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"I am a deep water swimmer. Everything on the surface is usually a mask. I always know what's behind the mask."

Ellen Burstan

Biden-Harris Administration Releases 10-Year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization

WASHINGTON — At the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit today, Departments of the Interior, Education and Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [10-year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization](#), which outlines a comprehensive, government-wide strategy to support the revitalization, protection, preservation and reclamation of Native languages. The plan, a joint effort of the agencies, charts a path to help address the United States government's role in the loss of Native languages across the continental United States, Alaska and Hawai'i.

The National Plan on Native Language Revitalization is part of the Biden-Harris administration's work to confront the systematic and deliberate campaign by the United States to forcibly assimilate Indigenous peoples and eradicate Native languages and cultures—a campaign extensively documented by Secretary Haaland's [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#), and formally acknowledged by President Biden in his [October 2024 apology to Native communities](#).

"Indigenous languages are central to our cultures, our life ways, and who we are as people. They connect us to our ancestors, to our homelands, and to our place in the world," said **Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland**. "This ambitious plan represents the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to address the wrongs of the past and restore what has been taken from us."

"I always say: multilingualism is a superpower—and that includes Native American languages. During my time as Secretary of Education, I've been fortunate to travel through Indian Country and learn beautiful words in Oneida, Dakota, and Nakota languages. One thing was crystal clear: when young people reclaim their native languages, they reconnect deeply with who they are and where they come from," said **Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona**. "But Native peoples have suffered from shameful policies that aimed to eradicate these languages and cultures for too long. I am hopeful that this national plan is a start to the federal government's remediation of its participation in those policies. And I am hopeful we can all choose to keep fighting for a future where Native communities have the tools and support to keep their languages alive and their cultures thriving."

"We use language to write history, share knowledge, map the future, and pass down traditions," said **Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra**. "Investing in language revitalization strengthens communities and contributes to their resiliency. HHS is a proud and critical contributor to this coordinated effort and the benefits it will deliver."

The plan addresses a chronic under-investment in Native language revitalization to date. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funds 187 schools for American Indian and Alaska Native students and is tasked with providing Indigenous students with a culturally-relevant high-quality education – yet it received no dedicated funding for language revitalization until 2017 and annual appropriations have not exceeded \$7.5 million for any one budget year in the years since. The plan released today calls for a \$16.7 billion investment for Native language revitalization programs for federally recognized Tribes and the Native Hawaiian Community.

Developed in consultation with Tribal Nations, non-profit organizations, subject-matter experts, and key stakeholders, the plan calls for:

- **Expanding access to immersion language environments by:**
 - Supporting 100 language nests, educational programs, that provide childcare and instruction in a Native language for children under the age of seven.

- Funding 100 new K-12 Native language immersion schools, educational institutions where at least 50% of instruction is conducted in a Native language.
- Supporting 37 centers dedicated to language preservation, instruction and cultural studies to revitalize and support language and culture, including those at Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- Providing scholarships for families to support language and culture.
- **Bolstering community-led revitalization efforts by:**
 - Supporting 100 mentor-apprentice programs—initiatives pairing fluent speakers with adult learners for intensive language transmission.
 - Restructuring the way federal funds are allocated to support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination through a flexible funding model that flows money directly to Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations.
 - Funding community-based summer, supplemental and after-school programs to increase Native language learning opportunities outside of traditional classrooms.
- **Developing, growing and sustaining Native language support networks by:**
 - Recruiting and training 10,000 Native language teachers to meet the need for educators.
 - Establishing a \$100 million innovation fund to encourage Tribes, individuals and the private sector to develop new solutions for language revitalization through curriculum and technology.
 - Supporting technical assistance providers to create schools and programs, including those with expertise in urban Indian settings and with the Native Hawaiian Community.

Additionally, today the Interior Department is announcing a cooperative agreement with the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education. This partnership will provide \$7.5 million in existing grant funding to BIE schools supporting the launch or expansion of immersion programs and create a network of educators and school leaders committed to Native language revitalization. This funding will help build a network of BIE schools committed to integrating Native language immersion and cultural education into their curricula, offering students the tools to connect with their language and heritage. Together with the National Plan for Native Language Revitalization, these efforts create a comprehensive strategy to protect, preserve and reclaim Indigenous languages across the United States.

The White House Tribal Nations Summit provides an opportunity for the Biden-Harris administration and Tribal leaders from the 574 federally recognized Tribes to discuss ways the federal government can invest in and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships as well as ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come.

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[President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda Supports \\$65 Million Investment to Fulfill Indian Water Rights Settlements](#)

[Secretary Haaland Delivers Remarks on Historic Progress in Indian Country During the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit](#)

[Interior Department Announces Partnerships to Memorialize Stories and Impacts of Federal Indian Boarding School System](#)

# New WorkforceGPS Communities Launched in 2024

Exciting news! In 2024, WorkforceGPS unveiled five dynamic new communities of practice designed to enhance the capacity of America's public workforce investment system. If you haven't yet had the chance to dive into these knowledge hubs, now is the perfect time to explore their valuable resources. Don't miss out on the opportunity to boost your expertise and connect with others who are passionate about workforce development! Visit them at the following links:

- [Nursing Expansion Grant Program](#)
- [Critical Sectors Job Quality Grant](#)
- [Community Projects Community](#)
- [Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Community](#)
- [Infrastructure Learning Community](#)

Are you looking for other communities? Try our [ETA Grants page](#) or select the "Communities" dropdown list from the top navigation bar on [WorkforceGPS](#).

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## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$20 Million is Available to Strengthen Local Governments' Wildfire Response

*Funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda will help communities purchase firefighting slip-on tanker units to expand local wildfire response capacity*

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of the Interior today announced that over \$20 million is available through President Biden's Investing in America agenda to strengthen local governments' wildfire response by converting vehicles to wildland fire engines. This pilot program, [launched in February](#), is helping small, remote emergency response agencies quickly expand their wildfire response capacity as they continue to face the devastating impacts of climate change, drought and intensifying wildfires.

"Our nation experienced unprecedented wildfire activity this year, further demonstrating the need to expand our firefighting capacity and better equip local governments," said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. "Through this pilot program, President Biden's Investing in America agenda is providing resources to help more local governments rapidly respond when a wildfire threatens their communities and landscapes."

This funding can be used by local governments that provide emergency services to areas with a population of 50,000 or less to purchase slip-on tanker units, which allow them to quickly convert trucks and other vehicles to be operated as wildland fire engines. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a total of \$50 million for the pilot program, and up to \$20 million is available during this second round of funding. In September, the Department [awarded](#) nearly \$1.3 million to an initial 21 local emergency response agencies.

The Slip-on Tanker Pilot Program will strengthen coordination between the Interior Department, states and local communities to address the growing threat of wildfires. Improved collaboration is a central tenet of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission's [final report](#) to Congress, which was released in September 2023. Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Commission was charged with making recommendations to improve federal policies related to the mitigation, suppression and management of wildland fires in the United States. Its final report outlined 148 consensus-based recommendations to change the nation's relationship with wildfire.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is bringing [much-needed support](#) to communities across the country to increase the resilience of lands facing the threat of wildfires. The funding available today is part of more than \$1.1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding allocated by the Department to mitigate the risk of wildfires on public and Tribal lands, and better support wildland firefighters since the law was enacted in 2021.

Grant amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](#) by **February 26, 2025**.

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Funding Will Support Family Farms, Small Businesses, Infrastructure and Clean Energy in Underserved Rural and Tribal Communities

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 4, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a [new round of investments](#) totaling more than \$194 million to support local economic development plans and projects in [Rural Partners Network](#) (RPN) communities and other neighboring communities across 14 states and Puerto Rico. USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden highlighted today’s announcement at the Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation 2024 Seminar in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Biden-Harris Administration launched RPN in April 2022 to ensure people in historically underserved rural and Tribal communities receive their fair share of funding from federal agencies. RPN is an all-of-government collaboration supported by 25 federal agencies and regional commissions.

To learn more, read the full [NEWS RELEASE](#).

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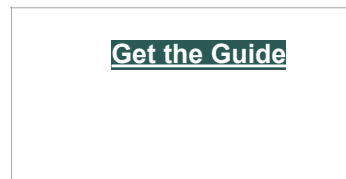
Each year the Artwork Archive team goes on a mission to find the best and most trusted opportunities for artists.

**Artwork Archive's Guide to Artist Opportunities in 2025** is packed with over 200 opportunities—including residencies, grants, open calls, exhibitions, and competitions—to open new doors for your work.

Quality matters to us.

Our team carefully vets each opportunity using criteria that matter most to artists: low or no entry fees, reputable organizations, and clear application guidelines. We select a range of high-quality opportunities that support artists working in all mediums, from all corners of the globe.

Consider this your roadmap to new creative possibilities in the upcoming year



### **The Department of Education Announces \$4M for American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

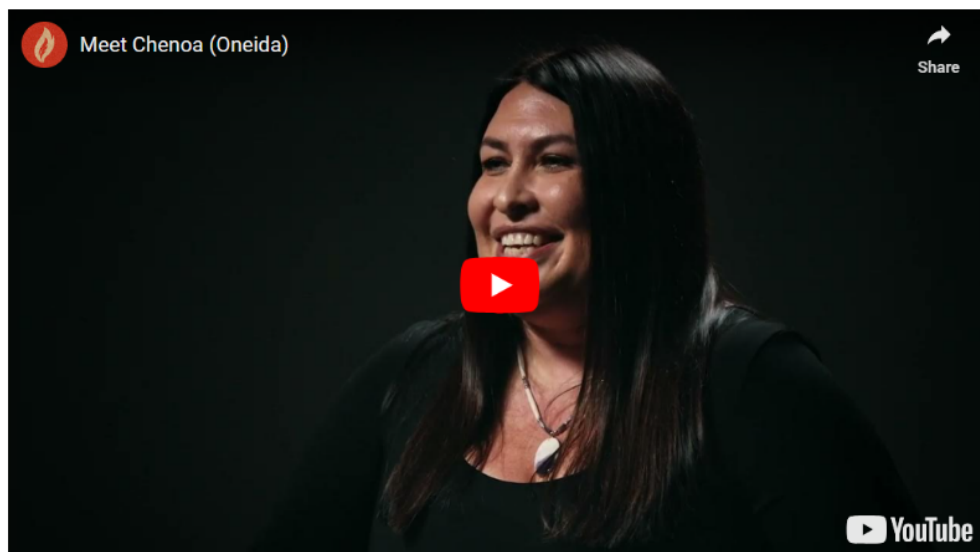
The U.S. Department of Education has announced \$4 million in funding for the FY 2025 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program.

## American Indian College Fund

We'd like to introduce you to Chenoa, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Turtle Clan, and one of our incredible Student Ambassadors. Growing up, Chenoa felt invisible in an education system that didn't include Native people. Instead of honoring her identity, it left her feeling silenced and disconnected.

Now, Chenoa is **working to change that**. Her experiences at the College of Menominee Nation gave her the healing and empowerment she needed to reimagine education as a space of **validation, self-love, and pride**. Today, she's pursuing advanced degrees to create a system where Indigenous voices are valued, and where **education heals rather than harms**.

Watch Chenoa's video about to hear how her story is shaping the future for Indigenous youth!



~Blinded with tech: The once-great Robert Zemeckis again puts pioneering ahead of story with 'Here'

[https://renonr.com/2024/12/02/blinded-with-tech-the-once-great-robert-zemeckis-again-puts-pioneering-ahead-of-story-with-here/?](https://renonr.com/2024/12/02/blinded-with-tech-the-once-great-robert-zemeckis-again-puts-pioneering-ahead-of-story-with-here/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20(120724))

[utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20\(120724\)](https://renonr.com/2024/12/02/blinded-with-tech-the-once-great-robert-zemeckis-again-puts-pioneering-ahead-of-story-with-here/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20(120724))

## **GrantStation**

### **National Opportunities**

#### **[Awards up to \\$1 Million Promote Systemic Change Through Music](#)**

The Music Man Foundation seeks to empower organizations using music to catalyze enduring change.

#### **[Projects Increasing Global Perspectives in K-12 Education Funded](#)**

The Longview Foundation supports K-12 education projects in the U.S. that build global perspectives in teachers and students.

#### **[Grants Aim to Improve Water Quality and Restore Watersheds](#)**

The 2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program, a program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and various partners, will award approximately \$2.5 million in grants nationwide to local partnerships focused on improving water quality.

#### **[Support Benefits Caregivers of Individuals With Dementia](#)**

The Arthur N. Rupe Foundation's Dorothy Rupe Caregiver Program is dedicated to improving the lives of caregivers in the United States providing at-home support to a loved one with dementia.

### **Regional Opportunities**

#### **[\\$200,000 Grants Advance Economic Mobility in Missouri](#)**

Upward Momentum seeks to increase economic mobility in Missouri for all people deeply affected by systemic barriers to opportunity.

#### **[Company Communities Supported in WA, OR, CA, and ID](#)**

Banner Bank's community support program, Banner Gives, provides support to nonprofit organizations that contribute to the vitality and success of the communities where Banner Bank operates in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho.

#### **[Funds Available for Southern Arts Organizations of Color](#)**

Cultural Sustainability provides general operating support and collaborative learning opportunities for arts organizations rooted in communities of color.

#### **[Grants Target Maternal Health Equity in New York](#)**

The New York Health Foundation is launching a statewide request for proposals to support projects that advance maternal health equity for Black New Yorkers and other New Yorkers of color.

### **Federal Opportunities**

#### **[Program Supports Heritage Site Protection](#)**

The Heritage Site Protection program seeks assistance in the protection and management of significant cultural resources on public lands.

#### **[Public Health Efforts Funded in U.S. Territories and FAS](#)**

The Advancing Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Chronic Disease in the U.S.

## [COPIC Medical Foundation](#)

The COPIC Medical Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that address healthcare issues in the United States. The goal of the Foundation is to be a catalyst in improving the quality of healthcare delivery by reducing adverse outcomes and supporting innovation. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

Territories and Freely Associated States program supports integrated, evidence-based strategies and activities to prevent and manage chronic disease.

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Calendar

December 9 - Phoenix Indian Center's FAFSA Night, 4041 N. Central Avenue, in the Tower. For more info, call (602) 264-6768.

December 10 - Gila River Indian Community's 20th Annual Water Rights Celebration at the Sheraton Grand Resort. For more info call (520) 562-9715.

December 14 - Phoenix Indian Medical (PIMC) Arts Fest, 10 am-4 pm, 4212 N. 16th Street, Phoenix. For more info call (602) 263-1576.

December 14-15 - 47th S'edav Va'aki Museum Indian Market (formerly Pueblo Grande). For more info, www.svmfoundation.org.

December 21-22 - Ak-Chin Indian Community's Masik Tas Celebration, 2024 Open Rodeo, at the Ak-Chin Circle Arena, 16000 N. Maricopa Road. For more info, call (520) 568-1000.

December 27-30 - Holidays at the Heard, 2301 N. Central Avenue, in Phoenix.

December 31 - Save the date for the New Year's Eve 2024-2025 Sobriety Pow Wow, Grace Sparkes Activity Center in Prescott. Hosted by Museum of Indigenous Peoples. 3 pm.

January 15- 2025 30th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day. Arizona State Capitol. For more info, or to register, click [here](#).

January 16 - 2nd Annual Tribal Gaming Conference. Arizona Department of Gaming.

January 18 - Phoenix Indian Center's Winter 2025 Round Dance, 5-10 pm. Location TBD. For more info, call (602) 264-6768.

January 18 - 16th Annual Southwest Gourd Society Gourd Dance and Winter Pow Wow at the San Xavier Recreation Center in Tucson. For more info, call Thomas at (520) 339-2335.

January 23 - UofA Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. Learn about the undergraduate and graduate programs that will prepare you for a career in tribal law, policy, and Indigenous human rights. In person. oronline. For more info, click [here](#).

January 31-February 2 - 2025 86th Annual Tohono O'odham Nation's Rodeo and Fair. Silas Hendricks Memorial Arena. For more info, call (520) 383-2588.

March 1-2 - Heard Museum's Indian Fair and Market, 2301 N. Central in Phoenix.

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**PAINT A TILE IN AMERICA CONNECTS**

[https://register.muralmosaic.com/america/?utm\\_id=120210929560020137](https://register.muralmosaic.com/america/?utm_id=120210929560020137)

Interesting concept; replicable with tribal communities! Who is going to take this on?

**More Scholarships (via Native Health)**

Deadline December 9 - **University of Arizona's College of Medicine Phoenix Pathway Scholars Program**. For students who have experienced unique challenges in preparing to become competitive medical school applicants including members of Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes. Applications are being accepted. The next incoming Pathway cohort is July 2025. For more info, or to apply, click [here](#).

January 10 Deadline - **Indian Health Service Summer 2025 Externship Program**. For more info, click [here](#).

January 24 Deadline - **Udall Foundation's Native American Congressional Internship**. For more info, click [here](#).

January 31 Deadline - **University of Utah's Native American Research Internship**. May 27-August 1. For more info, click [here](#).

February 5 Deadline - **Dorrance Scholarship** for current graduating high school seniors planning on attending ASU-Tempe, NA-Flagstaff, or UA-Tucson. For more info, click [here](#).

February 5 Deadline - **Robert Wood Johnson's Summer Health Professions Education Program**. Free summer program for freshman, sophomore, or junior college students interested in medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, public health and more. For more info, or to apply, click [here](#).

**College Horizons** - For more info on the 2024 program dates and host sites - click [here](#).

**Mesa Community College's Real Estate Appraisal Program - Appraisers Certification** - Two Years. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Licensed Residential Appraiser program prepares students for the appraisal of residential land and real property. For more info call John at (602) 309-888 or email [him](#).

**FREE tuition for undergraduate students from Arizona's 22 Federally recognized tribes** who are studying on the main campus of University of Arizona in Tucson. For more information click [here](#).

**Native American Programs and Enrollment Information at ASU, UA, and NAU** - For more information click [here](#).

NATIVE HEALTH in partnership with the American Indian AHEC continued with the second cohort of the **Native SCOPE program** for Indigenous high school youth interested in pursuing a healthcare career.

For more info, or to enroll in the next cohort, please email [Gabby](#).

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### **Bridging the urban-rural broadband divide**

OPINION — Where broadband goes, economic growth and educational opportunity follow. But despite the federal government’s efforts, including decades of work and billions of dollars, too many Americans still lack a reliable connection, an unacceptable fact in today’s digital world.

[Read more...](#)

### **Tule River Tribe hopes to build reservoir**

The Porterville Recorder, 12/5/2024 - Republican Congressman Vince Fong and U.S. Senator Alex Padilla are leading a legislative effort for funding for the Tule River Tribe to build a new reservoir upstream at Bear Creek on the Tule River. Fong represents District 20, which includes the Tule River Reservation.

Do you know any students or teachers in grades 6–12? Encourage them to participate in C-SPAN's [StudentCam](#) competition!

**With the recent presidential election, we're asking young people to tell us about the issues that are important to them in a 5- to 6-minute film.** We award a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes to students and teachers nationwide. The deadline to submit entries is **January 20, 2025**. For additional details, resources, and tips on how to get started, visit [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org). Questions? Email C-SPAN's Education Relations team: [educate@c-span.org](mailto:educate@c-span.org).

> *Visualize the popularity of [your name over the years](#).*

### **From the Nevada Museum of Art**

**Saturday, December 14**

**10 am – 4 pm**

- Open studios in the [E.L. Cord Museum School](#)
- Register in-person for 20% savings on [upcoming classes](#)
- Hockey fan? Meet Tessie of the [Tahoe Knight Monsters](#)
- Dr. Seuss's "The Grinch" – Live Performance
- Docent guided tour of [Deep Time: Sea Dragons of Nevada](#)
- Live music by the UNR Jazz Trio
- Hands-on art activities for all ages

Bring the whole family! Everyone will enjoy [FREE admission](#) until 6 pm.

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***What Happened to America's First Megacity? [PBS Terra](#) (click on pic)***

### **EPA and rules protecting US drinking water**

“Donald Trump’s allies have fired the opening salvos of his coming administration’s attack on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the federal agency that enforces and regulates laws on air, soil, and water quality among other crucial environmental and health issues. In a letter from Republican House leadership to the EPA administrator Michael Regan, Republicans trained their sights on the agency’s scientific integrity policies that are designed to insulate scientists and research from political interference. Meanwhile, the incoming chair of the Senate environmental committee in a hearing last week promised to target portions of new PFAS regulations put in place over the last year, a top priority *for Trump’s chemical and water utility industry allies.* [Read](#)

[more from The Guardian](#)•

### **Environmental groups demand EPA to start monitoring microplastics in water**

“A new legal petition filed by more than 170 top environmental groups demands that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begin monitoring for microplastics in drinking water, an essential first step to reining in pollution viewed as one of the nation’s most pressing public health threats. The scale of microplastic water pollution, the extent to which the substance is lodged throughout human bodies, and the many health implications have come into sharp focus in recent years, but the EPA still has not taken meaningful action, public health advocates say. The petition pushes the agency to begin monitoring microplastics as an emerging contaminant under the Safe Drinking Water Act in 2026. “The EPA has been thinking about it, but they have not been acting, and the goal here is to get them to act,” said Erin Doran, a senior attorney at Food & Water Watch, one of the petitioners. ... ” [Read more from The Guardian](#).