

Virginia Tribal Summit

2501 Grant Program and 1994 Scholar Program

USDA/Office of Partnerships and
Public Engagement (OPPE)

<https://www.usda.gov/partnerships>

Travis Johnson; USDA Liaison



Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (The 2501 Program)

[Federal Register :: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance \(CFDA\) No.: 10.443-
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers](#)

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2501-factsheet-2022.pdf>

Deadline to Apply: June 8, 2022



USDA Announces \$35 Million Funding Opportunity to Support Underserved and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced approximately \$35 million in available funding to community-based and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and tribal entities that help historically underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through the USDA’s Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program). The 2501 Program is administered by the USDA Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement (OPPE).

“It has always been hard for the beginning farmer, the young farmer, the specialty crop grower to access and make use of USDA programs—and even more so for farmers of color who were denied access because of historical discrimination in farm programs,” said OPPE Director Lisa Ramirez. “2501 funding helps historically underserved groups more fully access and participate in USDA programs and services.”

For more than 30 years, and in partnership with organizations nationwide, the 2501 Program has helped reach historically underserved farmers and ranchers who have experienced barriers to service due to racial or ethnic prejudice. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program to include assistance to veteran farmers and ranchers. The 2018 Farm Bill increased mandatory funding for the program through fiscal year 2023. With 2501 funding, organizations conduct education, training, farming demonstrations, and conferences on farming and agribusiness, and increase access to USDA’s programs and services.

Since 2010, the 2501 program has awarded 563 grants totaling more than \$158 million. Among recent FY 2021 grantees, the Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute received a 2501 grant to help establish a regional network of Alaska Native farmers in support of economic development and regional food security. Additionally, Georgia-based Stag Vets, Inc. conducted institutes to train veterans and other students for careers in sustainable food production.

Eligible 2501 Program applicants include not-for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and a range of higher education institutions serving African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (The 2501 Program)

The 2501 Program was created through the 1990 Farm Bill to help socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and foresters, who have historically experienced limited access to USDA programs and services. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program's reach to veterans. Grants are awarded to higher education institutions and nonprofit and community-based organizations to extend USDA's engagement efforts in these communities. Projects funded under the 2501 Program include, but are not limited to, conferences, workshops, and demonstrations on various farming techniques, and connecting underserved farmers and ranchers to USDA local officials to increase awareness of USDA's programs and services while filling the needs for increased partnerships. Since 2010, the 2501 program has awarded 563 grants totaling more than \$158 million.



Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (The 2501 Program)

Who is eligible to apply for grants under the 2501 Program?

Higher education institutions, nonprofit organizations which includes nonprofit economic development corporations, and non-governmental community-based associations or organizations which includes non-governmental nonprofit conservations districts that provide agricultural education or agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in their region are eligible and may apply for a grant under the 2501 Program, as defined in 7 U.S.C. 2279. Individuals are not eligible.

Examples of eligible entities that may apply for a 2501 grant are:

- 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, as defined in 7 U.S.C., section 7601
- 1994 American Indian Tribal Community Colleges
- Alaska Native Cooperative Colleges
- Hispanic-serving post-secondary educational institutions
- Other accredited post-secondary ag-related educational institutions
- Community-based and nonprofit organizations (including tribal organizations)
- Indian tribes providing agricultural education or other agricultural-related services to socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in their region.

The USDA logo is displayed in a large, white, semi-circular shape on the right side of the page. The letters "USDA" are in a bold, blue, serif font. Below the text are stylized green and white horizontal lines representing a landscape or fields.

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (The 2501 Program)

What groups are defined as *socially disadvantaged* under the 2501 Program?

Under Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACT Act), also known as the 1990 Farm Bill, P.L. 101-624, a socially disadvantaged group is defined as: A farmer or rancher who is a member of one or more of the following groups whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities, 7 U.S.C. § 2279(e). Groups include, but are not limited to:

- African Americans
- American Indians
- Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Hispanics
- Pacific Islanders
- Refugees and Immigrants belonging to any of the groups named above.

Under the 2501 Program definition of “socially disadvantaged,” women as an individual group are not considered a socially disadvantaged group unless they fall into one of the groups identified above.

The USDA logo is displayed in a large, blue, serif font. Below the text, there are stylized green and white horizontal lines representing a landscape or fields. The logo is set against a white circular background that is part of a larger blue graphic on the right side of the page.

**Outreach and Assistance for Socially
Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran
Farmers and Ranchers Program
(The 2501 Program)**

For more information:

- **Website**
<https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/sociallydisadvantaged-farmers-and-ranchers>
- **Visit Grants.gov**
<https://grants.gov>
- **Email or call**
2501grants@usda.gov or (202) 720 6350



1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program

There are 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities (also known as “1994s”), designated as land-grant institutions through the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994. For reservation communities, these 1994 land-grant institutions help improve the lives and career opportunities for Native students and the communities at large. 1994 institutions support research, education, and extension programs that enhance local agriculture and food production.

The USDA 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program ensures that tribally controlled colleges and universities, the 1994 land-grant institutions, and the Native American communities served by these schools equitably participate in the USDA workforce as employees and have access to USDA programs, services, and resources.



USDA



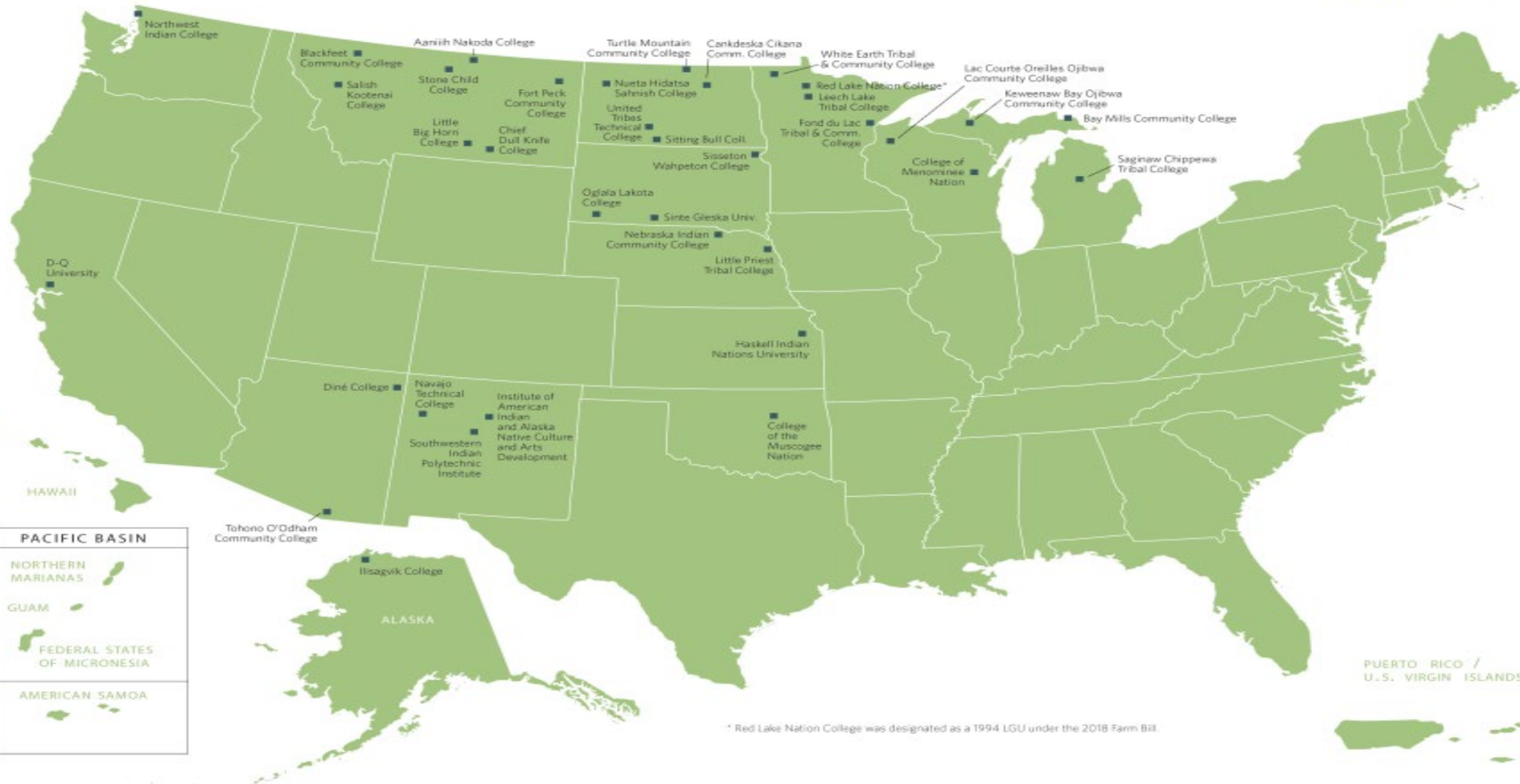
United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

www.nifa.usda.gov @USDA_NIFA

NIFA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

1994



Northwest Indian College

Blackfeet Community College

Salish Kootenai College

Aaniih Nakoda College

Stone Child College

Fort Peck Community College

Little Big Horn College

Chief Dull Knife College

Turtle Mountain Community College

Cankdeska Cikana Comm. College

White Earth Tribal & Community College

Neota Hidatsa Sahnish College

United Tribes Technical College

Sitting Bull Coll.

Red Lake Nation College*

Leech Lake Tribal College

Fond du Lac Tribal & Comm. College

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College

Bay Mills Community College

College of Menominee Nation

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Oglala Lakota College

Sinte Gleska Univ.

Nebraska Indian Community College

Little Priest Tribal College

Haskell Indian Nations University

Diné College

Navajo Technical College

Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

College of the Muscogee Nation

Tohono O'odham Community College

Iisagvik College

ALASKA

PUERTO RICO / U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program

Program Objective:

- The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program seeks to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and related disciplines.
- The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program combines classroom study with paid work experience that leads to employment at USDA. Through this program, USDA seeks to boost the number of students studying and graduating in food, agriculture, natural resources, and other related fields of study, and help build the pipeline of future agricultural scientists and professionals. The program also strengthens USDA partnerships with 1994 land-grant institutions.
- The program provides full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, and books each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food science, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline at one of 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.



1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program

Program Objective con't

- Scholars accepted into the program will be eligible for noncompetitive conversion to a permanent appointment with USDA upon successful completion of their degree requirements by the end of the agreement period. (5 CFR 213.3202) (Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 - Section 12519)
- If selected, scholars must commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided. The details of this requirement will be outlined in the service agreement for the scholar, their university, and the USDA sponsoring agency.



1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program

Eligibility Requirements:

The USDA 1994 National Scholar is required to:

- Be a U.S citizen
- Have been admitted as well as enrolled as full-time student in a 1994 Land-Grant Tribal College or University or be a recent graduate of one of these schools.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Have demonstrated leadership and community service. Have submitted an official transcript with a school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official.
- Submit an essay that is 500-800 words describing
 - 1) What motivates you to consider a career in public service working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Include information about your educational and career goals and how this scholarship may assist you to achieve them;
 - 2) How did you become interested in studying food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences or another related discipline in college.



1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Program

Application Period:

Application Open: October 1st

Application Close: January 31st

Award Notification: By July of current academic year

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-1994-tribal-scholars-program-student-application.pdf>



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For more information:

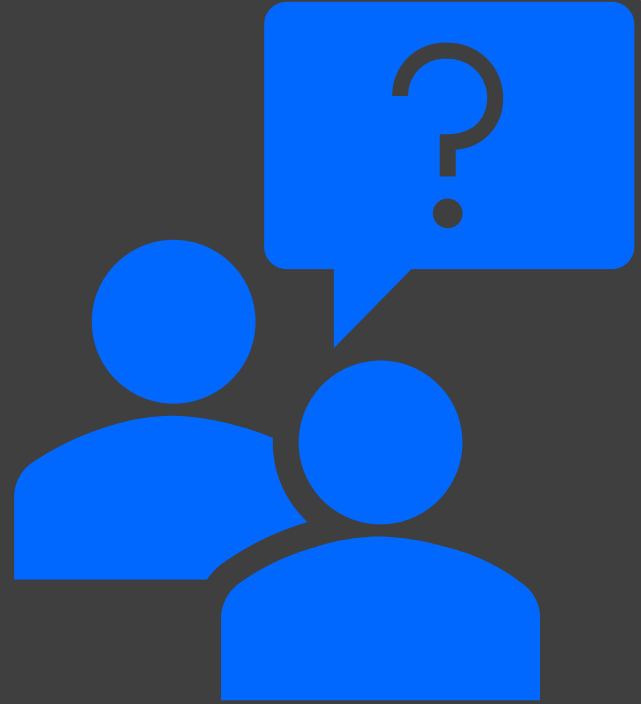
- **Website**

<https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1994-program>

- **Email or call**

1994@usda.gov or (202) 720 6350





QUESTIONS

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