



**AIHEC – USDA/NRCS  
PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT  
TRIBAL FARMING, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION  
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS  
JULY 2018**

AIHEC is pleased to announce that we are soliciting applications from Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) as well as Tribal governments, schools and organizations interested in participating in a collaborative effort to strengthen environmental and agricultural research, education, and management practices in Tribal communities. The project is intended to foster collaborations among Tribal education, research, and agriculture stakeholders around community food security, environmental management, and related issues.

Awardee colleges, agencies and organizations are expected to participate in a community of practice in the promotion of Tribal farming, environmental resource management as well as encourage the next generation of Tribal agriculturalists and environmental managers. Awardees are expected to collaborate with each other, AIHEC, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in exploring and sharing strategies for supporting Tribal agriculture, promoting food sovereignty, and broadening the exposure of high school and undergraduate students through opportunities for hands-on participation in project-related activities.

Four awards of up to \$40,000 each will be made in this pilot year of the project to cover the costs associated with either establishing a Tribal Plant Nursery or developing an Edge-of-Field water monitoring project in partnership with a Tribal farming operation.

### **Opportunity Overview**

#### *Tribal Plant Nursery*

Tribal Plant Nurseries (TPN) will be established to support local education, conservation, and agricultural practice improvement activities. TCUs and Tribal organizations selected to establish a Tribal Plant Nursery are expected to coordinate with a regional USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Center to develop TPN activities to support local education, agricultural production or conservation goals. The TPNs will be housed in an approximately 22' x 48' high tunnel greenhouse. See [here](#) for more information about the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

#### *Edge-of-Field Projects*

Edge-of-field (EOF) monitoring systems are used to identify water quality concerns associated with farming and other forms of land use. They provide on-farm monitoring of the environmental impact and performance of agricultural practices. Edge-of-field awardees will be funded to develop the capacity through acquisition of necessary instrumentation and training provided by NRCS to conduct water quality studies and provide data collection and analysis services for a Tribal edge-of-field monitoring project. See [here](#) for more information about EOF monitoring systems and available resources

Awardee TCUs, schools and Tribal organizations will help to promote sustainable economic, agricultural and natural resource management practices while providing significant hands-on learning opportunities for high school students and undergraduates, thereby helping protect culturally and economically important Tribal land and water resources.

### **Applicant Eligibility**

*TCUs:* Applicant must be 1994 Land Grant Institutions, and AIHEC member institutions in good standing. Applications must include documentation of approval by the President, and/or Provost supporting release time for staff and faculty members involved in the project.

*Tribal schools:* Applicant must be a Bureau of Indian Education or state-operated high school located on Tribal land.

*Tribal governmental agency:* Applicant must be a Tribal governmental agency responsible for either environmental/resource or agricultural management.

*Tribal organization:* Applicant must be a non-profit organization located within the borders of a Tribal nation which operates either Tribal education, environmental or agricultural programs.

### **Application Format**

The application must contain the following:

- 1. Capability statement** [50 points] 1-2 pages
  - a. A list of all personnel who are to be involved with the project, and their qualifications.
  - b. A description of the applicant's current agriculture, environmental management, conservation and/or education programs relevant to the project.
  - c. A list of any collaborating partners and their roles in the project.
  
- 2. Target/Focus population** [50 points] 1-2 pages  
This section should include a brief description of the community your project will be serving. Please provide a documented estimate of the number of farmers and ranchers (or other agricultural producers) in your service area that could be impacted by the project. EOF projects must describe the farming operation to be monitored.  
  
Include a dissemination plan on how you will share your lessons learned with other TCUs and/or tribal programs.
  
- 3. Documentation of commitment:**
  - a. TCUs: A letter of commitment from the President or authorized representative confirming the institution's intention to participate in the project, and approving of the personnel commitments described in the application.

- b. Tribal school: Applications must include documentation of approval by the Principal of the school.
- c. Tribal agency: Applications must include documentation of approval by Tribal Council resolution or authorizing letter from the Tribal chairman/president or designee.
- d. Tribal organizations: Applications must include an authorizing resolution from the organization's board of directors.

**Please note:** No detailed budget is required with the application. The budgets will be finalized post-selection. Total amount of awards will be \$40,000.

### **Proposal Submission**

**Send application package as a Microsoft Word or PDF file by e-mail to [jphillips@aihec.org](mailto:jphillips@aihec.org)**  
Applications must be received electronically by **August 21, 2018**. Application packages received after the deadline date will not be considered.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal process, please contact: **John Phillips** at [jphillips@aihec.org](mailto:jphillips@aihec.org) and **Al Kuslikis** at [akuslikis@aihec.org](mailto:akuslikis@aihec.org).

### **Award Notification:**

An application review committee will evaluate applications and will make recommendations for funding. AIHEC will make the final selection. Award notification will be made by August 30, 2018.



**2018 AIHEC/NRCS  
PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT  
TRIBAL FARMING, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION**

**COVER SHEET**

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<b>INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION NAME</b>		
<b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>		
<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>
<b>NAME of Project Lead</b>		<b>TITLE</b>
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EXT</b>	<b>E-MAIL (Required)</b>
<b>ALTERNATE CONTACT</b>		<b>E-MAIL</b>

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