

# FY2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions

*Greater investment needed for competitive grants program that builds extension services capacity at the Tribal Colleges and Universities to effectively address unique challenges of the tribal communities they serve.*

In 1994, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) obtained federal land grant status under the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act and the designation as the 1994 land-grant institutions. As a result, these 32 institutions are eligible to compete for 1994 Extension Services grants administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This program provides eligible institutions with resources to:

- Develop and expand the capacity of 1994 Institutions to provide individuals, families, and communities with extension education, outreach, and technical assistance.
- Address special needs, respond to emerging issues, and/or achieve long-term sustained benefits of extension grant projects.

The Extension Services Programs at the 1994 Institutions strengthen communities through outreach programs designed to foster economic development, community resources, family and youth development, natural resources stewardship, agriculture, and health and nutrition awareness.

**Extension needs among those served by the 1994 land-grant institutions are significant and growing each year. Due to a lack of adequate funding, many meritorious proposals cannot be funded at all or cannot be funded adequately. For example, less than 40 percent of the special emphasis grants submitted under the 1994 Extension program were funded in FY 2010.**

The 1994 Extension program is changing people's lives in communities throughout Indian Country. Here are two examples:

The extension program at the College of Menominee Nation (CMN) in Keshena, Wisconsin, strengthens sustainable economic development on the Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Oneida, and Potawatomi Reservations and surrounding communities by increasing distance education capacity, conducting needs assessment studies, providing workshops and training sessions, and providing strategic planning assistance. CMN's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) project, for instance, addresses the excessive number of high interest refund anticipation loans in Menominee County, saving Menominee communities \$92,000 in tax preparation fees and interest payments.



Turtle Mountain Community College in North Dakota, through its "Improving Family Health through Gardening" program, provides a culturally relevant and effective strategy for addressing the health and well-being of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. An initial goal is to address the ever-increasing rates of obesity, especially in children, and the resulting chronic conditions, including diabetes and cardiovascular problems that are at epidemic levels on the reservation. Working through the college's Anishinabe Learning, Cultural & Wellness Center all of the extension activities utilize the concept of lifelong learning to improve the economic and social well-being and overall health choices of the Turtle Mountain reservation community.

**A·P·L·U urges members of the Senate and House to support the highest possible FY2011 Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions appropriation. Since both chambers have instituted an earmark moratorium, we urge the reallocation of these project funds to the 1994 Extension program and our other NIFA priorities.**

For additional information, email Hunt Shipman (hshipman@cgagroup.com) or Jim Richards (jrichards@cgagroup.com). Phone: 202.448.9500.

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