

Census Open Innovation Labs

 **THE OPPORTUNITY PROJECT** 

2024 Indigenous Communities Focused Sprints

Building Stronger Pathways to Grants and Funding for Indigenous Communities

The Native Counts Coalition and National Urban Indian Family Coalition

The Challenge – Develop community and data driven solutions that empower Indigenous communities to navigate a complex grant and funding landscape and increase their capabilities to successfully secure funding.

Executive Champion –

Nicole Borrromeo, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for the Alaska Federation of Natives

The Problem – Indigenous Peoples have stewarded our nation’s land for time immemorial, yet today’s Indigenous communities are some of the most underserved in the nation when it comes to both federal funding and private philanthropy. A [2003 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#) found that American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities did not receive sufficient federal funding to respond to the very urgent needs of tribal citizens. Many of these challenges in accessing federal programs and infrastructure funding are mirrored by Native Hawaiians both on the U.S. mainland and in Hawaii. Indigenous programs receive disproportionately low amounts of federal spending in comparison to other populations, and this funding shortfall impacts essential services such as infant and child development, education, food assistance, healthcare, housing, law enforcement, poverty assistance, and elder care, among other critical infrastructure and support functions. Against this backdrop, it is essential to bolster Indigenous communities’ capacities to craft compelling grant applications that will succeed in securing funding for their needs.

The processes required to identify, compile, and present the needed data for grant applications are highly complex. Tribal stakeholders must navigate a fragmented array of data sources, each with its own requirements and formats, making the preparation of applications both time-consuming and technically challenging. Many Tribes and affiliated organizations are under-resourced and lack adequate technical support, further hindering their ability to complete applications in a timely and accurate manner.

The Opportunity – In this sprint, teams will have an opportunity to work alongside Indigenous collaborators to build user-friendly tools that enable Tribal and Native Hawaiian stakeholders to successfully submit grant applications for critical federal programs and philanthropic funding sources. We

are eager to catalyze solutions that will help to increase and improve the equitable distribution of resources to Indigenous communities.

Target End Users – Tribal stakeholders, tribal leaders, Native Hawaiian stakeholders, researchers, and others responsible for preparing grant applications or who utilize the data in those applications for other purposes, including internal use, research reports, policy and legislative efforts, and public education.

Related Data Sets

- ↳ [U.S. Census Bureau's Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data](#)
- ↳ [U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File \(DHC\)](#)
- ↳ [U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Data](#)
- ↳ [U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey](#)

Sprint Leaders

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