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Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 4:08:59 PM

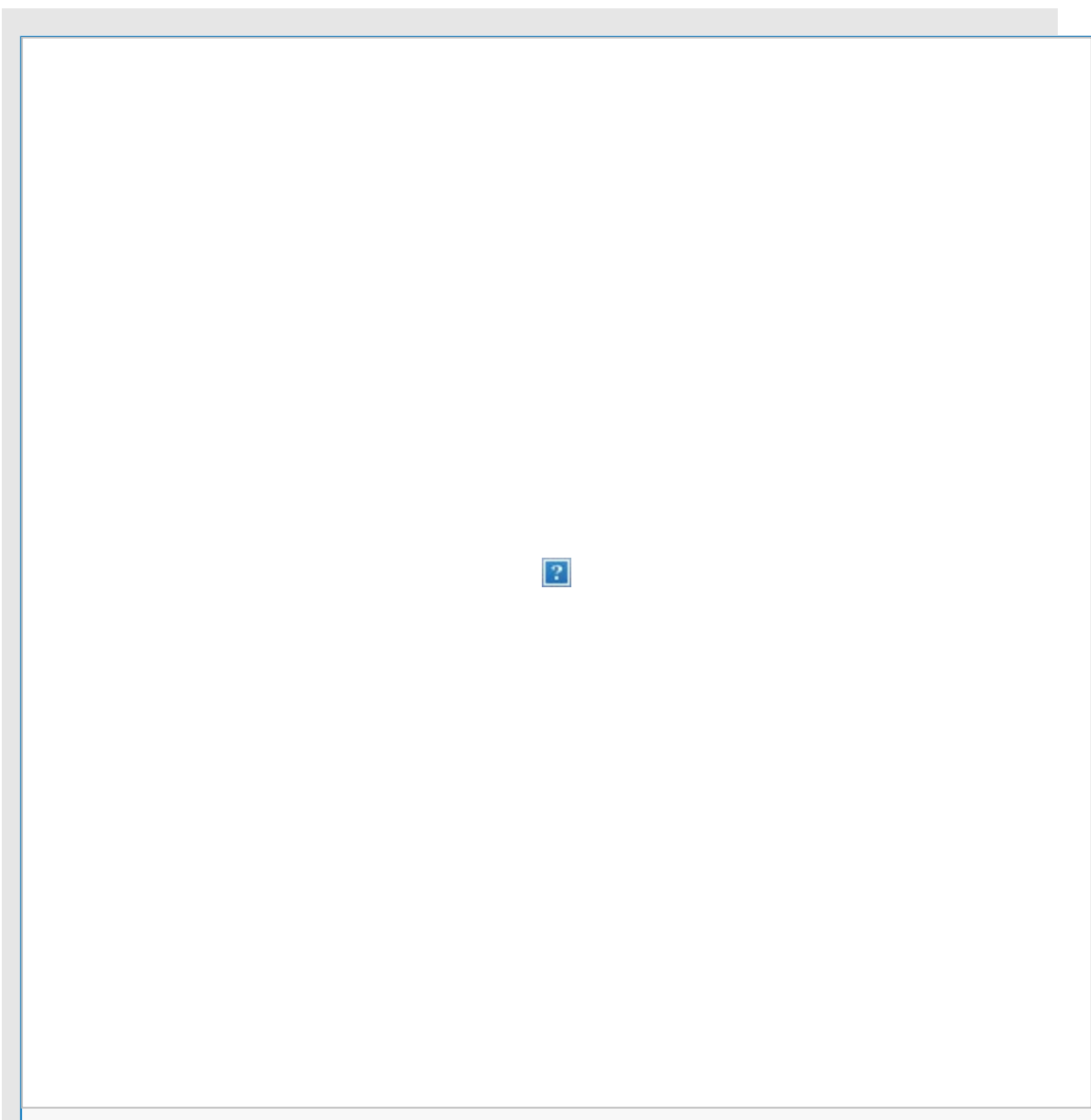


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 5/25/2023 around 4:05 PM EDT.

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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](#).

Message from the Director

Hest Sxlxalt (Good day in Salish),

It was recently announced that the Office of Tribal Relations Director Heather Dawn Thompson is going on detail with the Department of the Interior for three months providing leadership in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. While Director Thompson is on detail, it is my honor to serve as Acting Director. The Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) staff and I look forward to continued collaboration and coordination between tribal governments and the Department's programs as we address tribal priorities and the unique issues of tribal access to USDA program and services. As to my background, in addition to my federal service working in Indian affairs, I am a licensed attorney with the State of Montana and served as former legal counsel for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation. I reside in Arlee, Montana, and will also spend time in the Washington, D.C. office during my term as the Acting Director. I look forward to continuing the great work Heather has done until she returns from her detail and strengthening my relationships with all of you.

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

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

[Lawrence Shorty](#), 202-870-8035, USDA Tribal Colleges Program Director

[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*)

[Lisa Yellow Luger](#), 202-845-5646 (*Tribal Liaison – Tribal Colleges Program*)

L'emlmnts (Thank you),

Deb Dumontier
Acting 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**

**[USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)** – Application Deadline: July 15, 2023

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

For the most up to date information for these tribal consultations, visit: [OTR's Tribal Consultation page](#).

#### **FDPIR Tribal Leader Consultation Work Group Tribal Consultation**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. CDT – 4 p.m. CDT

**[Registration Link](#)**

**Location:** 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference

River Spirit Resort Casino

Tulsa, Okla.

Room: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

#### **Commodity Supplemental Food Program Tribal Consultation**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023

**Time:** 9 a.m. CDT – 12 p.m. CDT

**[Registration Link](#)**

**Location:** 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference

River Spirit Resort Casino

Tulsa, Okla.

Room: Boardroom 5

### **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

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

**[Revolving Fund Program](#)** – Application Deadline: June 10, 2023

This program provides grants to qualified private, non-profit entities to capitalize revolving

funds for the purpose of providing financing to eligible entities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects or with existing water and wastewater systems, and short-term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small-scale extension of services, or other small capital projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance activities of existing water and wastewater systems.

**[Rural Decentralized Water System Grant Program](#)** – Application Deadline: June 10, 2023

The DWS Grant Program has been established to help individuals with low to moderate incomes finance the costs of household water wells and individually owned decentralized wastewater systems that they own or will own. Grant funds must be used to establish and maintain a revolving fund to provide loans and sub-grants to eligible individuals for individually owned water well systems and/or individually owned wastewater systems. Individual households may use the loan and/or sub-grant funds to construct, refurbish, rehabilitate, or replace decentralized water systems up to the point of entry to a home. Point of entry for the well system is the junction where water enters into a home water delivery system after being pumped from a well. For septic systems, in lieu of the point of entry, the point of exit is substituted. The point of exit is the junction where wastewater exits out of the home wastewater collection system into the septic tank and drain field. Grant funds may be used to pay administrative expenses associated with providing DWS loans and/or sub-grants.

**[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.

**[Consolidated Multifamily Housing Technical Assistance Grant Programs](#)** – Application Deadline: July 3, 2023

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of funding for Multifamily Housing Nonprofit Transfer Technical Assistance (MFH NP TA) Grants and Off-Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance (Off-FLH TA) Grants. This funding is available for eligible technical assistance (TA) providers seeking grants to provide technical assistance services to qualified applicants.

**[FY2023 Scientific Cooperation Research Program](#)** – Application Deadline: July 7, 2023

USDA’s FAS administers the SCRP. This program has historically supported up to ten collaborative research programs annually. All applications must include foreign

collaborations, and projects should not exceed two years. Funding may be allocated to foreign collaborators through subawards.

### **[Organic Market Development Grants](#)** – Application Deadline: August 8, 2023

This program will support the development of new and expanded organic markets by providing additional resources for businesses transitioning to organic or initiating new organic production and processing capacity.

### **[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](#).

[Understanding and Addressing the Stress Faced by the Nation's Farmers and Ranchers Agriculture and Food Sovereignty](#)  
[USDA Funds 36 Projects Aimed at Connecting Families to WIC through Partnership with FRAC as part of Investing in America Agenda](#)  
[The Prevalence of the "Natural" Claim on Food Product Packaging](#)  
[USDA Offers Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased Costs](#)  
[USDA Announces New Steps to Enhance Organic Markets and Support Producers On World Bee Day. Celebrate NIFA-Funded Native American Pollinator Projects](#)  
[USDA Announces New Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board Members](#)

### **Business & Community Development**

[USDA Previews Emergency Relief Assistance for Agricultural Producers Who Incurred Losses Due to 2022 Natural Disaster Events](#)  
[USDA Previews Emergency Relief Assistance for Agricultural Producers Who Incurred Losses Due to 2022 Natural Disaster Events](#)  
[USDA to Bring New Jobs and Improved Infrastructure to Rural Partners Network Communities](#)  
[Biden-Harris Administration Makes Historic, \\$11 Billion Investment to Advance Clean Energy Across Rural America Through Investing in America Agenda](#)

### **Conservation & Forestry**

[Agriculture and Interior Departments Invest \\$2.8 Billion to Improve Public Lands Access and Support Conservation Efforts Across the United States](#)  
[USDA Invests \\$63M for Fuel Breaks to Protect Communities, Increase Firefighter Safety, as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)  
[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \\$500 Million for Improved Regional Conservation Partnership Program to Better Support Partners, Producers as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#)  
[Agriculture and Interior Departments Invest \\$2.8 Billion to Improve Public Lands Access and Support Conservation Efforts Across the United States | USDA](#)



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

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