Executive Director**  
The Hopi Foundation



**ROSS RONALD RACINE**  
**BLACKFEET**  
**Former Executive Director**  
Intertribal Agriculture Council; rancher



**MICHAEL EDWARD ROBERTS**  
**TLINGIT**  
**President and CEO**  
First Nations Development Institute







534 W. RESEARCH CENTER BLVD.  
SUITE 220  
P.O. BOX 1427  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72701  
479-445-6226  
[NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org](http://NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org)



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