Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) Request for Applications (RFA) Summary
Toni Stanger-McLaughlin
Overview

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) is a private charitable trust with 501c3 status, governed by a Board of Trustees.

NAAF was established as part of the settlement of the 19+ year *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* litigation.

NAAF was established in July 2018 and will exist for a period of twenty years (until 2038) and must spend down the entire trust fund of $266m+ by the end of that 20-year period.

- Trust Agreement: NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org/trust-agreement
Overview

NAAF launched its first grant Request for Applications (RFA) to fund a wide variety of projects in 2019; future RFAs may differ in scope and funding

• RFA: NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org/grants

NAAF welcomes ongoing input from Native farmers and ranchers as well as eligible grant recipients

• Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R8YZTQ3
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<th>Trustees</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elsie Meeks (Oglala Lakota) – CHAIR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Richard Williams (Oglala Lakota) – VICE CHAIR</strong></td>
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<td>Claryca Mandan (Three Affiliated Tribes)</td>
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<td>Porter Holder (Choctaw)</td>
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<td>Ross Racine (Blackfeet)</td>
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<td>Jim Laducer (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)</td>
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<td>Sherry Salway Black (Oglala Lakota)</td>
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<td>Monica Nuvamsa (Hopi)</td>
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<td>Paul Lumley (Yakama)</td>
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<td>Dr. Joe Hiller (Oglala Lakota)</td>
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<td>Charles Graham (Lumbee)</td>
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<td>Pat Gwin (Cherokee)</td>
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<td>Mike Roberts (Tlingit)</td>
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<td>Dave Archambault, Sr. (Standing Rock Sioux)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 1st, 2019</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 13th, 2019</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 20th, 2019</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 17th, 2019</td>
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<td>Monday, September 30th, 2019 at 11:59 pm CDT</td>
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NAAF 2019 RFA Funding Areas

NAAF has determined that for this 2019 funding cycle there will be four targeted priority areas and an additional four special emphasis areas for which funding will be provided. Funding areas were determined through a series of strategic planning efforts conducted by NAAF; are informed by the requirements of the Trust Agreement; and were also informed by a survey found on the NAAF website.

**Targeted Funding:**
1. 501c3 organizations
2. Education Organizations
3. CDFIs
4. Tribal Governments

**Special Emphasis Funding:**
1. Traditional Foods and Food Sovereignty
2. Hemp Production Analysis
3. Youth Programming
4. Agriculture Sciences
Eligible Grant Recipients

As Required by the Trust Agreement Section 8(a), there are only 4 types of eligible entities that may receive funds:

• Nonprofit organizations with IRS Section 501c3 tax-exempt status, or if such status has not yet been achieved, such organizations may apply for funding through a Fiscal Agent that has received such 501c3 tax-exempt status;

• Educational institutions described in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code;

• Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), including Certified Native CDFIs and Emerging Native CDFIs, provided however that such CDFI is a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
Eligible Grant Recipients (cont’d)

- An instrumentality of a State or Federally recognized Tribe, including a non-profit organization chartered under the Tribal law of a State or Federally recognized Tribe, that furnishes assistance designed to further Native American farming or ranching activities, provided, however that:
  - The use of any grant funds by the grant recipient shall be restricted exclusively to charitable and educational purposes;
  - The grant recipient shall annually provide NAAF with audited financial statements and reports as required by NAAF;
  - If the grant recipient is a governmental entity, it shall agree to a limited waiver of sovereign immunity with respect to the NAAF’s right to enforce the terms of the grant (i.e. the amount of funding awarded); and
  - The grant recipient must agree to comply with expenditure responsibility requirements.
Restrictions on the funding

- No part of the net earnings of the Trust shall inure to the benefit of any private person.
- Funds can’t be used for grants or loans directly to Native farmers and ranchers but the NAAF can provide funding through grants to eligible entities, that can then in turn provide grants or funds to individuals.
- No part of the activities of the Trust may be used to lobby or influence legislation.
- The funds also cannot be used for the purpose of supporting litigation.
Allowable Use of Funds

• Applicants receiving funds will be required to use the funds to provide services to Native farmers and ranchers, including those seeking to become farmers and ranchers, and to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture.

• The key areas that are allowed funding under the Trust Agreement are broadly described as:
  • Business assistance,
  • Agricultural education,
  • Technical support, and
  • Advocacy services.
Allowable Use of Funds

• The [Trust Agreement](#) controls the eligible uses and eligible entities for NAAF grant processes. Please also review the RFA fully. The FAQ also provide important answers to allowable uses of funds.

• For this funding period:
  • Funds may be used for projects that are up to 24 months (2-years) in duration.
  • Funds may be used for project support, scholarships, re-grants or re-lending, or capital expenditures.
  • Funding for programs that strictly meet the targeted or special emphasis areas for the 2019 RFA will be given the highest priority for funding in this application period.
Because the central issues involved in the *Keepseagle* litigation involve issues at the core of access to credit, additional consideration will be given to those applicants that have as one of their specific targeted outcomes the improvement of access to credit by Native farmers and ranchers.
Key Dates

Application period:

Open: August 1, 2019

Close: September 30, 2019 at 11:59p CDT
Website to find the RFA, FAQ and all documents

Main webpage to access all documents including the RFA and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

www.nativeamericanagriculturefund.org

Email for Information and Technical Assistance:

grants@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org
Phone Assistance:

(479) 445-6226

The phone line is open Monday to Friday, 8-4 p.m. CDT; please leave a message at other times and a member of the NAAF team will get in touch.
• Using the online application portal is preferred; however, paper applications are welcome to be submitted as well.
• All the online application questions needed to submit are located on NAAF’s website. The questions will help you prepare, regardless of whether you submit online or not.
• NAAF is not responsible for lost or late application submissions.
• Both Online and paper applications must be submitted before 11:59pm CDT, September 30, 2019.

Address to Mail Type-Written Applications:
534 W. Research Center Blvd; Suite 220
P.O. Box 1427
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Past Webinars

For information on NAAF RFA application webinars, archived recordings from previous webinars please visit:

https://nativeamericanagriculturefund.org/grants-webinar/