



Administration for Native Americans (ANA)

AI³ Action Institute – Artificial Intelligence for American Indians

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ANA-NAI-0035



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, August 27, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Administration for Native Americans (ANA)

Promoting socioeconomic and cultural success through artificial intelligence.

Summary

The AI³ Action Institute – Artificial Intelligence for American Indians (AI³ Action Institute) is dedicated to advancing the social and economic self-determination and long-term prosperity of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native American Pacific Islanders, including communities in American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The AI³ Action Institute will fulfill this mission by equipping Native communities with the knowledge, tools, and strategic support needed to make informed decisions, responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI), and leverage emerging technologies to drive sustainable socioeconomic progress. Through a coordinated, community-centered approach led by the Institute and its staff, AI³ Action Institute will strengthen capacity, foster collaboration, and expand opportunity across the full socioeconomic spectrum, empowering Native communities to shape and lead their own futures in an AI-driven world.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$3,500,000

Total expected awards: 1

Minimum award amount (award floor): \$2,500,000

Maximum award amount (award ceiling): \$3,500,000

This is full funding. We plan to fund a three-year project period with one budget period.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.



Have questions?
See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

AI³ Action Institute –
Artificial Intelligence for
American Indians

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-ANA-
NAI-0035

Federal assistance listing:

93.612

NOFO version: Original

Key dates

Application

submission deadline:

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Expected project

start date:

September 30, 2026

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

These types of organizations may apply, based on [42 U.S.C. 2991b](#):

- Federally recognized Indian tribes, as recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
- Incorporated non-federally recognized tribes.
- Incorporated state-recognized Indian tribes.
- Consortia of Indian tribes.
- Incorporated, nonprofit multipurpose, community-based Indian organizations (including Urban Indian Organizations as defined by [25 U.S.C. 1603\(29\)](#)).
- Urban Indian Centers.
- Native Community Development Financial Institutions.
- Alaska Native villages as defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and nonprofit village consortia.
- Nonprofit Native organizations in Alaska with village-specific projects.
- Incorporated nonprofit Alaska Native multipurpose, community-based organizations.
- Nonprofit Alaska Native Regional Corporations or Associations in Alaska with village-specific projects.
- Nonprofit Alaska Native community entities or tribal governing bodies (Indian Reorganization Act or Traditional Councils) as recognized by the BIA.
- Public and nonprofit private agencies serving Native Hawaiians.
- National or regional incorporated nonprofit Native American organizations with Native American community-specific objectives.
- Public and nonprofit private agencies serving Native peoples from Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Tribal colleges and universities, and colleges and universities located in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that serve Native American Pacific Islanders.

Other eligibility criteria

Individuals (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

Assurance of community representation on board of directors

If you are not a federally or state-recognized tribe, Alaska Native village government, or public government agency in the U.S. territories, you must provide documentation showing that a majority of your board members represent the Native American communities that the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) serves.

If you do not include this documentation, your application will be disqualified. See the [additional eligibility documentation in the attachments section](#).

Governing body documentation

Include documentation demonstrating that the governing body of your organization approves the application's submission to ANA. If we do not receive signed and dated documentation before we award funds, we will not fund your project. See the [governing body documentation in the attachments section](#).

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual (including a sole proprietorship), federal entity, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.
- Fails to meet or document the Assurance of community representation on the board of directors.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program requires you to contribute 20% of the project's cost. You can calculate this cost-sharing requirement in two ways:

Method 1: Start with the federal share.

Calculation: Divide the federal share by 4.

For example: $\$3,500,000 / 4 = \$875,000$.

Method 2: Start with the total project cost.

Calculation: Multiply the total project cost by 20%.

For example: $\$4,375,000 \times .20 = \$875,000$.

Please view ANA's [applicant resource page](#) for additional ways to meet your cost-sharing requirements.

Types of cost sharing

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from partners or other third parties.

Please view ANA's [applicant resource page](#) for additional ways to meet your cost-sharing requirements.

Cost-sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised, even if you promised more than the required minimum. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your [federal financial reports](#).

Cost-sharing waiver

We waive cost sharing up to \$199,999 for awards to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (except for the consolidated awards under [45 CFR part 97](#)). You must meet any amount of cost sharing over \$199,999. See [48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\) Congressional declaration of policy respecting "Insular Areas."](#)

Other applicants may request a waiver of the requirement for a 20% cost-sharing match if they meet the criteria in 45 CFR 1336.50(b). Submit the [waiver request](#) as an attachment with your application.

We will consider a waiver only if you meet the requirements in 45 CFR 1336.50(b)(3). A waiver is not guaranteed.

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

This program is authorized under section 803(a) of the [Native American Programs Act of 1974 \(NAPA\)](#) (42 U.S.C. 2991b(a)).

Agency priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program Integrity and Fiscal Stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-Based and Outcome-Focused Practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and Local Leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family Stability and Child Well-Being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-Quality Early Care and Learning:**Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award.

Program description

AI is rapidly reshaping economic development, governance, and the delivery of public services. Yet many tribal governments and Native-serving organizations face significant obstacles to understanding, adopting, and governing these technologies. Obstacles include limited technical capacity, insufficient training opportunities, and a lack of access to trusted, culturally aligned implementation partners. Without targeted support, these obstacles risk deepening the divide, leaving Native communities on the margins of an increasingly digital and AI-driven economy. As such, these obstacles threaten to limit access to powerful tools that could otherwise help address persistent socioeconomic challenges and advance community-driven priorities.

Establishing a long-term institution dedicated to advancing Native American leadership and advocacy in AI promotes outcomes that include supporting economic growth, innovation, and improvement in governance across multiple sectors such as education, healthcare, and agriculture. The AI³ Action Institute can work toward these goals through services such as:

AI resource hub for Native communities:

- Provide current information on AI technology developments and identify opportunities to enhance effectiveness, efficiency, and service delivery.
- Facilitate information sharing and technology deployment to Native communities.
- Act as a knowledge manager to capture lessons learned, share best practices, and develop resources.
- Serve as a central resource for Native communities' AI activities.

Stakeholder engagement and coalition building:

- Build key industry, government, academic, and nonprofit relationships.
- Establish a public presence, including pathways to advance the mission.
- Maintain a broad view of activities to identify and support partnerships and coordination.

You can use grant funds to:

- Pay for short-to-medium-term staff costs, including the Institute's director.
- Furnish and equip the Institute's physical location and online presence.

Purpose

The AI³ Action Institute is designed to strengthen tribal governance and community capacity by supporting AI readiness and effective adoption of AI technologies across Native communities. The Institute will provide education, assistance, analysis, resource information, and partnership development to help tribal governments and Native-serving organizations use and govern AI in ways that align with tribal priorities and Native community needs.

The primary beneficiaries of the program are tribal governments, Native organizations, and Native communities across the U.S. that seek to improve governance systems, expand economic development opportunities, and enhance community services through responsible use of emerging technologies.

Project Requirements

The objectives of the AI³ Action Institute are to:

Establish a national Native AI leadership and advocacy hub that elevates Native perspectives in the development, governance, and ethical deployment of AI technologies serving tribal governments, Native organizations, and intergovernmental partners across all regions of the United States.

Reduce barriers to AI adoption for tribal governments and Native organizations by providing phased services including assessment, planning, and implementation support; training; and educational resources designed to increase AI literacy and implementation readiness over a 36-month project period, beginning with pilot cohorts and scaling nationally.

Monitor and assess emerging AI technologies and trends through ongoing analysis, briefings, products, or reports about relevant tools, risks, and opportunities.

Develop strategic partnerships with industry, federal agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations to expand coordinated, sustained access to expertise, technology resources, and collaborative innovation opportunities.

- A suggested partnership could come through the National Science Foundation (NSF) AI-Ready America program.

Facilitate knowledge exchange and technology deployment by sharing best practices, use cases, and implementation models through communities of practice, and convenings that support responsible AI adoption in tribal governance and community programs.

Establish a knowledge management and learning system that captures lessons learned, builds institutional expertise, and supports continuous improvement across

all phases of assessment, planning, and implementation, including a centralized repository and shared learning platform accessible to the general public.

Strengthen tribal governance and institutional capacity by promoting AI-enabled solutions that increase cost savings and improve decision-making, program management, and service delivery with measurable outcomes tracked through defined performance metrics and evaluation frameworks.

To achieve these objectives, the AI³ Action Institute will:

- Conduct engagement activities with Native communities.
- Analyze emerging technologies.
- Develop partnerships.
- Share tools and best practices tailored to Native communities.
- Provide AI education and training.

Expected program outcomes include:

- Increased AI literacy and technical capacity among tribal governments and Native organizations.
- Expanded access to AI tools, technical expertise, and collaborative innovation opportunities.
- Strengthened tribal governance systems through data-driven and technology-enabled decision-making.
- Increased knowledge sharing and coordination across Native communities regarding responsible AI adoption.
- Development of a sustainable knowledge base and network of partners supporting AI capacity building in Native communities.

By supporting these outcomes, the AI³ Action Institute will help ensure that Native communities are equipped to successfully leverage AI technologies to address complex socioeconomic challenges, improve governance capacity, and advance long-term community resilience and self-determination.

This program aligns with the following [ACF priorities](#):

- **Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding** – ANA recipients will ensure they are good stewards of all grants related funds (federal and nonfederal) to ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Cooperative agreement—Description of ACF's involvement

A cooperative agreement is a method of awarding federal assistance in which substantial federal involvement is anticipated. The agreement clearly defines ANA's and the expected awardee's responsibilities. The cooperative agreement will be developed as a Memorandum of Understanding between ANA and the recipient after the award is made.

ANA's involvement and collaboration will include:

- Reviewing and providing input on work plans, timelines, implementation strategies, and key milestones.
- Participating in regular project meetings (e.g., quarterly or monthly check-ins) to review progress and address challenges.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on major project deliverables, curricula, training materials, outreach strategies, or other key products prior to finalization.
- Supporting problem-solving efforts when implementation barriers or risks arise.
- Supporting or facilitating, as appropriate, a possible partnership with NSF AI-Ready America program.
- Facilitating coordination with other ANA-funded projects or relevant federal initiatives when appropriate.

Participating in site visits (virtual or in-person) to assess project implementation and provide support.

Federal evaluation

Under [section 811 of NAPA](#) (42 U.S.C. 2992), ANA must evaluate funded projects, including by describing and measuring their success, their effectiveness in achieving stated goals, their impact on related programs, and their structure and mechanism for service delivery. You must agree to participate fully in the federal evaluation.

We will complete this evaluation in a manner that is respectful of cultural protocols and community-based evaluation, using participant observations and interviews.

As much as possible, the evaluation will include community interviews with project staff and beneficiaries, and review of documentation including, but not limited to, the

Ongoing Progress Reports (OPR), which is approved under Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) control number 0970-0452 (current expiration date February 29, 2028). We will conduct a site visit at the end of the project period to observe your project outcomes and community benefits.

Federal project evaluations are completed when evaluators use a structured information collection tool approved under OMB control number 0970-0379 (current expiration date February 29, 2028) during end-of-project site visits from ANA. The site visit includes first-hand accounts of project outcomes and community benefits as well as reviews information provided through the recipient's initial application and OPRs to evaluate the progress toward achieving the project's goal and objectives by project staff throughout the project period.

Attendance at events

At least two project staff must attend an ANA Grant Recipient Conference and an Economic Development Summit each year for your ANA award. You must budget for all related expenses. See more information in the budget narrative section of this NOFO.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.

- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
 - Any efforts that promote a “discriminatory equity ideology.”
 - To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR part 200](#).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.
- Additionally, based on [45 CFR 1336.33\(b\)](#), you cannot conduct the following projects or activities with funding from this NOFO:
 - Third-party training and technical assistance to other tribes or Native American organizations or to people who are not members of your organization.
 - Feasibility studies, business plans, marketing plans, or written materials such as manuals that are not an essential part of your long-range development plan.
 - Ongoing administrative functions that are not related to the proposed project.
 - Ongoing service delivery programs or expanding or continuing existing social service delivery programs.
 - Projects that do not further socioeconomic development.
 - Projects from consortia of tribes that do not include documentation from each member specifying their role and support. See [Third Party Agreements](#) in the attachments.
 - Projects from consortia that duplicate activities for which members already receive funding from ANA.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).

Use of E-Verify

All funded grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to use the national [E-Verify system](#) operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, to ensure their employees are American citizens or are eligible to work in the United States.



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov [opportunity page](#). Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe button** from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

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Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

Attachments

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	Yes
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Maintenance of effort certification	No
☐ Governing body documentation	Yes
☐ Cost share waiver request (optional)	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ (SF-424B) Assurances for Non-Construction Programs	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

You will submit the narratives and attachments, plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

Required format

Page limit for application: 100 pages

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualifying factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

Narratives

To submit the narratives, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

Table of contents

At the beginning of narratives, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content within the narratives.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, your proposed services or research questions.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Purpose and need

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Describe how each objective supports the overall program purpose, including increasing AI literacy, strengthening governance, and expanding technology adoption. Please refer to [Program Description](#) above for more information.

Identify baseline conditions, where available, and the anticipated changes resulting from project implementation.

Response

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

Describe the methods and strategies that will be used to implement project activities, including delivery of AI specific services and knowledge-sharing resources.

Explain how tribal leaders and Native community leaders, community members, and other stakeholders will be engaged throughout project planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Describe the target population(s) to be served, including the types of tribal governments, Native organizations, and geographic areas, and explain how identified needs inform the proposed project.

Clearly describe proposed activities and service delivery methods to demonstrate how the project will operate in practice.

Describe how the project incorporates culturally responsive and community-informed approaches that align with tribal and Native priorities and values.

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.
- Provide monthly or quarterly quantitative projections for tasks you plan to complete and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete by a specific date.
- Provide target dates for activities you cannot quantify.

Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.

- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Describe how proposed outcomes will contribute to reducing barriers to AI adoption and increasing access to technology resources.

Describe broader anticipated impacts, including strengthened partnerships, improved governance capacity, and enhanced service delivery.

Resources and capabilities

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Describe the organization's experience working with tribal governments and Native communities, including approaches to culturally appropriate engagement.
- Identify key personnel and their qualifications, including expertise in AI, training, technical assistance, and project management.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [2 CFR part 200](#). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have improved practices and outcomes.

- Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible. Describe:
 - The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
 - The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
- If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

Dissemination plan

Propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and project outputs to key target audiences. Include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives.
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences.
- Your plan to allocate enough staff time and budget for dissemination.
- A preliminary plan to evaluate whether target audiences receive project information and use it as intended.
- The dissemination timeline.
- Your plan to disseminate information to Native communities.

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the “object class categories” in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the full period of performance. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).
- Including travel and office start-up costs to attend ANA required meetings in your budget.

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.
- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
 - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
 - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note in the attachments where the information to be redacted is located.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

Attachments

You will submit the following Attachments, using the Other Attachments form as appropriate, found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the *Program description* and *Step 4*, under *Merit review process*, *Scoring criteria*, *Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles*, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR:

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.

- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Additional eligibility documentation

Assurance of community representation on board of directors

This assurance documentation is required for applications from the following groups:

- Native nonprofit organizations.
- Tribal colleges governed by a board separate from the tribe's governing body.
- American Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Villages that apply as nonprofits.

You must show that a majority of your board members represent the Native American community you are serving. The documentation must identify each board member by name and indicate one or more of ANA's three categories of community representation for each board member:

- Member of a federally or state-recognized tribe.
- Person who is recognized by members of the eligible Native American community to be served as having a cultural relationship with that community.
- A cultural relationship is defined as a lineage, familial, marital, or other traditional or social connection to the community, not a business or work relationship. For example, someone who owns a business or is employed by an organization that serves the Native community would not be considered to have a cultural relationship with that community.
- Person considered to be Native American as defined in [45 CFR 1336.10](#) or Native American Pacific Islander as defined in section 815 of the [Native American Programs Act \(NAPA\)](#) (42 U.S.C. 2992c(7)).

If you do not submit this documentation with your application, your application will be disqualified.

An example of the assurance of community representation on the board of directors is available on [ANA's applicant resource page](#).

You do not need to provide this documentation if you are a federally or state-recognized tribe, Alaska Native village, or public government entity in the U.S. territories.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if the agreement is for a collaboration or consortia application.

Maintenance of effort certification

Not included in the page limit.

You will self-certify your maintenance of effort. Place this certification on your organization's letterhead. See the [maintenance of effort wording at ACF's website](#).

Governing body documentation

Include documentation indicating that your organization's governing body approves submission of the application to ANA. If we do not receive signed and dated documentation before we award funds, we will not fund your project.

An official of the governing body must sign and date the documentation. By signing the document, the governing body agrees that the applicant organization will assume the

obligation imposed by applicable federal regulations and other terms and conditions of the award, including any assurances, if ANA makes the award.

Acceptable documentation includes:

- Written formal board resolutions.
- Meeting minutes from the governing body.
- Letters from the authorizing official showing approval of the project.

Cost-sharing waiver request

You may request a waiver or reduction of the 20% cost-sharing requirement. You must provide written documentation of your need showing whether you satisfy all of the waiver criteria in [45 CFR 1336.50\(b\)\(3\)](#).

Cost-sharing waiver requests are not guaranteed to be approved. Do not assume that we have approved your waiver request until you receive written notification. You will not lose points in the merit review for requesting a waiver.

We can waive cost-sharing up to \$199,999 for awards to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (except for consolidated awards under [45 CFR Part 97](#)). You must meet any amount of cost-sharing over \$199,999. See [48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\)](#) Congressional declaration of policy respecting “Insular Areas.”

For inquiries about the waiver process, contact your regional technical assistance provider. Find your provider using the [ANA Regional training and technical assistance center map \[PDF - 1.08MB\]](#) or visit ANA’s [Applicant Training and Technical Assistance](#) for additional information.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms other than those in files one and two. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable, based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends taxpayer money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

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Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualification factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 110
Purpose and need	7 points
Response	23 points
Impact	23 points
Resources and capabilities	37 points
Support requested	10 points
ACF priority alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

All information in the application should address the NOFO as outlined in the Program Description. Reviewers should refer to Step. 3, Project Narrative, when evaluating and scoring the application based on the criteria below.

Purpose and need

Maximum points: 7

This section should clearly describe the objectives of the plan and how clearly they relate to the NOFO.

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1. Clearly describe your objectives and how each objective supports the overall program purpose, including increasing AI literacy, strengthening governance, and expanding technology adoption. **(0 to 5 points)**
2. Clearly identify baseline conditions, where available, and the anticipated changes resulting from project implementation. **(0 to 2 points)**

Response

Maximum points: 23

Reviewers will evaluate whether the proposed strategy to complete the project is feasible, effective, and likely to achieve intended objectives and outcomes. In reaching their conclusions, reviewers will consider how clear, logical, and detailed the following elements are.

The reviewer will assess how well you:

3. Clearly describe your approach to a project that aligns with the objectives outlined in the program description. **(0 to 7 points)**
4. Clearly describe your project timeline and milestones. **(0 to 7 points)**
5. Clearly describe the methods and strategies that will be used to implement project activities, including delivery of AI specific services and knowledge-sharing resources to demonstrate how the project will operate in practice. **(0 to 3 points)**
6. Clearly explain how tribal and Native leaders, Native community members, and other stakeholders will be engaged throughout project planning, implementation, and evaluation. **(0 to 2 points)**
7. Describe the target population(s) to be served, including the types of tribal governments, Native organizations, and geographic areas, and explain how identified needs inform the proposed project. **(0 to 2 points)**
8. Describe how the project incorporates culturally responsive and community-informed approaches that align with tribal and Native priorities and values. **(0 to 2 points)**

Impact

Maximum points: 23

This section should clearly articulate the anticipated results of the proposed project and show how the expected outcomes directly support successful implementation of the project as outlined in the NOFO. Outcomes should be specific, measurable, and logically connected to the stated objectives and overall project goal.

The reviewer will assess how well you:

9. Clearly describe your project performance evaluation plan. **(0 to 10 points)**
10. Clearly describe your expected outcomes and how they will contribute to reducing barriers to AI adoption, increasing access to technology resources, strengthened partnerships, improved governance capacity, and enhanced service delivery. **(0 to 13 points)**

Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 37

This section of the review criteria includes essential components of the organizational capacity section of the application. Reviewers will evaluate whether the application demonstrates that key staff and management have the capacity to oversee federal funds and deliver project objectives.

The reviewer will assess how well you:

11. Clearly describe your organizational capacity, including your organization's experience working with tribal governments and Native communities.
(0 to 10 points)
12. Clearly identify key personnel and their qualifications, including expertise in artificial intelligence, training, technical assistance, and project management.
(0 to 10 points)
13. Clearly describe your oversight plan. **(0 to 5 points)**
14. Clearly describe your project sustainability plan. **(0 to 5 points)**
15. Clearly describe your protection of sensitive or confidential information.
(0 to 3 points).
16. Clearly describe your dissemination plan, including how you will disseminate to tribal/Native communities. **(0 to 4 points)**

Support requested

Maximum points: 10

Reviewers will consider how well the application allocates appropriate resources to carry out the proposed activities while ensuring that the proposed costs are reasonable based on the geographical location of the applicant.

You must include the following. The reviewer will assess these materials for quality and completeness:

17. Clearly describe a detailed line-item budget with appropriate object class categories for every year of the project, including costs for federal and non-federal shares. **(0 to 3 points)**
18. Clearly describe a budget narrative for every year of the project that explains how you will calculate all costs for each entry in the line-item budget and includes a basis for estimated costs, such as equipment, personnel, and travel. Also include vendor quotes for any equipment over \$10,000. **(0 to 4 points)**
19. Align expenditures in the line-item budget and budget narrative with the implementation plan. **(0 to 3 points)**

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles

Maximim points: 10

ACF's published *Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring Considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

20. Demonstrated Review and Understanding (0 to 2 points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references).
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project.

21. Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (0 to 3 points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project:

- Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation.
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions.
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice.

23. Integration into Performance and Continuous Improvement (0 to 5 points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement:

- Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](#) Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results, including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support [DEI and DEIA activities](#), to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Funding Preference for Alignment with Agency Priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with Agency Priorities.

Please also note the following:

- The ANA Commissioner has discretion to make all final funding and award decisions.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Appeals

Pursuant to 45 CFR 1336.35, you can appeal your application's rejection if we find it ineligible or if the activities it proposes are ineligible for funding. Disqualifications described in the initial review section are not eligible for appeal.

To appeal a finding of ineligibility, follow these guidelines:

- You must submit a notice of appeal in writing.
- Your notice of appeal must clearly identify the reason you are appealing, as well as evidence in support of your argument.
- You must send your notice of appeal within 30 days of receiving notice that your application or project activities were found ineligible.
- You must attach a copy of the decision to your notice of appeal.

You can file an [appeal online](#).

Alternatively, you can deliver or mail your notice of appeal to:

The HHS Departmental Appeals Board

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20201

If you mail your notice of appeal, use registered or certified mail.

See [45 CFR 1336.35](#) for procedures for more information about filing an appeal.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Grants.gov submission

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

Sarah Viola

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

HHS-2026-ACF-ANA-NAI-0035

330 C Street, SW, 3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20201

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number.
- Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

[Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) does not apply to this NOFO. You do not need to take any action.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration [53](#)

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.
- Applicable program statute and regulations at [803C\(a\) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 \(NAPA\)](#), [42 U.S.C. 2991b](#).
- **Compliance with background checks and applicable child safety laws:** You must comply with applicable federal, tribal, and state laws on criminal history record checks and clearances through child abuse and sex offender registries.
- **Conflict of interest standards:**
 - You must disclose in writing any potential conflict of interest to us, in accordance with [2 CFR 200.112](#) and the policies of other applicable HHS awarding agencies.
 - Members of the governing body of your organization cannot hold paid employment under an ANA-funded project, in order to preserve the independence and impartiality of governing body members and avoid conflicts of interest.

- There is an exception to this rule under [45 CFR 1336.50\(f\)](#), which permits the chief executive of the recipient organization to serve as project staff. The salary and expenses of the Office of Chief Executive are allowable costs under the ANA award if such costs are directly related to the project and do not include costs of general government. You must request prior approval from ANA for such an exemption.
- **Response to nationally or tribally declared emergency:** ANA will exercise maximum flexibility as needed and appropriate for current awards. You may carry out requirements virtually and/or modify timelines in consultation with ANA.
- **Intellectual property:** We encourage you to educate yourself on intellectual property rights and the protection of ownership of language materials, history, music and dance, ceremonies, and other forms of knowledge and cultural practices that originate from Native communities. See [2 CFR 200.315](#) and [Appendix II to Part 200](#). We also encourage you to learn how such rights may be transferred via contracting with third parties that produce resources, data, and materials developed with ANA funding. ANA is unable to provide legal advice or guidance on this matter. However, you may use funds for legal expenses related to this matter.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: **ACF-OGM-PPR**
 - Performance report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial report form: **SF-425 FFR**
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually
- Tangible Personal Property Report: **SF-428**
 - Report frequency: Annually

The selected applicant will be required to enter into post-award negotiations with ANA. These negotiations will include the development and execution of a Cooperative Agreement to formalize collaboration, establish roles and responsibilities, and ensure alignment with program goals and federal requirements.



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Carmelia Strickland

anacomments@acf.hhs.gov

833-262-4636

Grants management

Sarah Viola

sarah.viola@acf.hhs.gov

(202) 420-8084

Applicant training and technical assistance (TTA): ANA provides regional TTA Centers, as authorized by NAPA, to support recipients as well as potential applicants. This support includes pre-application workshops and a preliminary review of applications that are at least 75% completed.

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726.
- Email: support@grants.gov.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#).
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#).
- [Grants.gov](#).
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#).
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#).
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#).
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#).
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF -318 KB\]](#)).
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [ACF Property Guidance](#).
- [Administration for Native Americans \(ANA\)](#).
- [Access to Capital Clearinghouse | Indian Affairs \(BIA.gov\)](#).
- [ANA Training and Technical Assistance](#)—Technical assistance providers and information for free project development and pre-application training.
- [Applicant resource page](#)—Useful examples and templates.

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, [44 U.S.C. 3501-3521](#), the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date