



THE NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE

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NAVAJO NATION AWARDED \$5.55 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO BOOST LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY



Photo Source: Navajo Agriculture Production Industry

WASHINGTON, DC - The Navajo Nation has been awarded \$5.55 million in funding from the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Plus (LFPA Plus) Program. The award, which will span over two years, is set to greatly enhance food security, bolster the local Navajo economy, and foster agricultural self-sufficiency within the Navajo Nation. This critical funding was secured through the tireless efforts by the Navajo Nation Washington Office, the Navajo Department of Agriculture, and the Navajo Agricultural Production Industry who worked collaboratively to bring this opportunity to fruition.

The LFPA Plus Program provides funding for state, tribal, and territorial governments to purchase foods produced within the state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination. The primary aim is to support local, regional, and underserved producers while maintaining and improving food and agricultural supply chain resilience. This initiative will enable the Navajo Nation to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages, unique to their geographic areas, and meeting the nutritional needs of the population. The grant will serve feeding programs, including food banks, schools, and organizations that reach underserved communities, thereby increasing local food consumption and expanding economic opportunities for local and underserved producers.

Navajo Nation President Nygren expressed his enthusiasm over this achievement, stating, "This is a monumental day for the Navajo Nation. This funding doesn't just represent a financial boost, it symbolizes a step towards food sovereignty and a stronger, more resilient future for our people. We are grateful for the USDA's recognition of our commitment to nurturing our local agricultural sector and feeding our communities with food grown on our land. This is a profound opportunity for the Navajo Nation to deepen our connection to our ancestral lands and traditions while fostering sustainable economic growth."

The Navajo Nation looks forward to putting these funds to use to strengthen the bond between the land, the people, and their food. This grant represents a significant stride towards agricultural self-sufficiency and economic prosperity, marking an important chapter in the Navajo Nation's journey towards a sustainable and resilient future.

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