

# Survey Summary Report February 2026



## Tribal Funding Registry

PRESENTED BY: THE HOZHONIGO INSTITUTE

Launched in March 2025, the Tribal Funding Registry (TFR) was created to address a long-standing structural barrier: the lack of equitable, culturally attuned access to funding for Tribal Nations, Native-led, and Native-serving organizations. Its goal is to strengthen self-determination and economic resilience by streamlining access to funding through a no-cost, centralized, user-friendly grant registry that reinforces community funding pipelines. More than a database, TFR integrates curated grant opportunities with strategy tools, training, and live support to meet users where they are.

A February 2026 survey to assess impact and inform growth asked for user feedback on the difference TFR has made for them in their work. This report summarizes the results of 236 Tribal Funding Registry users across five key areas of grant research: accessibility, strategic alignment, knowledge and confidence, quality, and efficiency.

**Respondent Profile.** Respondents primarily represented nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations (46%) and tribal governments or entities (38%). Most serve in grant writing or administration (30%), senior leadership (27%), or program management (18%). A majority reported moderate (35%) to strong or extensive (34%) experience with grant research, indicating feedback from knowledgeable individuals.

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*“I like that this is a Native-specific website. It cuts through another layer of confusion that would need to be gone through to identify grants that would fit our needs.”* —TFR User

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**TFR Usage: Building Momentum.** Most respondents (61%) have been using TFR for three months or less, indicating many have only recently discovered this resource. Despite being new to the platform, users expressed strong enthusiasm and intent to deepen their engagement, describing TFR as a “rich resource” they are eager to explore further.

The grants database is the most heavily used support, with 71% of respondents reporting use. While live technical assistance, on-demand resources, and email support are currently used less frequently, many respondents noted awareness of these services and interest in accessing them. Time and scheduling constraints were cited as the primary barriers to use, suggesting opportunity for increased engagement as users become more familiar with available supports.

### Grants and Awards Found Through Tribal Funding Registry\*

**163** Grant Applications  
from **54** organizations

**19** Grants Awarded  
to **16** organizations

**\$24,292,538**  
Funds Requested

**\$11,973,987**  
Funds Awarded

\*Estimated applications and funds applied for and received

## KEY FINDINGS

# Strengthening Tribal Grant Capacity

Survey results show measurable gains for TFR users across key areas of grant research when compared with their work prior to engaging with TFR.

### High Accessibility and Ease of Use.

*“Organizations don’t have the funds to access expensive databases nor the staff for extensive research.”*

**92%** rated TFR as somewhat easy to very easy to use. Respondents emphasized that TFR’s no-cost, all-in-one platform expands capacity for organizations managing lean teams and limited budgets.

### Stronger Strategic Alignment.

*“It bridges the gap between our current staff capacity and the technical requirements of federal grants, allowing us to move from reactive fund-seeking to a proactive, long-term fiscal strategy.”*

**91%** reported being somewhat to very clear about which grants best fit their organization’s priorities. Users noted search results better suited to their specific funding needs.

### Expanded Knowledge and Confidence.

*“It has brought to the surface opportunities we would NEVER have otherwise been aware of.”*

**75%** reported increased confidence in navigating grant research and funding opportunities. TFR strengthens users’ understanding of the funding landscape by consolidating public, private, and corporate funding sources into a single culturally focused database.

### Improved Quality of Research.

*“TFR narrows the circle of funders to look at from the beginning rather than having to do so in a larger search tool.”*

**72%** reported somewhat to much more effectiveness in identifying relevant funding opportunities. TFR’s Native-specific focus aligns the search process with Tribal priorities.

### Increased Efficiency.

*“The Tribal Funding Registry has made it easier for our organization to find appropriate funding... streamlining our process for finding funding opportunities.”*

**66%** of respondents reported becoming somewhat to much more efficient in their grant research as a result of TFR. Users described refined searches and reduced time spent identifying appropriate opportunities.

## CONCLUSION

Findings from the 2026 survey demonstrate that Tribal Funding Registry is strengthening grant capacity for Tribal Nations, Native-led, and Native-serving organizations. Users report expanded efficiency, increased knowledge, and improved strategy with the grant search process. As TFR continues to grow, user feedback will guide future developments. Continued investment in TFR will accelerate and strengthen equitable access to funding opportunities for Native communities.

*“Thank you for putting this together. Long overdue for Indian Country.”* –TFR User

**Questions?** ● Contact **Onawa Haynes, Founder** ● [onawa@hozhonigo.com](mailto:onawa@hozhonigo.com) ● [tribalfunding.org](http://tribalfunding.org)