



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

Date: June 8, 2018

Native American Heritage Fund Now Accepting Applications Funds Available to Support Projects that Promote Positive Relationships with Michigan's Indian Tribes

Michigan's K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and local units of government are now eligible for funding through the Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) to defray the costs of projects that promote positive relationships and accurate information about the history and role of Michigan's Indian tribes and Native Americans in the state.

Projects may include changing or revising curricula or improving program development, replacing or revising mascots or imagery that might be considered offensive to Native Americans, and replacing or revising government seals or images in public spaces. Nonprofit organizations that are undertaking a project on behalf of a K-12 school, college, university, or local unit of government are also eligible to apply for NAHF funding.

"I am proud of the joint collaboration between the State of Michigan and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi for the creation and development of the Native American Heritage Fund," Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said. "The implementation of this fund will allow local schools and municipalities the opportunity to cultivate awareness and respect for the culture and history of Michigan's native people."

Application information is available online at www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/native_american_heritage_fund_board. Applications will be available beginning Friday, June 8, 2018. Applications are due to the NAHF Board by Friday, July 6, 2018, at 5 p.m. Please send applications via mail to Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068 or via email to kjscott@calhouncountymi.gov.

The fund, which was approved in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between NHBP and the State of Michigan, allocates a portion of NHBP's state revenue sharing payments to the NAHF.

"This initiative provides an opportunity to spread understanding about the native culture and history of Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes," said NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, who also serves as the Chair of the NAHF Board. "The distributions from this fund will promote mutual cooperation and respect between the tribes of Michigan and local communities."

The NAHF Board is composed of NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck and Vice Chairperson Dorie Rios, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Vice Chair Kimberly Vargo, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Citizen Elizabeth Kinnart, and the Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist Melissa Kiesewetter.

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For questions regarding the NAHF application, please contact Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 269.781.0966.

For media inquiries, please contact NHBP Director of Communications and Public Relations Judi Henckel at 269.704.8361.



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Attachments: NAHF Application; NAHF logo

About The Native American Heritage Fund

The NAHF was established in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) and the State of Michigan. The amendment allowed for a portion of NHBP's annual state revenue sharing payment to be deposited into the NAHF.

The fund serves to promote positive relationships between public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, local units of government and Michigan's federally recognized Native American Tribes. The NAHF provides resources to help improve curricula and educational resources related to Michigan Indian history, as well as to replace or revise mascots and imagery that may be deemed as offensive to or inaccurately conveying the culture and values of Native Americans.

For more information visit: at www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/native_american_heritage_fund_board