



290 PRAIRIE STAR RD.
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NB3FOUNDATION.ORG



Request for Applications

Water First II Community Action Grant

The Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation is pleased to announce its Water First! II Community Action Grant. This funding opportunity, made possible by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports Native-led organizations and tribal communities dedicated to advancing healthy hydration and empowering community-driven solutions for Native children and families.

Grant Overview

According to the peer-reviewed study, “Sugar-sweetened beverages and water intake among Indigenous youth in the United States and Canada: a scoping review of interventions”, high sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) consumption among Indigenous youth is associated with increased risk of obesity, tooth decay, Type 2 Diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Nationally, nearly two-thirds of youth consume a sugary drink on any given day, underscoring the need for culturally grounded strategies that promote healthy hydration and increase safe water access.

Available Funding

The NB3 Foundation is launching Water First! II Community Action Grant to support tribal and Native-led partners. Community partners will each receive up to \$175,000 over 2.5 years to support long term change through planning and implementation of policy changes that result in decreasing sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) consumption, increasing access to and consumption of safe drinking water, and/or increasing breastfeeding among families with young children.

Over 2.5 years, community partners will work closely with the NB3 Foundation to journey through the [Water Roadmap](#) (“Roadmap”), using it to guide long-term, community-driven change in beverage choice and consumption. The Water Roadmap, a project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, was developed by the Notah Begay III Foundation with the University of California Nutrition Policy Institute and the National Tribal Water Center, based on learnings from the first [Water First! Cohort \(2016-2018\)](#). The roadmap aims to guide a community-driven effort to foster healthier beverage choices. Your community’s project will have two end-goals: (1) to develop and implement your own project to change beverage habits, and (2) to help us understand how well the Water Roadmap works and use your experiences to improve it. Surveys, interviews, and other measurement tools will be used at baseline and follow-up to assess change over time and provide feedback on implementation and progress using the roadmap.

Water First! Grant applications should include a thoughtful and feasible work plan of activities that can be completed within the 2.5-year grant period. The funding opportunity may support some direct service programming, but only if there are clearly demonstrated connections between programming and the long-term change you are working to address through policy or systems change in your community.

Additionally, grant recipients are required to participate in three NB3 Foundation’s Healthy Beverage Summits in July 2026, July 2027, and July 2028. Grant recipients must allocate up to

\$12,000 of the grant budget to participate in the gatherings and summits to cover costs related to participating.

Research

NB3 Foundation is committed to using evaluation tools that have been used in Native communities and/or fit models such as our [Indigenous Health Model \(IHM\)](#). The research and evaluation components of this project are guided by the Notah Begay III Foundation's Evaluation and Research Department and Healthy Hydration Advisory Board, advocates for Native health from Native American communities. As part of this grant, partners will complete a self-administered beverage intake questionnaire, an interview, and possible additional measures guided by our Healthy Hydration Advisory Board. We will also keep track of the process of utilizing the roadmap as well as community-led initiatives in beverage intake.

This initiative supports community informed research and evaluation while strengthening research capacity within Native communities. Participating community partners will engage in activities designed to track progress, explore identified challenges related to beverage consumption, and build skills using data and community knowledge to inform decision making and advance community defined priorities. Findings and lessons learned from this work will contribute to a final publication that highlights community experiences, insights, and strategies to best support healthy hydration in Native communities.

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations eligible to apply include:

- U.S. based Native American-controlled nonprofits 501(c)(3)*
- federally or state recognized tribal departments or programs
- or Native American community-based groups with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Ineligible applicants: Schools are not eligible to apply unless they have 501(c)(3) status.

*A 501 (c) 3 Native-controlled organization means that at least 51% of the Board of Directors is composed of Native Americans.

Grant Period

The grant period is 2.5 years from June 1, 2026 to November 30, 2028.

Funding Priorities and Requirements

The Notah Begay III Foundation seeks to fund projects that demonstrate strong Native leadership, community engagement, and the potential to create sustainable improvements in healthy hydration for Native children and families.

Applicants should demonstrate the following:

- Strong tribal leadership and community support for the proposed work
- Organizational capacity to implement the project and manage grant funds responsibly, including compliance with prohibitions against lobbying and political activities
- Commitment to strategies that address sugar-sweetened beverage consumption, safe drinking water access, and/or breastfeeding support



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Additional requirements for selected grantees include:

- Providing letter(s) of support from the Native American community where the project will take place
- Ensuring indirect costs do not exceed 20% of the total project request
- Allocating up to \$12,000 from the grant budget to support travel and participation in three Healthy Beverage Summits during the grant period (July 2026, July 2027, and July 2028). NB3 Foundation will coordinate and support participation.

How to Apply

Water First! II Community Action Grant uses a two-step application process. All interested organizations must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal. Submission of an LOI does not guarantee an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Step 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) due April 17, 2026 at 5:00 pm MST

All interested organizations must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI should provide a brief overview of:

- The applicant organization
- The community served
- The health challenge related to beverage consumption in the community
- Initial ideas for strategies that promote healthy hydration and reduce sugar-sweetened beverage consumption
- Evidence of community leadership and support
- A list of Board of Directors/Leadership (Nonprofits and community groups ONLY)

Submission Method: [Water First! II Community Action Grant Letter of Intent Submission](#)

Step 2: Full Proposal (By Invitation Only)

Organizations invited to submit a full proposal will be asked to provide additional details, including:

- A detailed project narrative and work plan
- A project timeline covering the 2.5-year grant period
- A detailed project budget
- Letter(s) of community or tribal support
- A description of how the organization will participate in evaluation activities guided by the NB3 Foundation Evaluation and Research Department
- Applicants invited to this stage will receive additional instructions.

Questions

For questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact:
NB3 Foundation Community Empowerment
Email: grants@nb3f.org

Application Deadlines/Grant Calendar

Action	Date
Announce Request for Applications	March 13, 2026
Informational Session Register Here	March 24, 2026, 11:00am to 12:00 pm MT
Letter of Intent (LOI) Due	April 17, 2026
Notification to Submit Full Proposal	April 23, 2026
Full Proposal Due	May 20, 2026
Grant Period Start Date/1 st Disbursement 45%	June 1, 2026
Orientation Webinar (participation required)	June 8, 2026 from 11 am to 12pm MT
Progress Report /2 nd Disbursement 45%	June 30, 2027 (<i>June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027</i>)
Grant Period End Date	November 30, 2028
Final Report /Final Disbursement 10%	January 15, 2029
Healthy Beverage Summits and Grantee Gathering (Participation required)	July 15-16, 2026 – Albuquerque, NM July 2027 – TBA July 2028 - TBA

Goldtooth-Halwood R, Mathende AM, West C, Arkie R, McClelland DJ, Haozous E. Sugar-sweetened beverages and water intake among Indigenous youth in the United States and Canada: a scoping review of interventions. *Int J Circumpolar Health*. 2025 Dec;84(1):2528298. doi: 10.1080/22423982.2025.2528298. Epub 2025 Jul 28. PMID: 40726116; PMCID: PMC12308874.

Haughton CF, Waring ME, Wang ML, Rosal MC, Pbert L, Lemon SC. Home Matters: Adolescents Drink More Sugar-Sweetened Beverages When Available at Home. *J Pediatr*. 2018 Nov;202:121-128. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2018.06.046. Epub 2018 Jul 18. PMID: 30029864; PMCID: PMC6233293."

