

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2008 RIDGE PROGRAM

Exploring Food Assistance and Nutrition Challenges Among American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

Deadline Date: Received via electronic submission by Friday, May 16, 2008

Sponsored by: The Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office and the Department of American Indian Studies at The University of Arizona in partnership with the USDA Economic Research Service



PROGRAM GOALS:

To support innovative social science research that advances our knowledge and understanding of food assistance and nutritional issues affecting reservation, off-reservation rural or urban American Indian/Alaska Native populations

2008 RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST:

- Recent studies have provided contrasting findings for the use of traditional foods to meet the nutritional needs of American Indians/Alaska Natives. Some communities have been overcome by the availability and accessibility of non-traditional foods while others have worked hard to maintain and expand traditional diets. Proposals with a strong emphasis on the use of and ways to increase acceptance of traditional foods will receive a high priority for funding.
- National surveys on food program use or nutritional status provide limited information about American Indians/Alaska Native because of their relatively small numbers and dispersed population. We are seeking proposals that make use of existing national, state, or local data pools. In addition, proposals which seek to refine existing research instruments from a cultural perspective appropriate to a specific tribe or geographical area would be welcome.
- Obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related health conditions for American Indians/Alaska Native populations are beginning to receive increased research interest. Proposals which investigate model policies and successful educational delivery models are encouraged to apply.
- Some research studies have documented a decline in the participation rates for American families in food assistance programs. Participation rates for American Indians are often hard to gauge. Studies which identify the barriers and, more importantly, model programs for overcoming barriers to participation in food assistance programs serving American Indians/Alaska Natives are encouraged.
- Program delivery of available food and nutrition services have posed special challenges to American Indians/Alaska Natives, including transportation, multiple locations to apply for benefits, delivery models, etc. Proposals identifying innovative and successful ways to cope with these challenges would be especially welcomed.
- In addition to the priority areas listed above, any research proposal which advances our knowledge in the arena of food assistance and nutrition for American Indians and Alaska Natives will receive full consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The University of Arizona Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office and American Indian Studies have been awarding grant funding for projects in this arena for over a decade. Samples of the most recent grants funded include:

- A national-level study of food stamp program participation among Native Americans;
- Implementation of a small-scale backyard integrated aquabioponics food production system and training program for Native Hawaiian working families;
- Mobile Markets' participation and impact: an analysis of Pascua Yaqui Pueblo and the Old Nogales Highway Colonia
- Understanding traditional foods security of Hopi single parent female-headed households.

To view our entire collection of reports, please visit www.nptao.arizona.edu, and select the Research tab.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

Program Title	Exploring food assistance and nutritional challenges among American Indians/Alaska Native populations
Funding Agency	The University of Arizona Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office
Scope of Projects	Projects of scientific merit that address important aspects of food assistance and nutrition for American Indian/Alaska Natives
Grant Amount:	Seed funding for projects not to exceed \$30,000 per project; indirect costs not to exceed 10%
Deadline for submission:	Friday, May 16, 2008.
Award notification:	June 15, 2008
Project Commencement	July 1, 2008
Project Duration:	Through December 31, 2009

Your proposal should provide a clear statement of the purpose of the research, the research methodology utilized, and the potential impact of this research on American Indian/Alaska Native populations. The proposal should not exceed five (5) pages, plus abstract, a phased time-line detailing anticipated project progress and completion, budget, budget narrative, and curriculum vitae of Principle Investigator(s).

The final product of this research will result in a research paper to be presented by the researcher at a conference in Washington D.C., some time during the fall of 2009. Budget expenditures must include round trip travel to the conference. Capital and equipment purchases are not allowed under this proposal. The indirect rate must not exceed 10%. Quarterly progress reports are required throughout the life of the grant.

Final project report and executive summary due on or before December 31, 2009.

Applications will be screened based on potential usefulness of the proposed research to Native American populations, clarity of research purpose, methodology and related procedures, feasibility of the proposed research being accomplished, and reasonableness

of the cost compared to the anticipated outcome. *Proposals must be sent electronically, in Microsoft Word, no later than Friday, May 16, 2008,* and sent to: Claudia E. Nelson, Director, Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office, email address: cen@email.arizona.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Claudia E. Nelson, Co-Principal Investigator;
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-or-

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For additional information on research in this area see the Native Peoples Technical Assistance Office website: <http://www.nptao.arizona.edu/> and select the Research tab.