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Subject: Your campaign USDA Office of Tribal Relations News has been sent
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 1:01:43 PM

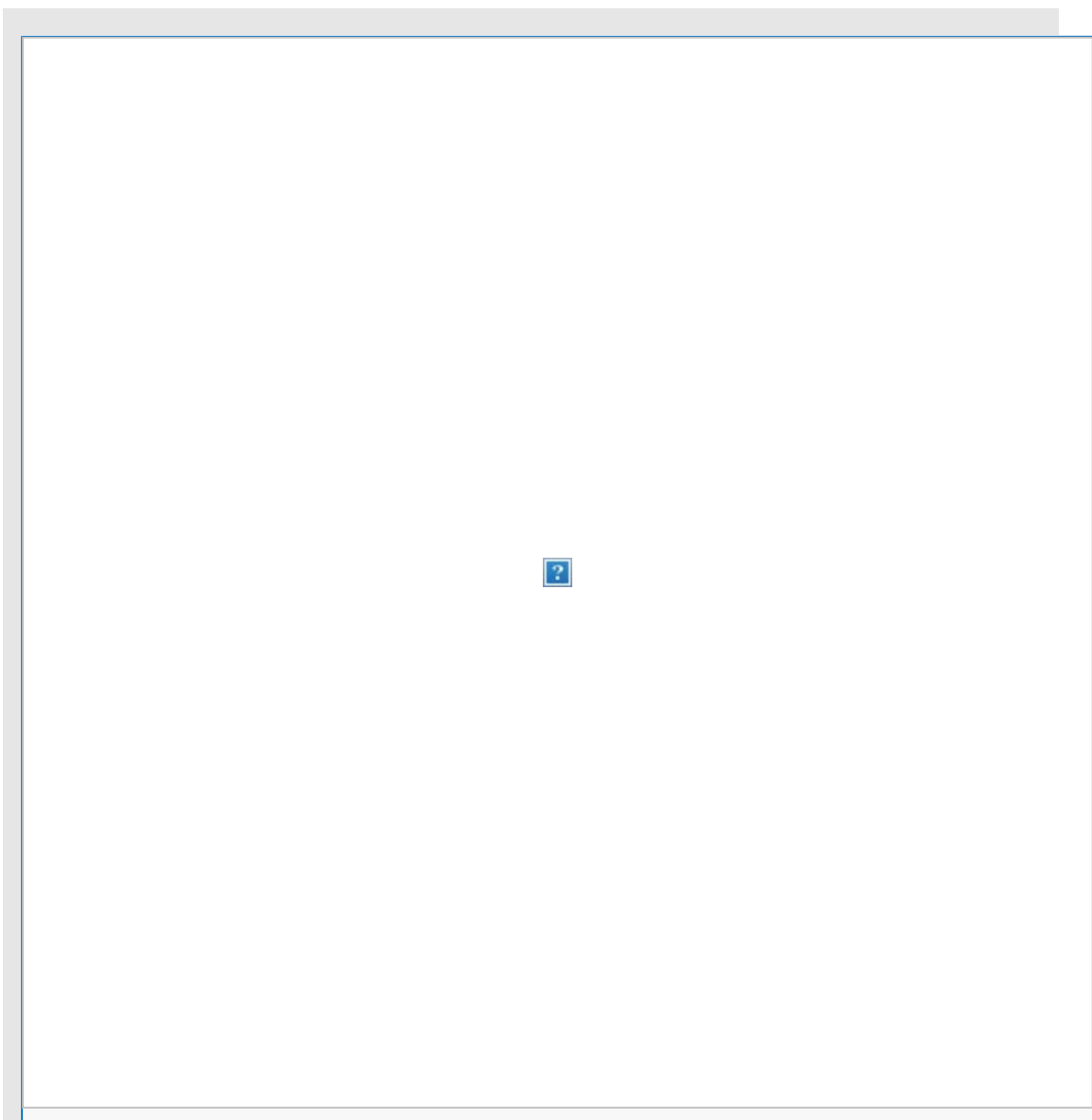


Dear Peter Rhee,

Your campaign '**USDA Office of Tribal Relations News**' was sent on 6/27/2023 around 1:00 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 Acting Director

Hest Sxlxalt (Good day in Salish),

The Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) team works in collaboration with Mission Areas and agencies within USDA, other federal agencies, tribal governments, and other tribal stakeholders to promote equity in all facets. This is particularly important when it comes to Indian Country due to systemic inequities that have occurred over centuries that still reverberate today. We look forward to engaging with tribal nations at the Tribal Self-Governance Conference in Tulsa and participating in the FDPIR Tribal Leader Consultation Work Group Consultation and Commodity Supplemental Food Program Consultation.

The [upcoming tribal consultations](#) allow OTR to facilitate engagement and learn how to best align our policies and programs to address tribal barriers and access to USDA programs. For example, the [Rural Business Development Grant proposed rule](#) recognizes a shift in response to past consultation. The consultation and listening session scheduled on July 12 is our opportunity to engage tribal leaders to ensure we are on the right path to recognizing tribal government entities as eligible beneficiaries in our programs like the Rural Business Development Grant.

The Office of Tribal Relations administers the Tribal Fellowship Program. [USDA welcomed the Tribal College Fellows](#) to the Washington, D.C. office to meet USDA program leaders and to learn more about USDA programs and services. OTR will continue to work with the Tribal College Fellows throughout the year to strengthen our relationship with the tribal colleges serving Indigenous students and communities.

On behalf of the OTR Team -

[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*)
[Jim Wabindato](#), 202-805-2208, *Special Policy Advisor, Tribal Ag Lands*

Lemlmnts (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

[Management and Program Analyst \(National Tribal Liaison for Natural Resources Conservation Service\)](#) – Application Deadline: July 3, 2023

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

[Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Nominations for Farmers and Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees](#) – Nominations Due: August 1, 2023

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

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

## FDPIR Tribal Leader Consultation Work Group Tribal Consultation and Commodity Supplemental Food Program Tribal Consultation

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

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT

**Registration Link**

**Location:** 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Conference  
River Spirit Resort Casino  
Tulsa, Okla.

Room: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

## Introduction to Tribal Mitigation Planning Webinar (FEMA)

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

**Time:** 2 - 3 p.m. ET

**Registration link**

**Description:** A hazard mitigation plan can be a road map to resilience. Tribal nations can use them to plan for and reduce the risk of natural disasters. In addition, a FEMA-approved mitigation plan is a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. This webinar is for tribal government officials, planners, and anyone involved in tribal mitigation planning. FEMA will cover basic mitigation planning concepts, types of mitigation plans, steps to create a mitigation plan and available resources. Later this year, FEMA will begin the update process for its tribal mitigation planning policy. This webinar is a primer for upcoming

engagement with tribal nations related to the policy update. Note that this webinar will be recorded.

### **Rural Business Development Grant Program Proposed Rule Consultation**

Tribal Caucus:

**Date:** July 12, 2023

**Time:** 1 - 2 p.m. EDT

[Registration link](#)

**Note:** Tribal caucus is an opportunity for tribal leaders to discuss relevant consultation issues, typically facilitated by a recognized tribal organization, without federal policymakers online.

Tribal Consultation and Listening Session:

**Date:** July 12, 2023

**Time:** 2-3:30 p.m. EDT

[Registration link](#)

**Note:** Tribal Leaders registered for the caucus do not have to register again for the consultation.

#### **Documents:**

[Tribal Invitation](#) (PDF, 322 KB)

[Proxy Letter Template](#) (DOCX, 20.5 KB)

### **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**

#### **[USDA Seeks Fiscal Year 2024 Suggestions for Plant Protection Projects](#) –**

Application Deadline: September 6, 2023

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

#### **[Calendar Year 2022 Disaster Water Grants](#) – Application Deadline: Rolling Until Funds Exhausted**

The CY 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program is designed to assist communities by awarding grant funds to qualified entities for expenses related to water infrastructure systems in designated areas that were impacted by events that occurred during CY 2022 and were recognized through Presidentially Declared Disasters. In addition to damage repairs, these grants are also intended to develop system capacity and resiliency in order

to reduce or eliminate long-term risks from future events. Water infrastructure systems include drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater projects serving eligible communities. Adequate documentation must be provided to demonstrate impacts to the water infrastructure systems.

#### **[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 SCR. This program has historically supported up to 10 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.

#### **[FY23 Cochran Fellowship](#)** – Application Deadline: July 31, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Fellowship Programs, announces this funding opportunity to support the Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) by issuing new awards. This opportunity is available to Minority Serving Institutions (refer to Section C). This program is intended to support improved understanding of the principles of urban agriculture among program participants. The objective of this program is to educate Fellows on best practices within urban agriculture, including community building to increase global food security. The goal of this program is to increase these countries' capacity for agricultural research, extension, and participation in international trade.

#### **[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.

#### **[FY23 School Foodservice Workforce](#)** – Application Deadline: August 21, 2023

This Request for Applications (RFA) announces the availability of funds for a cooperative agreement. This funding opportunity will support research projects to better understand and generate information related to the school foodservice workforce focused on dimensions such as worker satisfaction, workforce experience, and training and development. Relevant research activities may include, but are not limited to providing information on career pathways for the school foodservice workforce, including training and skill-building opportunities, promotion potential, and tenure/retention within individual employers and the industry as a whole; identifying skills used on the job by role, including analysis of transferability of skills to other industries; identifying level of worker satisfaction and describe workplace conditions (perception and objective measures); and examining how any of the above vary across roles, demographics, school/school food authority (SFA) characteristics, and geography.

#### **[FY23 Review of Produce Safety University](#)** – Application Deadline: August 21, 2023

The purpose of the Review of the Produce Safety University Cooperative Agreement is to select one organization to evaluate the Produce Safety University (PSU) course

developed by USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in collaboration with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). PSU is a week-long train-the-trainer immersion course that is typically held five times each year in the late spring and summer months. The course immerses child nutrition professionals in the fresh produce supply chain. Participants learn to identify and manage food safety risks associated with fresh produce whether it's purchased from farmers or distributors, received whole or fresh-cut, or grown in a school garden. The curriculum covers all aspects of the fresh produce supply chain from growing and harvesting to storage and preparation through a combination of lecture, laboratory, and field-trip instruction.

FNS seeks to enter into a cooperative agreement for up to \$600,000.00 with a selected applicant capable of evaluating the PSU course, the effectiveness of its curriculum, and determining the impact of PSU graduates. Eligible entities include public and state controlled institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; and nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education; all non-profit organizations must include their 501(c)(3) determination letter issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). To be eligible, the entities stated above must demonstrate successful completion of rigorous research through publication of research in peer-reviewed journals.

**[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](#).

[USDA Announces Inaugural "From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals"](#)

### **Farming and Food Sovereignty**

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Intended Investment of Approximately \\$300 Million in 50 Projects Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access for Underserved Producers](#)

[USDA Applauds Washington's Tribal Eligibility Demonstration Project Expansion](#)

[USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports by July 17. Use New Online Map Features on Farmers.gov](#)

[USDA Announces Corrections to Emergency Relief Program Policy to More Accurately Reflect 2020 and 2021 Natural Disaster Impacts on Crops Intended for On-Farm Use](#)

[USDA Accepts More Than 1 Million Acres in Offers Through Conservation Reserve Program General Signup](#)

[Completing Genome of Rusty Patched Bumble Bee May Offer New Approach to Saving Endangered Bee](#)

[Food Safety is the Main Ingredient to a Successful Cookout](#)

### **Business & Community Development**

[Biden-Harris Administration Partners with Agricultural Producers to Strengthen Markets and Create Jobs for Producers in 19 States](#)  
[USDA NIFA Invests in Positive Youth Development](#)  
[USDA Unveils New Tool to Track Federally Funded Investments](#)

**Conservation & Forestry**

[USDA Announces \\$43 Million Investment to Advance Innovation in Wood Products and Wood Energy Economies through Investing in America Agenda](#)



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