

1994 Institutions Research

American Indian communities across the United States are served by tribal institutions of higher education awarded land-grant status in 1994. Currently, 34 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) located in 15 states are deemed 1994 land-grant institutions. These TCUs are eligible to compete for grants awarded under the 1994 Institutions Research Program administered by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

This program provides the 1994 land-grant institutions with resources to build scientific capacity through collaborative research with 1890 and 1862 land-grant universities and other partners. The program also helps the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions address the agricultural, health and environmental concerns of American Indian reservation communities through scientific inquiry.

The 1994 Institutions Research program gives Native American students better prospects for employment and educational achievement by engaging them in laboratory and field research in the food and agricultural sciences.

Research conducted by the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions addresses food and agricultural sciences, including:

- Sustainable agriculture or forestry.
- Biotechnology and bioprocessing.
- Agribusiness management and marketing.
- Plant and animal breeding and aquaculture.
- Human nutrition (including health, obesity, and diabetes).
- Family, community, and rural development.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities continues to seek sustained/enhanced funding for the 1994 Institutions Research program. Although Congress has provided relatively steady funding for this critical land-grant capacity program in recent years, as shown in the chart on page two, the appropriation has grown very little since its inception. To continue to conduct critical research projects at Tribal Colleges and Universities, we support 1994 Institutions Research funding at a level of \$2,801,000 in FY 2016.



A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2016

1994 Institutions Research Program.....\$2.801M+

1994 Land-Grant Institutions are...

Tribal Colleges and Universities that received land-grant status under the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 to serve their constituents through higher education programs involving teaching, community outreach, and research. The 1994 Institutions primarily serve American Indian populations in remote, underserved communities through culturally relevant curriculum and programs.

1994 Land-Grant Institutions serve communities in...

Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, No. Dakota, Oklahoma, So. Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Membership in A·P·L·U

The 1994 Institutions comprise and are represented by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, which is an A·P·L·U affiliate. See: www.aihec.org

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1994 Institutions Research Program

Appropriations Bill
Agriculture

Agency
National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Account
Research and Education Activities

Program
1994 Institutions Research Program

Requested Amount
\$2,801,000

Description
Provides competitively-awarded grants for research to address the problems unique to Native American people and their communities.

Authorization
7 U.S.C. 301, (Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994).

Eligible / Final Recipients
Eligibility is defined by statute to include the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions.

Matching Funds
By statute, eligible institutions are not required to provide a match.

President's FY2016 Budget Request
\$1,914,000

Five-Year Funding History
FY 2015 \$1,801,000
FY 2014 \$1,801,000
FY 2013 \$1,661,000
FY 2012 \$1,801,000
FY 2011 \$1,801,000

A·P·L·U requests that \$2,801,000 be appropriated for the 1994 Institutions Research Program at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Benefits / Impacts

This program benefits Native communities and the Nation by providing research capacity to:

- Improve knowledge concerning the complex linkages between food, culture, and diet related illness such as obesity and diabetes.
- Preserve the natural resources of America and Tribal nations.
- Maintain the economic competitiveness of food producers that operate on Tribal lands.
- Cooperate with other universities within the land-grant system to address the unique research needs of American Indians research needs of American Indians throughout the nation.

Examples

- Research at College of Menominee Nation (Wisconsin), in collaboration with Iowa State University, is studying environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability indicators for rural communities to help develop policies that will create “green” jobs and businesses.
- Bay Mills Community College (Michigan), in partnership with Michigan State University, is researching the viability of grass-based fuel pellet production.
- Researchers at Tohono O’odham Community College (Arizona) and the University of Massachusetts-Lowell are studying optimal sites in Native American communities for solar and geothermal projects for homes and businesses that will reduce energy costs and increase economic activity.

