has been energized by the important work that has been accomplished since we began our Seeds of Native Health campaign to improve the nutritional health of Native Americans.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is grateful to be collaborating with the foremost experts in this area to create a healthier Indian Country.

Through our re-granting partners, First Nations Development Institute and the Notah Begay III Foundation, we have provided $2.5 million in grants to 51 tribal and nonprofit projects for local capacity-building, food sovereignty, dietary education, and much more.

We have deepened our existing partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA). Most recently, we convened nearly 200 Native leaders, youth advocates, practitioners, and philanthropic organizations to encourage Native-led advocacy efforts for better food access and health outcomes.

In fact, tribal leaders and health practitioners have expressed such a strong interest in the potential of nutrition-related policy work that we have expanded the purpose of Seeds of Native Health to include it. New projects are currently in development to support positive change within and for Native communities.
“A grave food and health crisis exists across Indian Country. Without dramatic and sustained investments in changing the underlying causes of health disparities, the future well-being of Native peoples and tribal nations is in jeopardy.”

- Chairman Charles R. Vig (SMSC)

Through our new membership in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders and our ongoing collaboration with AHA, we continue to encourage more funders to invest in Indian Country food systems and nutrition projects.

We understand that one tribe or organization cannot effect large-scale change on its own. We invite you to join us in helping solve the food crisis afflicting so much of Indian Country. We encourage you to learn more about Seeds of Native Health in this report and at SeedsOfNativeHealth.org.

SMSC Business Council
Chairman Charles R. Vig
Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer Freedom Brewer

Grant-making: Investing in capacity building and local impact

Grant-making is a major function of Seeds of Native Health’s work to support localized nutrition and food access projects in both reservation and urban settings. Seeds of Native Health has partnered with First Nations Development Institute and the Notah Begay III Foundation to award $2.5 million in grants and provide vital technical assistance.
“Our Native communities need resources to support culturally appropriate methods and meaningful data to tell their stories. These grants are doing this by supporting culturally rich nutrition programming and increasing access to healthy, traditional and affordable foods for their children and their communities.”

- Olivia Roanhorse (Diné), Director of the Native Strong program, Notah Begay III Foundation

**NEW GRANT RECIPIENTS (SINCE MARCH 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization (Location)</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akwesasne Boys &amp; Girls Club (Akwesasne, New York)</td>
<td>Healthy eating curriculum</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (Anchorage, Alaska)</td>
<td>Healthy eating curriculum</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Odanah, Wisconsin)</td>
<td>Community health assessment</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ndee Bikiyaa, The People’s Farm (Whiteriver, Arizona)</td>
<td>Farm-to-school project</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma City Indian Clinic (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyate Teca Project (Kyle, South Dakota)</td>
<td>Healthy eating curriculum</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego American Indian Health Center (San Diego, California)</td>
<td>Healthy eating curriculum</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe Indian School (Santa Fe, New Mexico)</td>
<td>Student health assessment</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolani Lake Enterprises (Winslow, Arizona)</td>
<td>Healthy after-school programming</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (Belcourt, North Dakota)</td>
<td>Healthy eating curriculum</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about all of our grant recipients, visit SeedsOfNativeHealth.org/grant-recipient.
“The biggest assets we have are the Native communities themselves. They should be the architects of change in our communities.”

- Nick Tilsen (Oglala Lakota), Executive Director, Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

Supporting tribal food sovereignty

Through Seeds of Native Health, the SMSC has supported 51 projects across the country to increase access to fresh, healthy foods and improve health, diet and nutrition among Native people.
Children of the Pueblo of Nambé (New Mexico) tend their family gardens.
Landmark conference pursues health and food policy in Native communities

Fertile Ground II: Growing the Seeds for Native American Health
May 2-4, 2016

AHA and the SMSC joined together in 2015 in pursuit of the common goal to develop new ways to advance and expand grassroots nutritional health efforts already underway in Indian Country.

In May 2016, the two organizations convened nearly 200 Native leaders, practitioners, activists, youth advocates, and national funders to discuss opportunities for advocacy work around food and health.

The conference included a simultaneous track where 20 Native youth learned from tribal leaders and community activists, and shared their own innovative visions for a healthier future.

The AHA and SMSC have issued a conference report, which includes the actionable strategies for future policy efforts that were developed at the conference. The report was funded by a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (View the report online at SeedsofNativeHealth.org/FertileGroundII.)
“Achieving healthy Native communities is only possible with these Native-led strategies and the collaborative support to achieve them.”

- Jill Birnbaum, Vice President of Advocacy, American Heart Association

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma), Director, Native Organizers Alliance

Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet), Fertile Ground II Youth Leadership Fellow

Ernie Stevens (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin), Chairman, National Indian Gaming Association

SMSC Community members
Melinda Stade Agundis, Lori Watso, and Justin Hoy

SMSC Chairman
Charles R. Vig
Advancing Native-led health and nutrition policy efforts

Due to strong interest from tribal leaders and participants at the Fertile Ground I convening in October 2015, Seeds of Native Health expanded its focus to include policy-related initiatives.

**Policy Innovation Fund**

At Fertile Ground II, the SMSC and AHA announced their intention to create a Policy Innovation Fund for Native nutrition and health. The fund will provide the only dedicated, reliable, multi-year pool of resources for Native-led advocacy, implementation and evaluation. The two organizations are in the planning stages of developing this fund with the involvement of other funders.

**Healthy Diné Nation Act**

In 2014, the Navajo Nation passed the Healthy Diné Nation Act, creating the first-ever junk food tax in the United States. As a result, more than $1 million of new revenue is being collected annually to support community wellness programs in the Navajo Nation and discourage consumption of unhealthy food. Seeds of Native Health is supporting education and implementation activities in support of this groundbreaking policy on the largest reservation in the country.

“There is so much great advocacy work being done at the local level to make our communities healthier, but until now, there has been no dedicated funding source for these initiatives. The Policy Innovation Fund is a critical way to empower our people and support advocacy efforts that will bring positive change in Native Country.”

- Lori K. Watso (SMSC), Chair, Seeds of Native Health
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Seeds of Native Health and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative are planning a multi-tribal advocacy effort to seek landmark reforms to the USDA’s Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The program supplies commodity foods to approximately 100,000 low-income Native Americans from 276 tribes each month, but could benefit from healthier foods and administrative improvements.
Model food and agriculture code project enters second phase

The University of Arkansas School of Law’s Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFA) recently completed the first of three phases of its model food and agriculture code project, which was funded by a leading gift from Seeds of Native Health. The project will help tribes establish legal frameworks to regulate and support their food and agricultural systems, and protect their sovereignty.

IFAI staff conducted a series of 20 roundtable discussions to discuss policy and legal challenges confronting tribes and determine the most pressing needs in Indian Country.

The project now moves into its second phase and will focus on drafting code sections, including provisions for food safety, land use, water, sustainability principles, organic production, and the protection of seeds and traditional foods.

“The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s visionary support of the model food code project has enabled self-determination and self-governance in food and agriculture – the foundation for improved health, community strength, and sustainability.”

- Janie Hipp (Chickasaw Nation), Director, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
“We have the ability to feed ourselves, but we’re not taking that next step. Few youth are coming into the business.”

- Ross Racine (Blackfeet), Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Nurturing the next generation of Native farmers

Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Strategy Summit | May 9, 2016

In collaboration with IFAI and the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the SMSC convened a core group of national leaders in agriculture, youth engagement, and education to discuss increasing opportunities for Native youth to be exposed to agricultural education.

The future prosperity and health of Native communities depends on young men and women entering careers in food production, agronomy, lending, and related fields. Providing agricultural and food science education to Native youth is essential to reversing the declining numbers of Native producers.

A report will be published with the summit’s findings and recommended next steps, and working groups will be formed to develop specific plans of action.

BY THE NUMBERS: NATIVE AGRICULTURE

- 70,000 individual Native producers
- $3.4 billion in raw products
- 112 million acres owned by Native American and Alaska Native tribes
- 57.2 million acres of Native farms and ranches
- 15,000 Native high school students involved in Future Farmers of America programs
“Indian Country is a good investment... because there is the possibility of developing more tribal-led and Indian-led nutrition programs and supporting Native food production in ranching and agriculture.”

- Judith LeBlanc (Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma), Director, Native Organizers Alliance

First-ever Native nutrition conference

First Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition

September 26-27, 2016

The SMSC and the University of Minnesota’s Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute are co-sponsoring a first-ever series of conferences to discuss the current state of Indigenous and academic scientific knowledge about Native nutrition and food science, and learn from peers working to improve health outcomes in Indian Country.

The inaugural conference will feature more than 30 national and international experts in Indigenous food, nutrition and health. It will provide a unique occasion for researchers and practitioners to connect, share their work, and discuss new areas of inquiry.
“People are living in communities without a lot of resources. Collaboration is the key to a healthier community. It takes community groups coming together to make meaningful change possible.”

- Valory Wangler, MD, Co-Director, Zuni Youth Enrichment Project

SMSC leads discussions on Native nutrition efforts

Through Seeds of Native Health, the SMSC has collaborated with top philanthropic organizations to advance efforts to solve the nutrition crisis in Indian Country.

In spring 2016, the SMSC became the first tribe to join the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders (SAFSF). As a part of this philanthropic affinity group, the SMSC’s work has been featured in webinars to provide insight on Native food systems and equity issues.

The SMSC met with the AHA in June 2016 to discuss the profound dietary health needs in Indian Country and deepen its partnership with the AHA.