

Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program

Purpose

The Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program (TCRGP) funds tribal land-grant institutions' (1994s) investigative and analytical research studies and experimentation in food and agricultural sciences that address high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multi-state significance. TCRGP seeks to advance the body of knowledge in the basic and applied natural and social sciences within the food and agricultural sciences, including but not limited to:

- human health and nutrition;
- natural resource management;
- alternative energy and bio-processing techniques;
- specialty crops;
- plant and animal breeding;
- ecology of grasslands and forests;
- phyto-remediation of soils;
- water quality and quantity; and,
- agribusiness management and marketing.

TCRGP encourages engaging Native American students in research with trained faculty in quality research facilities and environments. This scientific training prepares students toward their professional careers in food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines. It also seeks to provide tribal communities with better quality of life through locally-conducted research at the 1994 campuses.

Who May Apply

In a regular project application, eligible 2- and 4-year 1994s are required to partner with at least one 1862 or 1890 land-grant institution. In a joint project application, the 1994s must partner with at least one 1862 or 1890 institution and assistance from at least one joint partner. A joint partner may include a college or university, unit of state or tribal government, other tribal college or university, or private sector organization with a demonstrable capacity to organize and conduct research. The 1994s are the lead institutions in the funded partnerships. Project directors or principal investigators of funded projects must be qualified staff or faculty members of 1994s.

Contact Information

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Awards

Since TCRGP began in FY 2000, an average of \$939,030 annually has been available to fund applications, match-free. Applications may request up to \$95,000 for a regular application or up to \$175,000 for a joint application. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Award duration may range from 24-36 months.

Impacts

The many impacts and successes of this project benefiting the tribal communities and students include:

- control of invasive species in the Chippewa Flowage Watershed;
- potential patent regarding the anti-diabetic properties of serviceberry;
- control of mosquito-borne viruses;
- restoring wild rice lake ecosystem;
- new insights on grassland ecology;
- optimal livestock identification for tribal farmers and ranchers;
- marketing beef for American Indians;
- nutrient analysis for Native American traditional foods;
- pelletization of switch grass;
- juneberry establishment and growth;
- enhance native grass seed production;
- assays to measure uranium; and
- monitoring micro-climate of the Menominee Forest.

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