




# Native Americans in Philanthropy Tribal Nations Initiative



NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY  
TRIBAL NATIONS INITIATIVE



For over 30 years, Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) has promoted equitable and effective philanthropy in Native communities.

Native Americans in Philanthropy is the **only national organization that supports and educates all levels of philanthropy and funders** to better understand and engage with issues that are important to Native peoples, Indigenous communities, and Tribal Nations.

The cornerstone of our work is our relatives and our networks. We support several communities that work together to build knowledge, community, priorities, and power in the philanthropic sector. These networks include Native professionals in philanthropy, elected Tribal leaders, Native youth leaders, and Native nonprofit leaders

# Fast Facts About Native Peoples

The following are key statistics related to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Data about Native Hawaiians is usually grouped with Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander groups and not with the other Indigenous groups of what is now known as the United States.



## Population

- **9.7 million people** or **2.9%** of the U.S. population identify as AI/AN<sup>1</sup>
- **574** Federally-recognized tribes<sup>2</sup>
- **324** reservations<sup>3</sup>
- In 2020, **87%** of AI/AN do not live on reservations or trust lands<sup>4</sup>



## Economics

- Median household income: **\$51.2K**<sup>5</sup>
- **22.6%** live at the poverty level<sup>6</sup>
- **11.7%** unemployment rate<sup>7</sup>



## Philanthropy

- From 2002 to 2016, large U.S. foundations gave an average of **0.4 percent** of total funding to Native American communities and causes<sup>8</sup>

1 Improved Race and Ethnicity Measures Reveal U.S. Population Is Much More Multiracial, United States Census Bureau

2 Source: U.S. Department of the Interior

3,4 Source: United States Census Bureau

5 2021 Income in the United States, United States Census Bureau

6 Poverty in the United States: 2021, United States Census Bureau

7 Labor force characteristics by race and ethnicity, 2020, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

8 Investing in Native Communities: Philanthropic Funding for Native American Communities Causes



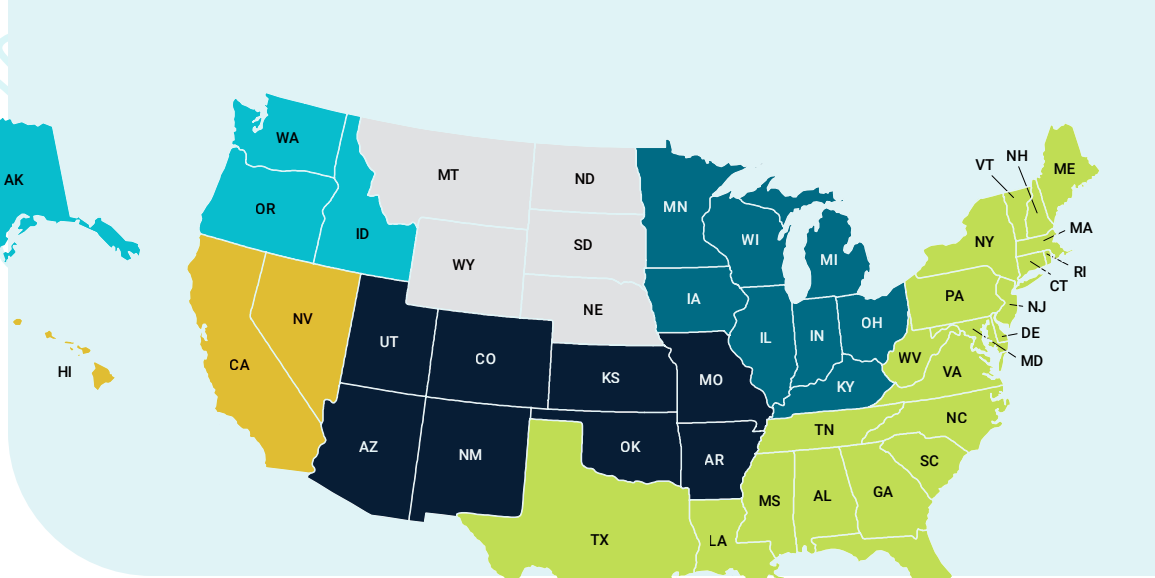
## NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY TRIBAL NATIONS INITIATIVE

While Tribes are not new to the practice of giving and helping their neighbors, Tribal philanthropy is a growing segment to support Native American communities.

Native Americans in Philanthropy's Tribal Nations Initiative (TNI) supports a Native-led movement to bring Tribal Nations and the philanthropy sector together on one centralized platform. Beyond facilitating a space for connection and collaboration, TNI supports Native philanthropists across a spectrum, from established grantmakers expanding their impact to those just beginning to explore the landscape. By building visibility, Tribal coalition building, identifying priorities, encouraging meaningful partnerships, developing strategic pathways and creating technical support systems, the TNI aims to Indigenize giving, better connect the philanthropy sector, and direct more resources to support Native American communities.

# TNI Listening Sessions

The Tribal Nations Initiative (TNI) engaged in a national listening tour in six distinct regions in 2022 to hear from Tribal Leaders, elders, and community members about their programs, needs, relationships with philanthropy, and where they feel philanthropic investments can best support their programs and initiatives. The TNI Listening Sessions also heard from Tribal Giving Programs and explored their community impacts.



A final report on the listening sessions and data findings will be made available, which will help Tribal Nations and the philanthropic sector better understand the landscape for Tribal philanthropy and the ways in which Tribal Nations and the philanthropy sector can connect, collaborate, and support priority needs.



## Climate & Conservation

As the first caretakers of the land in these United States, Indigenous peoples have a special connection to the land, water, and many species that share their world. The Earth is a part of their culture, creation stories, and ways of life. Indigenous peoples have been stewards of the environment since time immemorial, preserving the land, water, and species that have sustained their communities for generations. They have long learned the delicate balance of sustainable practices while living in harmony with the environment. Native Americans in Philanthropy recognizes the importance of this relationship and supports Native-led climate and conservation work.

# Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative

Native Americans in Philanthropy has launched a Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative with support from Biodiversity Funders Group (BFG) and The Christensen Fund. This collaborative calls on the philanthropic sector to make significant investments in biodiversity and conservation projects led by Tribal Nations. It also allows collaborators a forum to strategize, share knowledge and educational resources, and offers a funding mechanism to quickly move capital to Tribal Nations.

## Components of the Collaborative:

- A **NAP-housed fund** providing resources directly to the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia
- A **funders pledge** committing to a self-determined amount of funding, or a self-determined percentage of annual programmatic funding, over the next three years, for the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia
- A **learning circle of funders** who have contributed to the Fund, or have taken the Pledge, that meet regularly for ongoing learning opportunities led by Tribal experts and concerted dialogue



## NFWF Partnership & The America The Beautiful Challenge

Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) recently leveraged \$800,000 to support Tribal applications for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) climate and conservation grants as a part of the America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC).

Through its Tribal Nations Conservative Pledge and Funding Collaborative, NAP provided the required matching contribution funds for projects awarded to Tribal Nations through the ATBC. In total, NFWF awarded \$91 million to 55 projects through this challenge, with \$26.7 million going to projects from Tribal Nations. 55 new grants will support much-needed, landscape-scale conservation projects in 42 states and three U.S. territories.

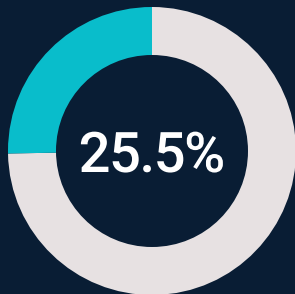


# ATBC Grant Breakdown

## Submissions

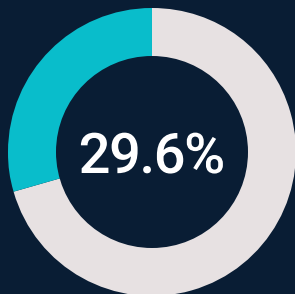
Applications Submitted by Tribal Nations:

**133** out of **522**



Total Amount of Funding Requested by Tribal Nations:

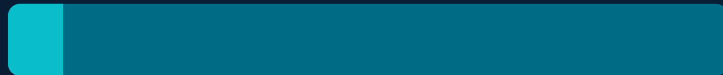
**\$326 million** out of **\$1.1 billion** in total requests



## Awards

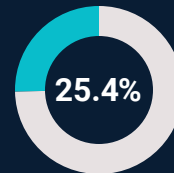
Funding Awarded vs. Funding Requested:

**\$91 Million Awarded** vs. **\$1.1 Billion Requested**



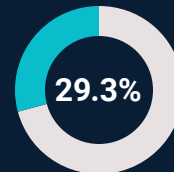
Number of Awards to Tribal Nations:

**14** out of **55 (25.4%)**



Total Amount Awarded to Tribal Nations:

**\$26.7 million** out of **\$91 million**



Average Award Amount to Tribal Nations:  
**\$2 million**

# National Tribal Leader Advisory Group

Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge and Funding Collaborative is a Native-led initiative with direction provided by a National Tribal Leader Advisory Group.

The purpose of this advisory group is to help determine the fund's core functions, such as defining Tribal conservation, funding priorities, and funding criteria for federal/state Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiians.

In order to maintain transparency and avoid potential conflicts of interest, this Tribal leader advisory group does not review or approve grant applications.



# Tribal Philanthropy Council

The Tribal Philanthropy Council is a community of practice made up of people who work in philanthropy on behalf of their Tribe. The council supports, connects, and elevates the work of Tribal professionals working in the areas of philanthropic advocacy, grant making, and grant seeking.

Tribal leaders, Tribal philanthropy professionals, Tribal grant writers, Tribal directors, managers and/or planners are encouraged to join this council to network and learn with others doing similar work, share your priorities and challenges, and develop strategies to uplift Tribal philanthropy in support of Native communities.



# Public-Private Partnerships & The Office Of Strategic Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are collaborations between the government and the private sector. These partnerships can produce lasting, systemic changes, especially when many public policy issues are more complex for one sector to address alone.

On December 2, 2022, NAP's CEO Erik Stegman officially signed a historic agreement between NAP and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

Under this agreement, NAP will oversee the hiring of a new position that will develop the new Office of Strategic Partnerships. This office is a first-of-its-kind resource to Tribal leaders and agency staff across the federal government, focused on coordinating federal funding streams and leveraging philanthropy to support public-private partnerships such as NAP's current collaboration with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



*Native Americans in Philanthropy CEO Erik Stegman (right) signs the agreement alongside Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (left) and Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (center).*

# Questions?



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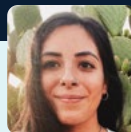
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Thank you

Wado