



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2020

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\$75,000 Awarded to Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for Continuing Fishing Traditions

Fayetteville, Arkansas- The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) and the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) are pleased to announce a \$75,000 grant to support the Keweenaw Bay fishing traditions.

The funds awarded in the 2019 funding cycle will build a much-needed fish processing facility which will provide a space to safely clean, fillet, and package fish and will improve opportunities for fishermen to sell locally and encourage new fishermen. In addition to the fish processing facility, this grant will also improve the community garden efforts by adding an additional hoop house for growing vegetables and composting equipment. The funding from NAAF will upgrade the Community Garden Teaching Center that is currently under construction at the KBIC Community Gardens site so it can meet food safety requirements. The project supports traditional foods and tribal food sovereignty by expanding the KBIC community capacity to safely process fish, compost, and extend our fruit and vegetable growing season for increased yield.

“Each and every family in the community is connected to fishing in some way. The KBIC supports its fishermen as well as other harvesters in keeping these traditions.” said Warren “Chris” Swartz, President and citizen of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. “As stewards of the resources, our goal is to facilitate sustainable harvest of fisheries resources to provide into the future for the seventh generation.”

“NAAF is proud to support the fish processing facility at Keweenaw Bay Indian Community,” said Janie Hipp, CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund and a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. “Fishing and harvesting of traditional seafoods are critical for the future of tribal food economies. We are positive that this grant will help KBIC build a sustainable fishing future for generations to come, while also extending growing seasons and assisting KBIC to broaden the access to foods within their communities.”

The KBIC is the successor in interest of the L’Anse and Ontonagon Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, signatories to the 1842 Treaty with the Chippewa (7 Stat. 591), and the 1854 Treaty with the Chippewa (10 Stat. 1109). Located on the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, fishing in Keweenaw Bay has a lineage that is centuries long.

[The Native American Agriculture Fund \(NAAF\)](#) provides grants to eligible organizations for business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to support Native farmer, ranchers and those working to improve Native food systems. The charitable trust was created by the settlement of the landmark [Keepseagle v. Vilsack](#) class-action lawsuit. NAAF is the largest philanthropic organization devoted solely to serving the Native American farming and ranching community.

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