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Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 12:35:16 PM

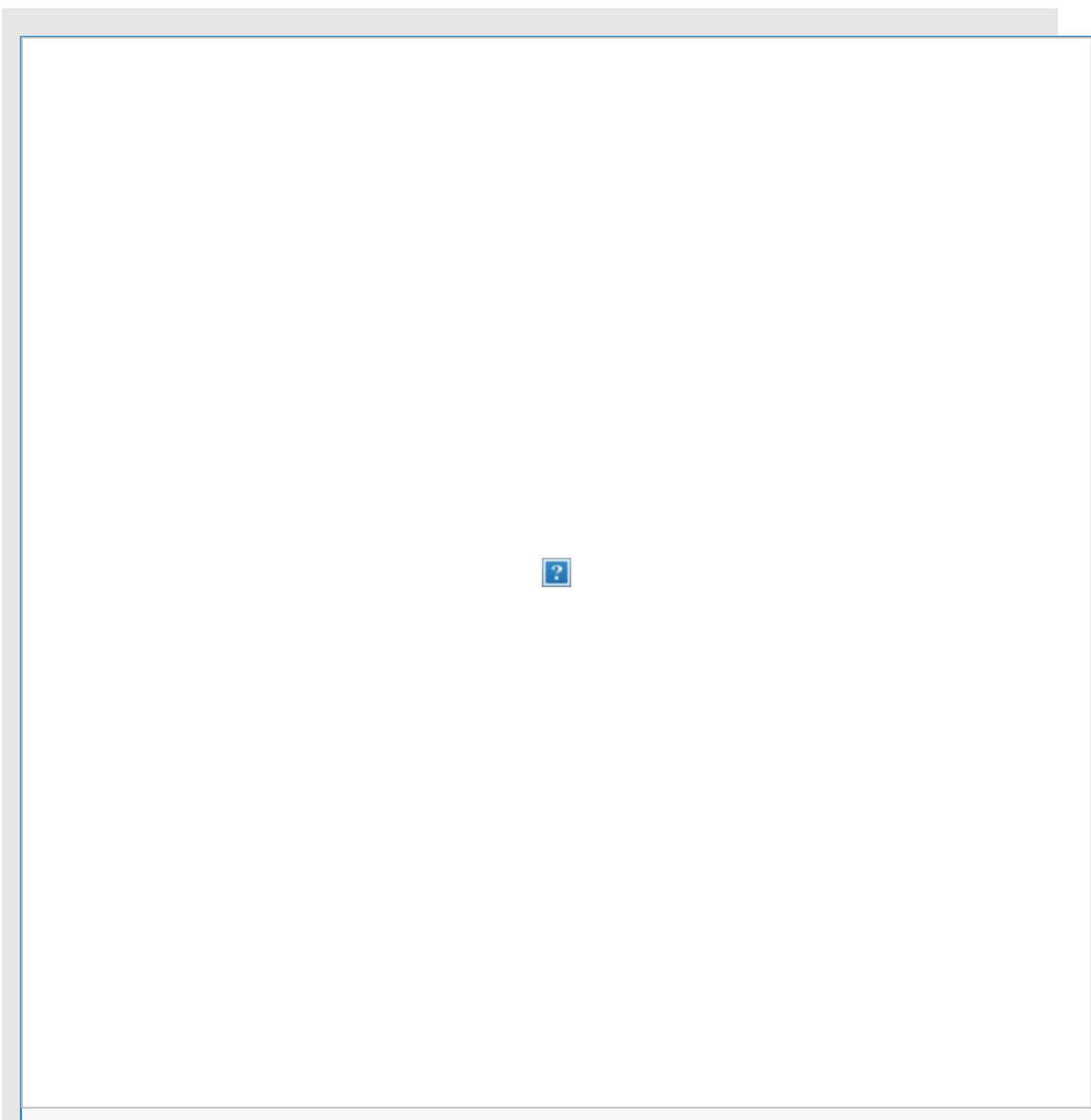


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 2/10/2023 around 12:31 PM EST.

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Subject: USDA Office of Tribal Relations News



USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Newsletter

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



USDA Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh and AIHEC Chair David Yarlott sign a new Memorandum of Agreement

Message from the Director

Hihanni waste, greetings.

Today, Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh and President David Yarlott held a ceremonial signing to [commemorate the new Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) between USDA and Tribal Colleges and Universities](#) through the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). President Yarlott is the President of Little Big Horn College in Montana and the Chair of the Board of AIHEC. The MOA is an affirmation of this administration's commitment to Tribal Colleges and Universities. Simultaneously, Dr. Bronaugh also announced that USDA's own [Tribal College or "1994" Program](#) has been moved into the Office of Tribal Relations. We are delighted at this historic move and recognition of the tribal government ownership of TCUs.

Photo album of the [USDA and AIHEC ceremonial signing](#) of a Memorandum of Agreement.

We are particularly honored that Deputy Secretary Bronaugh is taking part in this event because she [announced](#) two weeks ago that she will be stepping down from her role to spend more time with her family. She has been an ardent supporter of Indian Country during her time as Deputy Secretary, and I want to thank her and wish her the best in her next chapter.

OTR is also delighted that the Food and Nutrition Service [announced](#) this week major changes to the school meal programs that specifically incorporate indigenous foods and requests. If you would like to [provide feedback](#) on the rule, the comment period will be open until April 10, 2023.

Finally, a reminder that applications for the [Local Food Purchase Assistance Program](#) are due March 31, 2023. 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.

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. Please also check out our website at 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.

### Consultation, Listening Session, Webinar, and Other Notices

#### February 2023 FDPIR Tribal Leader Consultation Work Group Consultation

**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. ET – 4:30 p.m. ET

**Location:** Press Room 107A – Whitten Building

**Zoom**

**Registration:** [www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlfcOGprDwvH73X3MEwmoBdW2Qr6Xmo6lo](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlfcOGprDwvH73X3MEwmoBdW2Qr6Xmo6lo)

### 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

[Comment Request on Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs](#) – Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 DGAs

### Grant/Loan/Program Opportunities

[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 program is to address high priority issues related to pests and their management using 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, non-governmental 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.**

**[Children, Youth and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects](#)** – Application Deadline: March 20, 2023

The purpose of CYFAR SCP funding is to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System. Collaboration across disciplines, program areas, and geographic lines, as well as a holistic approach that views the individual in the context of the family and community, are central to the CYFAR SCP program.

**[2023 Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program](#)** – Application Deadline: March 23, 2023

The intent of the CWEWIP is to support forest health and stimulate local economies by expanding renewable wood energy use and innovative wood products manufacturing capacity.

**[Wood Utilization Assistance](#)** – Application Deadline: March 23, 2023

The USDA Forest Service requests proposals to substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.

**[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production \(UAIP\) Competitive Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline: March 27, 2023

The primary goal of the UAIP pilot project is to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production. The two types of UAIP grants being made available for application under this NFO are Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. Planning Projects are projects that will initiate, develop, or support the efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, members of tribal communities, and other stakeholders in areas where access to fresh foods are limited or unavailable. Implementation Projects are for accelerating existing and emerging models of urban and/or innovative agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers or gardeners. Innovation may include new and emerging, as well as traditional or indigenous, agricultural practices.

**[Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Competitive Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline: March 28, 2023

The purpose of this program is to promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-

Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within a broadly defined arena of food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines. Priority will be given to those projects that enhance educational equity for underrepresented students; strengthen institutional educational capacities; prepare students for careers related to the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States; and maximize the development and use of resources to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs.

**[Veterinary Services Grant Program](#)** – Application Deadline: March 29, 2023

The Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) is designed to support education and extension activities and practice enhancement initiatives that will enable veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians, and veterinary technician students to gain specialized skills and provide practices with additional resources (e.g., equipment, personnel) needed to more effectively mitigate veterinary service shortages in the U.S. Ultimately, this program will bolster the capacity of private practitioners to provide food animal veterinary services in designated rural veterinarian shortage situations.

**[Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline: April 5, 2023

The Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants (SPECA) program seeks to: (a) promote and strengthen secondary education and two-year postsecondary education in the food and agriculture sciences in order to help ensure the existence of a workforce in the United States that's qualified to serve the food and agriculture sciences system; and (b) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, two-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the food and agriculture sciences in order to advance excellence in education and encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in the food and agriculture sciences.

**[Rural Innovation Stronger Economies \(RISE\)](#)** – Application Deadline: April 20, 2023

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS, Agency), a Rural Development (RD) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), invites applications under the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) program for fiscal year (FY) 2023, subject to the availability of funding. The Agency has \$2,000,000 available for the RISE Program for FY 2023. Selected applicants will use Agency grant funds to provide financial assistance in support of innovation centers and job accelerator programs that improve the ability of distressed rural communities to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

**[Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program – Organic Transitions](#)** – Application Deadline: April 27, 2023

USDA requests applications for the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program – ORG for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding cycle, to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems. Applicants considering applying should check the Organic Transitions (ORG) Web Page to access the RFA and check for updates. The amount available for grants in FY 2023 is approximately \$10,000,000.

**[Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program \(BFRDP\)](#)** – Application Deadline: April 27, 2023

The primary goal of BFRDP is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories enter and/or improve their successes in farming, ranching, and

management of nonindustrial private forest lands, through support for projects that provide education, mentoring, and technical assistance to give beginning farmers and ranchers the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations and enhance their sustainability.

**[The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers](#)** – Application Deadline: May 4, 2023

Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers Cooperative Agreements offer training, technical assistance, evaluation, and informational support services to potential applicants, nutrition incentive projects, produce prescription projects, and to GusNIP as a whole.

**[The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Competitive Grants Program](#)** – Application Deadline: May 4, 2023

The GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program aims to fund and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by USDA SNAP participants in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Virgin Islands and the USDA NAP participants in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by providing incentives at the point of purchase.

**[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative \(AFRI\) Competitive Grants Program Foundational and Applied Science Program](#)** – Application Deadline: December 29, 2023

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are solicited in this Request for Applications (RFA). See Foundational and Applied Science RFA for specific detail.

## News

### USDA Indian Country Blogs

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

[The Committee to Update 2025 Dietary Guidelines is Strengthened by Diverse and Indigenous Perspective](#)

### Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers on its Promises to Invest in Rural Communities, Nutrition Security, Climate-Smart Agriculture, More and Better Markets and Lower Costs for Families](#)

[USDA Names Simon Liu as New ARS Administrator](#)

[USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Highlights 2022 Accomplishments in Support of the Biden-Harris Administration's Efforts to Transform America's Food System](#)

[APHIS Celebrates 2022 Accomplishments](#)

[FNS Strengthens Commitment to Nutrition Security and Equity, Takes Action to Address Supply Chain and Inflation](#)

[USDA Announces No Actions Under Feedstock Flexibility Program](#)



[USDA Announces February 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers](#)  
[USDA's Farm Service Agency Helps Farmers and Ranchers Tackle Challenges](#)  
[USDA Develops Simplified Direct Loan Application to Improve Customer Service](#)  
[USDA Seeks Nominees for American Pecan Promotion Board](#)  
[USDA Seeks Nominees for National Mango Board](#)  
[USDA Adds Ochratoxin A Testing for Pistachios Exported to European Union](#)  
[Pre-Solicitation Announcement for the Purchase of Groundfish Products](#)  
[USDA Modifies Kiwifruit Federal Marketing Order](#)  
[USDA Sets Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Appalachian, Southeast, Florida Federal Milk Marketing Orders](#)  
[USDA Announces Appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board](#)  
[USDA Announces Appointments to the American Egg Board](#)  
[Pre-Solicitation Announcement for Section 32 Purchase of Catfish Products](#)  
[USDA FAS Expands Exports, Advances Climate Resilience and Strengthens Food Security in 2022](#)  
[USDA Supports Climate-Smart Ag, Equity and Domestic Food Production through Crop Insurance](#)

### **Business & Community Development**

[USDA Announces Approval of D-SNAP for California Disaster Areas](#)  
[FNS Awards \\$50 Million for Improving Seniors' Access to Locally Grown Foods, Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience](#)  
[Biden-Harris Administration Delivers on its Promises to Invest in Rural People, Climate-Smart Solutions, and America's Food System](#)  
[USDA Launches Rural Data Gateway to Strengthen Partnerships and Expand Access to Resources for People in Rural America](#)  
[Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$2.7 Billion to Improve and Expand Rural Electric Infrastructure](#)

### **Conservation & Forestry**

[USDA Forest Service Releases Action Plan to Advance Nation-to-Nation Relations](#)  
[USDA Forest Service Celebrates Historic Investments in 2022](#)  
[Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend February Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)



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