

MONTHLY UPDATE for TRIBES AND THE EN

From the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)



2024 Trainings for Tribes on Data Science

The Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG) is pleased to continue its partnership with [The Carpentries](#) organization to offer free online trainings for Tribal professionals interested in learning new skills and reinforcing best practices for effective data management, analysis, and visualization. Workshops are taught by Carpentries-certified instructors with experience teaching learners from a wide variety of backgrounds, and no prior knowledge is required for learners to be successful. Over the course of three days, instructors will present the workshop topics through the use of guided lessons, open dialog, and individual practice. Lessons use the same sample datasets and easy-to-follow instructions for ensuring everyone can access the same information before, during, and after the workshop.

For 2024, the following workshops are being offered; registration details and more information will be announced approximately two months prior to each session. [Subscribe to our email list](#) and stay informed!

- [June 4-6, 2024: Data Carpentry for Ecologists \(R emphasis\)](#)
- [July 30-August 1, 2024: Data Carpentry for Ecologists \(Python emphasis\)](#)
- [October 1-3, 2024: Software Carpentry: R for Reproducible Scientific Analysis](#)
- [November 19-21, 2024: Software Carpentry: Programming with R](#)

Looking for even more professional development opportunities and interested in sharing your knowledge with others? The TXG is preparing to launch a pilot “train-the-trainer” cohort for Tribal professionals like you! No prior knowledge or experience is required—only a desire to help others. By participating in the cohort, you will:

- learn instructional techniques and best practices for teaching foundational coding and data science skills,
- become part of a community of trusted practitioners who can guide and support other Tribal professionals,
- contribute your ideas and translate your experience into relevant lessons that resonate with Tribal learners.

Join one of our [upcoming informational sessions](#) to learn more (Thursday March 14 or March 21 @ 11 am PT), or [contact us](#) with any questions. Ready to apply? Submit your application online [HERE](#) no later than March 29, 2024.

TRIBAL EXCHANGE NETWORK GROUP (TXG) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Frank Harjo, Chair
GIS Manager, Muscogee Nation

Angie Reed, Vice Chair
Water Resources Planner, Penobscot Indian Nation

Jennifer Reyher, Budget Chair
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SSHIAP Section Manager, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Brianda Hernandez
Water Quality Program Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Sheryn Olson
Inter-Tribal Monitoring Data Project Manager, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Lisa Gover
Director - Environmental Quality, Gila River Indian Community

EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

See our [online calendar](#) for more information about these events or to contact us if you would like to see your event included in a future newsletter.

[Tribal Data Drop-In sessions](#)

On the 3rd Thursday of each month, TXG members and professional associates alike join together to host a 1-hour Tribal Data Drop-In session. Sessions cover a wide range of topics around Tribal environmental data including R coding, general data management topics, Survey123, mapping, etc. Bring your data management questions to an upcoming Tribal Data Drop-In session and join in a safe, pressure-free troubleshooting environment. Link in the title above. **Next Session: 3/21/24**

[2024 EPA Clean Water Act Tribal Forum, Washington, D.C. May 14-16, 2024](#)

The U.S. EPA Office of Water is hosting the second Clean Water Act (CWA) Tribal Forum at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The Forum is for Tribes with experience administering water quality programs who want to discuss challenges, benefits, and available tools. Topics include: Tribal water quality standards (WQS); IK and Tribal water quality programs; Waters of the United States rule and implementation; CWA Section 401 certification and implementation; CWA Section 404(g) rule development and implementation.

This is an in-person forum only and open to Tribes across the United States. For questions, email [Holly Galavotti](mailto:Holly.Galavotti).

[EPA's Exchange Network Forum](#)

The Exchange Network (EN) is a community that works together to improve data sharing, leading to better decision-making to protect people and the environment. The forum is a venue to discuss how to improve and better use the EN's services and partnerships to share information among EPA, States, and Tribes. Learn about important EN information and updates, share challenges and opportunities to improve the EN, and learn about innovative ways EPA, States and Tribes are using the EN. The Forum will meet the second Thursday of every month via Zoom (see [link](#) for details).

Next Session: 3/14/24

[Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance Summit: Building Action and Power Tucson, AZ, April 11-12th, 2024](#)

The U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) Network will hold a two-day summit on the homelands of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. IDSov and IDGov advocates will use the summit toward the following three goals, 1) Establishing a national standard in the US. for Indigenous data governance, 2) Creating an Indigenous data standard via nation-to-nation partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, and 3) Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' laws, policies, and systems for Indigenous data sovereignty led by the priorities of sovereign Indigenous Peoples for our shared data futures.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [Tribal Air Quality Office Hours](#): dates and topics vary, see website for details
- [South Central Climate Resilience Forum](#): April 2-4; Dallas, TX.
- [2024 National Tribal Leaders Climate Summit](#): April 15-17, 2024; Auburn, WA
- [2024 Innovation Summit: Big Data for Environmental Resilience and Adaptation](#): May 14-16, 2024; Boulder CO
- [Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#): August 12-15, 2024; Eugene, OR

NTFAQ 2024

NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON
AIR QUALITY

MAY 6, 2024 - MAY 9, 2024

HARRAHS CHEROKEE CASINO & RESORT, NORTH CAROLINA

Registration Now Open!

May 6-9, 2024 - Cherokee, NC

*Breakout sessions, field trips,
and trainings*

*"Breath of Fresh Air" Fun
Run/Walk*

*Scholarships available (deadline
to request: March 22)*

www.nau.edu/ntfaq

The 2024 Virgil Masayesva Environmental Scholarship Program



We have just launched our 2024 fundraising campaign to support the Virgil Masayesva Environmental Scholarship Program. This scholarship program was established at NAU & ITEP in 2005 in honor of Virgil Masayesva, ITEP's co-founder and first director. Virgil worked tirelessly to advance tribal environmental primacy, self-determination and sovereignty. With your support we'll help to keep Virgil's legacy of leadership thriving and growing in the next generation of Native environmental stewards.

Your generosity last year helped us raise over \$5,000 that we distributed to 6 wonderful and deserving Native American students at NAU. **This year our goal is to raise \$10,000!**

100% of donations go to support financial scholarships for Native American students at NAU pursuing environmental careers.

Visit our crowdfunding [website](#) to see testimonials of past scholarship recipients. Please consider giving what you can to help us support the next generation of Native environmental leaders!

Look for similar announcements on ITEP social media and like and share to boost awareness of our campaign with your network!

#ITEPJACKSFUNDER #ITEPNAU



Make a gift today
or help us spread the
word



EXCHANGE NETWORK UPDATES

[Learn about the EN Grant Program](#)

FY 2023 will be the 21st year EPA will award competitive funding to eligible partners for projects through the Exchange Network Grant Program. Between FY 2002 and FY 2022, EPA provided approximately \$260 million for state, tribal, and territorial awards and associated program support through the grant program. As of February 1, 2023, all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 86 tribes, and 5 territories have received EN grants. These grants support better environmental decisions by promoting the use of more timely and consistent data which is shareable by partners across the EN as well as by environmental professionals and the public.

On EPA's site, you can [view examples of past projects](#) and find [resources for applicants](#). Details on the FY2024 cycle are coming soon!

TRIBAL DATA IN THE NEWS

[Penobscot Nation's Watershed Restoration Data Advocacy Efforts Inspire](#)

Angie Reed, celebrating 20 years as a Water Resources Planner for the Penobscot Nation, sheds light on the practical application of using R for data analysis for watershed protection and restoration. Working alongside numerous Tribes, state and federal agencies, and academic staff, Angie also contributes to national tribal workgroups. Her engagement with Native Nations has a strong emphasis on the Wabanaki homelands, but her influence and work extend throughout Turtle Island.

[Native Nations Seek to Expand Broadband Access](#)

Tribal communities in Arizona and beyond are working to establish their own broadband networks to support bringing internet access to their underserved communities. Highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, many Tribal communities lack of adequate access to internet networks that are reliable and robust. With the disparities highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, many Tribal communities continue to lack of adequate access to internet networks that are reliable and robust. Education, health care, and government services have all been impacted, and Tribal communities are leveraging recent funding available to enhance and expand their capacity to provide connectivity to new area.to provide connectivity to new area.



See below for more information on funding opportunities. The [American Indian Policy Institute](#) also has resources on Tribal Broadband support.

FUNDING & CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Announces Second Funding Opportunity

The National Telecommunications & Information Association's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program provides funding to support tribal governments to develop broadband deployment on tribal lands to improve telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.

A second round of funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will make approximately \$980 million available on Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian lands for deployment of Internet infrastructure, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives.

Please email any questions, concerns or requests for technical assistance to TBCPNOFO2@ntia.gov.

Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on March 22, 2024.



EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) Announces New Webpage

Visit the [website](#) to find grantee success stories, program deadline reminders and updates, and information about upcoming and past engagement opportunities.

The webpage features updates about each EJ Grants program and an EJ Grantee Showcase where we will begin highlighting the impacts on the ground of all our successful EJ grants as we fund more and more of the IRA projects.

Learn more about the impacts from OEJECR's current and upcoming grant programs and subscribe to receive notifications about updates to the page contents.

Indoor Air Pollution at Schools (EPA-R-OAR-APS-24-02)

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is \$32,000,000. EPA anticipates awarding four to six grants of \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 to support five years of Indoor Air Quality activities. Eligible applicants may submit only one grant application to fund activities in two or more of the four project areas: 1) IAQ and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Capacity Building, 2) Tribal IAQ and GHG Reduction Capacity Building, 3) IAQ and GHG Reduction Training and Education Campaign, 4) IAQ and GHG Reduction Research and Demonstration Projects in K-12 schools in low-income, disadvantaged, and/or Tribal communities.

Deadline: March 19, 2024

February Reader Poll

Are you interested in learning to use "R" or "Python" ?

Use the code or link to reply



[BIT.LY/3P4S5QB](https://bit.ly/3P4S5QB)

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants Competition for Tribes and Territories (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09)

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides funding to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.

Eligible Entities: Generally, entities eligible to apply for an implementation grant under this announcement are federally recognized tribes, tribal consortia, and territories. Please visit EPA's grant [webpage](#) for more information on applying for EPA grants as well as other current opportunities at EPA.

Deadline: May 1, 2024

RESOURCES

[Environmental Protection Network's Free Technical Assistance](#)

The Environmental Protection Network (EPN) is providing NO-COST assistance to tribes. Their network of over 550 EPA alumni volunteers can help tribes effectively and meaningfully participate in government decision-making by helping them navigate EPA, potential grants, regulatory processes, federal policies, and publicly available data to support their work. Additionally, the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and EPN have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that is focused on helping tribes to address their climate adaptation priorities. Visit their [website](#) to view their focus, past projects, service types, subscribe to updates, and request assistance, or email [Davina Resto](mailto:Davina.Resto).

[EPA Tools & Resources Webinar Series](#)

Find all past and upcoming webinars hosted by the EPA.

[Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Online Courses](#)

Check out ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs.

[EPA: How to Register to Apply for Grants](#)

Organizations must be registered in two government systems (SAM.gov and Grants.gov) to apply for EPA grants. This page walks you through those steps.

[EPA: Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#)

This online training is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects across the entire lifecycle of a grant, from preparing an application to grant closeout.

[EPA: How to Develop a Budget](#)

This online training is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of grant budget development.

[Software Licensing Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\): A Resource for Tribal Environmental Professionals](#)

This document provides information on sensible and efficient approaches for tribes who use federal funding to procure software and support their longer-term operations and maintenance costs. A companion document, [the Software Procurement Roadmap for Tribes](#) provides a step-by-step roadmap for procuring software. For questions, email [Jessica Snyder](mailto:Jessica.Snyder) with the Office of E-Enterprise.

[The American Indian Environmental Office \(AIEO\) Newsletter](#)

The AIEO Office has released the second volume of its newsletter with an article about their revised guidance on EPA Consultation with Indian Tribes, a summary of the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit, and the Environmental Protection Network.

HAVE AN UPDATE
OR STORY IDEA?



Email us at
TXG@tribalexchangenetwork.org

Sign up for FREE technical assistance, meet our members, and learn more about how we support Tribes :

www.tribalexchangenetwork.org

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