



SOVEREIGN EQUITY FUND

Cultural Foodways Request for Applications Overview

Welcome to the **Sovereign Equity Fund's (SEF)** 2024 Cultural Foodways Request for Applications (RFA). SEF is proud to partner with the [Native American Agriculture Fund](#) (NAAF) and the [Mellon Foundation](#) to administer the Cultural Foodways Fund, a funding opportunity for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that provides capital and capacity building to expand knowledge of the arts and humanities of Native food systems. The mission of the Cultural Foodways Fund is to promote the study, practice and recognition of Indigenous food and agriculture knowledge at TCUs and create platforms that celebrate community-led, culturally appropriate ways of sharing that knowledge with community members and other constituencies.

Request: \$200,000 for 24 months

Opens: March 1, 2024

Closes: July 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. CT

[Apply Here \(SEF Website\)](#)

Eligibility

The Cultural Foodways Fund is an opportunity targeted for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). To determine eligibility, we reference the [official list of TCUs](#) maintained by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). The lead applicant must be a TCU or a foundation under TCU control. To be considered the lead applicant, an entity must serve as the project lead/key personnel for the project, have oversight of the budget, and be the primary contact with SEF throughout the duration of the grant. TCUs may choose to partner with other entities including but not limited to 501(c)(3) organizations, educational organizations, and Tribal governments. Any prospective applicant with questions about eligibility should contact SEF to discuss their situation.

Opportunity

The Cultural Foodways RFA seeks to fund TCUs to conduct projects that focus on learning about, sharing, and safeguarding the artistic, cultural, and humanistic aspects of Native foodways. This opportunity is designed to highlight place-based and people-centric connections that focus on the importance of food and agriculture to Tribal communities beyond (but inclusive of) economic value. This includes work that addresses the traditions, ceremonies, cuisines, language, art, storytelling, cosmologies, belief systems, customs, and ways of being intertwined with Indigenous foodways. We are particularly interested in projects that narrate a story of the traditional relationships with food, culture, and values found throughout Indian Country.

We seek proposals that are collaborative, creative and community oriented, and work toward increased understanding of, and recognition for, the arts and humanities of cultural foodways. The range of deliverables is broad and may include curriculum development, multimedia production, academic or popular publication, agricultural/ecological restoration, program delivery, network creation, capacity/skill building and more. Grant funds may be used for personnel, direct, intermediary, and indirect expenses (see budget guidelines). The scope of work is not limited to serving the students/faculty/staff of a TCU; each applicant may identify the population of service that fits with their project vision. Our aim is to support TCUs in showcasing the importance of arts and humanities in Indigenous foodways in their community.

Evaluation

SEF will work with reviewers who have direct experience in the arts and humanities of Native foodways. They will use standardized evaluation criteria to ensure a transparent and thorough review of all applications. Points will be awarded according to how clearly, completely, and compellingly an applicant responds to the questions posed in the six categories below.

	Points	Description
Vision	20	What is your vision for uplifting the arts and humanities of Native food and agriculture (i.e., objectives)?
Contribution	20	How do you seek to contribute to cultural foodways in the community (i.e., outputs and outcomes)?
Plan	20	How will your project plan (i.e., activities and timeline) lead to the intended contribution?
Team	20	How is your organization (and any partners) specially situated to carry out the project plan and achieve the vision?
Longevity	10	How will you build a foundation for continued work?
Evaluation	10	How will you evaluate implementation and measure impact?

Definitions related to evaluation criteria:

- **Objectives:** Overarching aims; the vision you wish to achieve.
- **Outputs:** Tangible deliverables from the project.
- **Outcomes:** Changes in attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, skills, and/or behaviors as a result of your project.
- **Activities:** Major tasks necessary to create output(s) and reach outcome(s).
- **Timeline:** An overview of when activities will happen.

Process

Timeline	Date (2024)
Opens	Fri, March 1
Webinar #1	Tue, March 12 at 2-3 pm CT
Webinar #2	Tue, April 9 at 2-3 pm CT
Webinar #3	Tue, May 14 at 2-3 pm CT
Webinar #4	Tue, June 18 at 2-3 pm CT
Closes	Mon, July 1 at 11:59 pm CT
Review panel convenes	Mid-July
Decisions announced	Early August
Grants begin	Sun, September 1

The 2023 Cultural Foodways RFA **opens on Friday, March 1** and **closes on Monday, July 1 at 11:59 pm CT**. Only applications submitted through the [online portal](#) by the due date will be considered for funding. The online portal is operated by Foundant Technologies. Please refer to the Foundant Tutorial on our website for instructions on how to create a new account, apply for funding, use the collaborator feature tool and more. There are several opportunities to seek technical assistance throughout the application process. SEF will host four webinars throughout the application process. The webinars will start with a 30-minute overview of the application process and then transition to a question-and-answer (Q&A) period. All webinar recordings will be posted and archived on the SEF website. [Registration is required](#) to participate.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

SEF staff, reviewers and board members have signed Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality statements and are pledged to ensure that all applications and related information are received and reviewed in compliance with SEF Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality requirements. SEF takes seriously its responsibilities in these two key areas and will take all precautions necessary to ensure that there are no real or perceived conflicts of interest among staff, reviewers or board members when reviewing and making final determinations on projects

selected for funding. SEF also takes seriously its responsibilities for keeping all materials received confidential.

Grantee Responsibilities

If selected for funding, grantees will complete a grant agreement detailing the terms of the award and a media release form to allow SEF to spotlight their work publicly so that all of Indian Country can learn from the project. SEF will work with TCUs to safeguard culturally sensitive knowledge. Grantees are required to provide quarterly updates, annual reports, and a final report on the progress of the grant project.

Contact

Prospective applicants may reach out for technical assistance via email or phone call. It may take up to three (3) business days for a thorough response to your message. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Email: grants@sovereignequityfund.org

Phone: 479-790-2233