

From: [Constant Contact](#)
To: [SM.OC.DCWA2.OCFeedback](#)
Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:05:01 AM

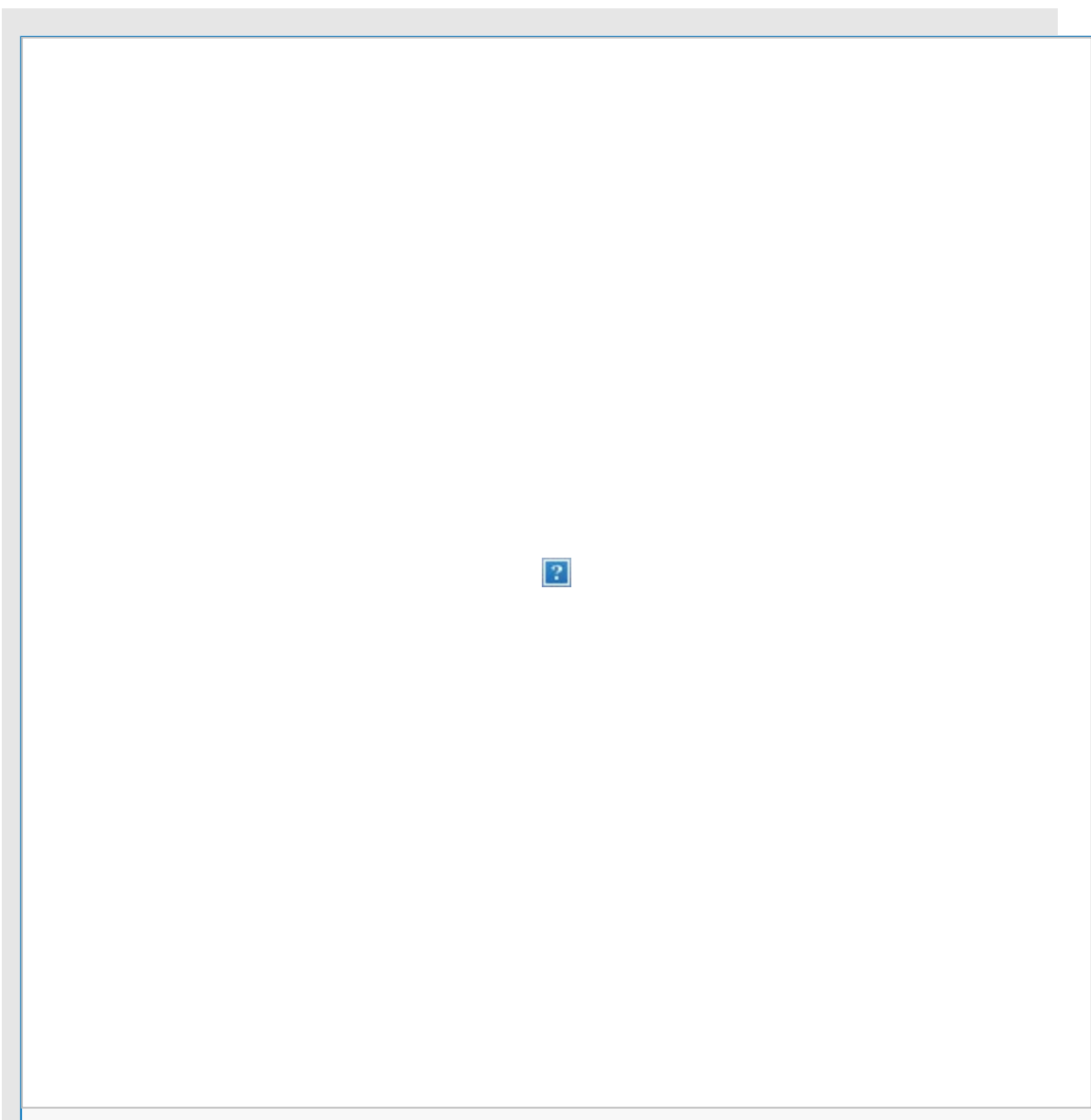


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 3/31/2023 around 11:01 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

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](#).

Message from the Director

Hihanni waste, greetings.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a Department-wide Tribal Barriers consultation from April 24 through May 1. Building off of the consultations USDA held in 2021 and 2022, these upcoming consultations will report out on previously identified barriers and talk about ones not previously discussed. The consultations will be the following areas: 1) Economic Development; 2) Food, Safety, and Trade; 3) Farming, Ranching, and Conservation; 4) Forests & Public Lands; and 5) Education & Research. Like last year, there will be framing papers for each of the subject areas. More details can be found below as well as on the USDA Office of Tribal Relations ([OTR](#)) [consultation website](#).

USDA will be at the [RES Conference in Las Vegas](#) next week and we hope you can join us at our panels:

Date: Wed. April 5, 3 – 3:50 p.m. PT

Panel: USDA Grant Funds for Food Sovereignty: Meat Processing, Food Boxes and More

Location: Pisa and Palermo Rooms, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nev.

Details: USDA is taking historic steps to strengthen food economies through noncompetitive and grant funding for tribal governments and communities. As your tribe takes a renewed effort to restore traditional foodways, this session will explore ongoing and emerging USDA resources for purchasing local food for distribution to your communities, developing value added processing around meat and seafood, and related programming.

Date: Wed., April 5, 4 – 4:50 p.m. PT

Panel: USDA Workshop on Noncompetitive 'Grant' Funds for Tribal Food Boxes

Location: Pisa and Palermo Rooms, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nev.

Details: Through the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Plus program, USDA allocated \$100M for tribal governments to purchase minimally processed food and distribute that food throughout tribal communities in food sovereignty programs. These funds provide for tribal government purchases of a wide variety of products, including traditional foods like herring eggs, salmon, and chokecherries. Come visit with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to talk through how this program promotes your vision of food sovereignty.

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



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, which has news updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and other important information.

Consultation, Listening Session, Webinar, and Other Notices

2023 Equity and Barriers Tribal Consultation

USDA will be holding a third consecutive consultation on equity and barriers. This will build on the discussions had during the previous consultations and go through the progress on these barriers and the work that needs to be done. Like the consultation last year, this will be broken up over five days by topic area. Each day the time will be 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. ET. The topics and dates are as follows:

- Monday April 24: Economic Development
- Tuesday April 25: Food, Safety, and Trade
- Thursday April 27: Farming, Ranching, and Conservation
- Friday April 28: Forests and Public Lands Management
- Monday May 1: Education and Research

Framing papers, a detailed agenda, and list of USDA consulting officials will be posted on the [OTR consultation website](#) soon.

Virtual Tribal Business Outreach Event

Date: May 10-11

[Registration link](#)

Details: Join the US Forest Service as they delve into projects focused on sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of our nation's forests and grasslands. With approximately 4,000 miles of coterminous boundaries with tribal lands, and a commitment to working with tribal partners towards healthy and resilient landscapes, this event will showcase opportunities for cross-jurisdictional coordination and unique tribal partnerships.

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 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

[Comment Request on Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs](#) – Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 DGAs – Comment Deadline: April 10, 2023

[USDA Extends Public Comment Period for Proposed Enhancements of Animal Disease Traceability Regulations](#) – Comment Deadline: April 19, 2023

Grant/Loan/Program Opportunities

[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.

[Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program – Pre Applications](#) – Application Deadline: April 17, 2023

NIFA requests pre-applications for the ECDRE program for fiscal year 2023 to address priorities identified by the Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board through projects that integrate research and extension activities and use systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches to provide solutions to U.S. citrus growers.

[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

NIFA 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.

[Equipment Grants Program](#) – Application Deadline: May 3, 2023

The Equipment Grants Program (EGP) serves to increase access to shared-use special purpose equipment/instruments for fundamental and applied research for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs at institutions of higher education, including State Cooperative Extension Systems.

[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 Marianas Islands by providing incentives at the point of purchase.

[Value-Added Producer Grant](#) – Application Deadline: May 11, 2023

The objective of this grant program is to assist viable Independent Producers, Agricultural Producer Groups, Farmer and Rancher Cooperatives, and Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Businesses in starting or expanding value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products. Grants will be awarded competitively for either planning or working capital projects directly related to the processing and/or marketing of value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the end goals of the program. All proposals must demonstrate economic viability and sustainability to compete for funding.

[FY23 Southern Area State Fire Capacity Hazard Mitigation](#) – Application Deadline:

May 14, 2023

The USDA Forest Service State Fire Capacity (SFC) Hazard Mitigation priorities are consistent with the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (<https://forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>), specifically: 1) Restore and Maintain Landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances, in accordance with management objectives; and 2) Create Fire Adapted Communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property.

[Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program](#) – Application Deadline: May 15, 2023

The purpose of the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program is to increase the diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce, and advance the educational achievement of all Americans by providing competitive grants to colleges and universities. Colleges and Universities can use this funding to support undergraduate scholarships and related experiential learning opportunities leading to the completion of a Bachelor's degree in the FANH Sciences or a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

[Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#) – Application Deadline: May 16, 2023

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service announces the availability of \$3,000,000 in competitive grant funds for the FY 2023 Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) program. The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Groups in rural areas. Eligible applicants include Cooperatives, Groups of Cooperatives, and Cooperative Development Centers. This program supports Rural Development's (RD) mission of improving the quality of life for rural Americans and commitment to directing resources to those who most need them.

[Quality Samples Program](#) – Application Deadline: May 19, 2023

The QSP is designed to encourage the development and expansion of export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities by assisting U.S. entities in providing commodity samples to potential foreign importers to promote a better understanding and appreciation for the high quality of U.S. agricultural commodities. The QSP is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). QSP participants will be responsible for procuring (or arranging for the procurement of) the commodity samples, exporting the samples, and providing the on-site technical assistance necessary to facilitate successful use of the samples by importers. Participants that are funded under this announcement may seek reimbursement from FAS for the sample purchase price and for the cost of transporting the samples domestically to the port of export and then to the first foreign port or point of entry. No other expenses will be reimbursed through the program, including the transportation costs from the first foreign port or point of entry to the final destination are not eligible for reimbursement. FAS will also not reimburse the costs incidental to purchasing and transporting samples, such as: inspection or documentation fees, certificates of any kind, tariffs, demurrage, etc. Although providing technical assistance is required for all projects, the costs of providing such technical assistance are not reimbursable under the program. The program operates on a reimbursement basis.

[2024 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program](#) – Application Deadline: May 19, 2023

The TASC program is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for projects that seek to remove, resolve, or mitigate existing or potential sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. The TASC program is administered by personnel of the Foreign Agricultural

Service (FAS) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

[2024 Market Access Program](#) – Application Deadline: May 19, 2023

Under the MAP, FAS enters into assistance agreements with eligible Participants to share the cost of certain marketing and promotion activities designed to foster healthy exports and market diversification by encouraging the development, maintenance, and expansion of diverse commercial export markets for United States agricultural commodities and products. Assistance may be provided for either generic or brand promotion activities. While activities generally take place overseas, reimbursable activities may also take place in the United States. Financial assistance under the MAP is made available on a competitive basis, and applications are reviewed against the evaluation criteria contained herein. FAS endeavors to enter into agreements with eligible Participants to cover as broad an array of agricultural commodity sectors as possible and to maximize the likelihood that benefits generated will be available throughout the relevant agricultural sectors and that no single entity gains an undue advantage or sole benefit from program activities. All U.S. agricultural commodities, except tobacco, are eligible for consideration. Applicants should refer to and have a common understanding of the MAP programmatic regulations, 7 CFR Part 1485, and the definitions contained within to fully understand this opportunity.

[Composting and Food Waste Reduction \(CFWR\) Pilot Project](#) – Application Deadline: June 15, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), under the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP), is soliciting proposals in fiscal year (FY) 2023 from eligible applicants to host a Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot project. The purpose of the CFWR program is to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Proposed projects can be located in all community types including rural, urban and suburban.

[Community Connect Grant Program](#) – Application Deadline: June 20, 2023

The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The deployment of broadband services on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. RUS will give priority to rural areas that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband services, based on the criteria contained herein.

[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.

USDA Indian Country Blogs

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

[USDA Assists Farmers, Ranchers and Communities Affected by Tornado in Mississippi](#)

Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

[USDA Seeks Nominees to Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers](#)

[USDA Announces Additional Assistance for Distressed Farmers Facing Financial Risk](#)

[Alaskan Self-Determination Demonstration Project Supports Tribal Health, Sovereignty](#)

[USDA Announces Additional Assistance for Distressed Farmers Facing Financial Risk](#)

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

[USDA Takes Steps to Support Food Sovereignty with the Forest County Potawatomi Community](#)

[USDA Market News Proposes to Redefine Cotton Spot Markets for Reporting](#)

[USDA Seeks Nominees for the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board](#)

[USDA Seeks Nominees for the American Lamb Board](#)

[USDA Seeks Nominees for the American Egg Board](#)

[USDA Seeks Nominees for the United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board](#)

[USDA Seeks Nominees for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center](#)

Business & Community Development

[USDA Announces More Than \\$43 Million Investment in Meat and Poultry Processing Research, Expansion and Innovation](#)

Conservation & Forestry

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests More Than \\$12 Million In Support of the Tribal Forest Protection Act](#)

[National Agriculture Day: Fifty Years Later, Farmers Are Growing a Climate for Tomorrow](#)

[Sign-Up Period Extended for Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate-Smart Practices](#)

[Apply Now for Conservation Collaboration Agreement Funding](#)

[USDA Requests Public Input on Key Water Quality Initiative](#)



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