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**Subject:** Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent  
**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:04:07 AM

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Dear Peter Rhee,

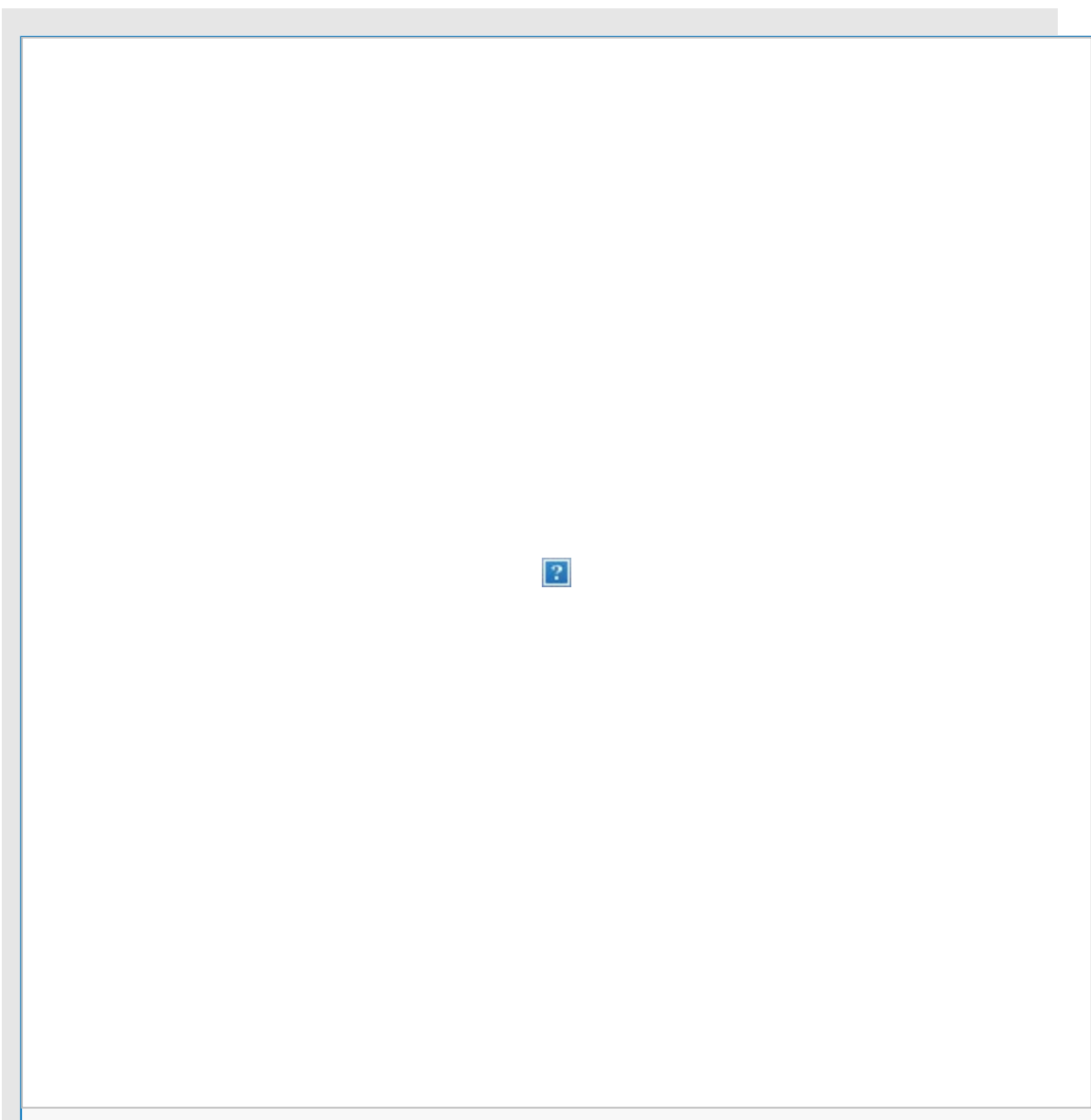
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**Subject:** USDA Office of Tribal Relations News

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# USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Newsletter

If you are not subscribed to this newsletter, [sign up at this link](#).

## Message from the Director

Hihanni waste, greetings.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of 20 nationally recognized scientists to serve on the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. One of the scientists selected was Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH, MPH, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This is a historic step and provides an indigenous perspective on a highly influential committee. Congratulations Dr. Jernigan!

I would like to thank everybody that came to the Tribal Consultation and Listening Session on Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity Under the Packers and Stockyards Act. If you would like to provide comments, they are due February 2 and can be sent to [tribal.relations@usda.gov](mailto:tribal.relations@usda.gov).

Finally, I would like to remind you that the application process is closes NEXT WEEK for its [second round](#) of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Self-Determination Demonstration Projects. Applications are due January 31, 2023. Created in the 2018 Farm Bill, tribes administering the [Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations](#) can enter into self-determination contracts with USDA to directly purchase food of their choosing – including indigenous foods - for the FDPIR food packages distributed to their tribe. Eight tribes took part in the first round of the demonstration project with tremendous results, most purchasing local indigenous foods for their food packages. Please let FNS or OTR know if you have any questions.

In addition, also supporting tribal food sovereignty and the ability for tribal nations to purchase local and indigenous foods to distribute to their nation is the [Local Food Purchase Assistance program](#). Through the program, USDA partners with tribes and state governments to purchase foods from underserved and tribal producers and processors and distribute that food in a way that makes sense to their communities. These noncompetitive cooperative agreements are one of the new steps USDA is taking to support tribal food sovereignty interests. USDA recently announced that the second funding cycle increases [targeted tribal government funding to \\$100 million](#) to extend current projects and for new tribal applicants. Let us know if you are interested in entering into a cooperative agreement. Applications are due March 31, 2023.

The dedicated staff of OTR and USDA look forward to identifying opportunities to support your goals and objectives. If you need anything, please contact OTR at 202-205-2249 or via email at [Tribal.Relations@usda.gov](mailto:Tribal.Relations@usda.gov). Please also check out our website at [www.usda.gov/tribalrelations](http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations).

[Heather Dawn Thompson](#), Director: 202-205-2249

[Deb Dumontier](#), 202-235-4950 (*Tribal Self-Determination Initiative*)

[Josiah Griffin](#), 202-205-2249 (*Economic Development, Farming/Ranching, and Supply Chain*)

[Jeff Harris](#), 202-768-0812 (*Food, Research, Consultation, Youth, Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative*)

[Taylor Schad](#), 202-875-9236 (*Forest Service and Natural Resources*)

Lila wopila (much thanks),

Heather Dawn Thompson

Director, USDA Office of Tribal Relations

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## White House & USDA Initiatives

### White House Initiatives/Executive Orders

- [Executive Order on Equity and Barriers](#)
- [White House Memo on Tribal Consultation](#)
- [White House Memo on \(ITEK\) Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#)
- [Treaty Rights MOU](#)
- [Sacred Sites MOU](#)
- [Native Languages MOA](#)

### USDA Initiatives

- [USDA Food Sovereignty Initiative](#)
- [USDA Tribal Self Determination Initiative](#)
- [USDA-DOI Joint Secretarial Order on Tribal Homelands](#)
- [USDA-DOI Tribal Treaty Database](#)

### COVID-19 News for Producers

**USDA COVID Response Page.** USDA maintains a COVID-19 response page at [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus), which has news updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and other important information.

### Employment/Board Opportunities

#### **Management and Program Assistant, USDA Office of Tribal Relations (Temporary Detail Position: Internal to USDA)**

This is a GS-05/06/07 position for individuals already working at USDA. There is no temporary promotion associated with this detail, and this position can be remote.

This position is located in the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), immediate Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is established to be the continuity for Tribal and Native affairs within the Department. The mission of OTR is to serve as a single point of contact for consultation with American Indian and Alaskan Native Governments to ensure strong partnerships that preserve tribal sovereignty and result in high quality service for farmers ranchers, consumers, and other constituents.

The primary purpose of this position is to plan and coordinate the administrative work of the office through knowledge of administrative procedures and requirements and the application of a variety of office skills and analytical capabilities to increase the effectiveness of the office. The incumbent is supervised by the Director of OTR.

To view the detail listing, please contact [Jeffrey.Harris@usda.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Harris@usda.gov).

#### **Tribal Agriculture Fellowship (Non-USDA)**

Tribal Agriculture Fellowship is looking to fill its second cohort with the next generation of agricultural professionals and will be accepting applications from November 28, 2022 – February 10, 2023. The mission of the Tribal Agriculture Fellowship is to create opportunities for indigenous students to advance their education in agriculture, increase specialized knowledge and preserve the legacy of agriculture in tribal communities.

### **Who should apply:**

- College students who are Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian
- Member or descendant of a tribe or indigenous community
- Rising and current technical, undergraduate, and graduate student

### **Tribal Agriculture Fellowship resources can be utilized for:**

- tuition and fees
- housing
- meal plans
- equipment fees and testing costs
- and professional development

For more information visit: [www.taffellows.org](http://www.taffellows.org) or email: [info@taffellows.org](mailto:info@taffellows.org).

## **USDA Hall of Tribal Nations**

### **USDA Requests your Tribal Flag for the Hall of Tribal Nations**

In recognition of the diplomatic nation-to-nation relationship, between tribes and the federal government, USDA is proud to host a Hall of Tribal Nations, akin to our sister agency the Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack shared a [video dedicating this new space](#) during the November 2021 White House Tribal Nations Conference.

USDA invites more tribal nations to contribute flags to this growing collection. Please contact [Tribal.Relations@usda.gov](mailto:Tribal.Relations@usda.gov) to learn more or send your 3ft. x 5ft. tribal flag to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Attention: Tribal Flags/Office of Tribal Relations  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Room 200A J.L. Whitten Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250

## **Regulation Review/Public Comment/Public Notification**

[Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages](#) – Comment Deadline: February 21, 2023

## **Grant/Loan/Program Opportunities**

[USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity](#) – Application Deadline: January 31, 2023

USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the availability of up to \$5,000,000 in funds provided by the American Rescue Plan to tribes, tribal nations, and organizations working on their behalf to support projects in the priority areas below: 1) Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals. 2) Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission. 3) Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks. 4) Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface and/or impacts to the food supply.

**[Development and Implementation of Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants](#)** – Application Deadline: February 1, 2023

Under this RFA, the *School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grant Cooperative Agreement* will reflect FNS' commitment to encourage the offering of healthier food products in the marketplace for school meals through engagement with the food industry and incentivizing innovation and partnerships. Increasing access to nutritious and appealing foods for kids is critical to the success of strong school meal standards. The selected Cooperator(s) will collaborate with food industry partners to support school districts, food producers, suppliers, distributors, and community partners.

**[Methyl Bromide Transition Program](#)** – Application Deadline: February 13, 2022

The Methyl Bromide Transition Program (MBT) addresses the immediate needs and the costs of transition that have resulted from the phase-out of the pesticide methyl bromide. Methyl bromide has been a pest and disease control tactic critical to pest management systems for decades for soilborne and postharvest pests. The program focuses on integrated commercial-scale research on methyl bromide alternatives and associated extension activity that will foster the adoption of these solutions. Projects should cover a broad range of new methodologies, technologies, systems, and strategies for controlling economically important pests for which methyl bromide has been the only effective pest control option. Research projects must address commodities with critical issues and include a focused economic analysis of the cost of implementing the transition on a commercial scale.

**[Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline February 13, 2023

The purpose of the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program is to address high priority issues related to pests and their management using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches at the state, regional and national levels. The CPPM program supports projects that will ensure food security and respond effectively to other major societal pest management challenges with comprehensive IPM approaches that are economically viable, ecologically prudent, and safe for human health. The CPPM program addresses IPM challenges for emerging issues and existing priority pest concerns that can be addressed more effectively with new and emerging technologies. The outcomes of the CPPM program are effective, affordable, and environmentally sound IPM practices and strategies needed to maintain agricultural productivity and healthy communities.

**[Food Safety Outreach Competitive Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline: February 16, 2023

The Food Safety Outreach Program will complement and expand the national infrastructure of the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. The Food Safety Outreach Program will build upon that national infrastructure, with a sustained focus on delivery of customized training to members of the target audiences. Awardees will develop and implement food safety training, education, extension, outreach and technical assistance projects that address the needs of owners and operators of small to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers. Grant applications will be solicited directly from those in local communities to include those from community-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives, extension, and other local groups.

**[Antimicrobial Resistance Dashboard 2022-2023 Cooperative Agreements](#)** – Application Deadline: February 20, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is announcing the availability of up to \$3 million in funds in the Antimicrobial Resistance Dashboard (AMR Dashboard).

**[Rural Business Development Grant](#)** – Application Deadline: February 28, 2023

The purpose of the program is to promote economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities. Applications will compete in two separate categories, business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants, for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas.

**[Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Program](#)** – Application Deadline: March 6, 2023

The primary objective of the program is to provide grants to Agriculture Innovation Centers that will provide technical assistance to agricultural producers to market value-added agricultural products.

**[USDA The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Reach and Resiliency 2023](#)** – Application Deadline: March 6, 2023

USDA announced a \$1 billion investment in the country's emergency food network so that food banks and local organizations can reliably serve their communities. Of that \$1 billion amount, USDA is making \$100 million available for a grant initiative – TEFAP Reach and Resiliency - aimed at helping food assistance organizations meet The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) requirements, strengthen infrastructure, and expand TEFAP's reach into underserved communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts on our nation's food systems and economy, forcing many Americans to turn to the country's emergency food network for aid. Food banks, food pantries, and other community organizations have valiantly stepped up to meet this increase in need while simultaneously ensuring that staff and recipients are not unnecessarily exposed to the dangers of COVID-19. However, some inequities within the broader emergency food network remain – especially in remote, rural, Tribal, and/or low-income communities. Thus, **the key objective of the TEFAP Reach and Resiliency – Round 2 grant is to: Expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, Tribal, and/or low-income areas that are underserved by the program.**

## News

### **USDA Indian Country Blogs**

Learn more about USDA's work in Indian Country through [USDA blogs](#) and OTR's [Video and Radio page](#).

### **Agriculture and Food Sovereignty**

[USDA Announces Additional Assistance for Dairy Farmers](#)

[USDA Announces Signup for 2023 Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers](#)

[USDA Announces \\$72.9 Million in Grant Funding Available through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#)

[USDA Announces Appointments to the National Mango Board](#)

[USDA Provides more than \\$70 Million to Protect Crops and Natural Resources from Invasive Pests and Diseases in 2023](#)

[USDA Provides more than \\$660 Thousand to Projects that Protect Agriculture and Natural Resources in Tribal Communities](#)

### **Business & Community Development**

[USDA to Create Plan to Expand Recreation Economies and Help People Thrive Across Rural America](#)



Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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