

Collective Abundance Fund Application Questions

We offer this sheet as a tool for individuals and families in planning and preparing their Collective Abundance Fund application. The application includes the following questions.

NOTE: All applicants must register before accessing the official grant application portal online. If you've registered in the past for any NDN Collective grant opportunity, you must still register by completing the eligibility quiz online. **Portal link here: <https://ndncollective.fluxx.io/apply/collectiveabundance>**

Wealth Building Goals

Wealth building goals present your individual/family's overall intention and projected outcomes as a result of your wealth building activities. Your goals should speak to the transformative change you expect and align with NDN's Indigenous wealth definition.

Indigenous wealth is described as a quality of life and mindset that encircles family and community well-being and the care of relationships (self, family, extended family, community, land, environment), and a spirit of generosity. Money is a tool to support basic needs (e.g., safety, food, shelter, education) and bring financial security and self-determination so that one can live a "good life," abundant in social and cultural sharing.

- 1.) What are your overall wealth building goals? Where do you see yourself and your family if you were awarded this once in a lifetime opportunity? What will you make happen that transforms you and your family and that reflects Indigenous wealth and a "good life" of abundance?

Family Information

Grant awards are intended to support Indigenous individuals and families from the tri-state (MN, ND, SD) region. Family information should provide an overall picture of your current situation and circumstances.

- 2.) a) What is your household income? _____

- b) How many people are in your household (individuals living with you 50% or more of the time or anyone who spends at least 183 nights in your home in a year)?
(number of adults, children, other dependents)

Adults _____ Children _____ Dependents _____

- c) Please indicate whether you or your household currently or expect to receive public county or tribal assistance.

Yes, currently receive assistance No, but I expect to apply in the future

No, I do not receive and do not expect to apply

Check all that apply (optional)

Food and Nutrition (e.g., SNAP, TANF, WIC, free or reduced school lunches, FDPIR)

Housing (e.g., rental assistance, housing vouchers, Section 8 housing)

Income Assistance (e.g., BIA General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, EITC)

Health Care (e.g., MNCare, Medicaid, CHIP)

Child Care Assistance

Energy Assistance (e.g., LIHEAP)

Education Assistance (Pell grants, Head Start program)

A grant award through the Collective Abundance Fund may impact a household's current and/or future eligibility for public assistance programs and services. Please describe how you will address the potential loss of benefits (if applicable).

d) Please share general information that describes the makeup of your household and current family conditions. For example, you may include information on the care of additional family members outside of the home, or significant debt that impacts household obligations.

Wealth Building Plan and Activities

A clear wealth building plan will describe how the activities would support Indigenous wealth in a sustainable, generational (children, grandchildren, or community benefit from the activities), and regenerative (renew, restore, revive, not harmful to people or the planet) manner and directly support the wealth building goals as described. Plans should outline how grant resources would support activities that are strategic and timely to make lasting change and impact

3.) a) Drawing upon your wealth building goals, describe your plan and timeline for activities. How does your plan support making changes for lasting impact and building wealth in your family? How would having access to this resource at this point in time make a difference to you and your family, in other words, why now? Describe what will be sustained or lasting beyond the grant period? How does your plan support the next generation? How does your plan uphold regenerative practices that are non-extractive?

b) Select one or more wealth building activities that your plan includes that supports your overall wealth building goals. Select all that your grant would support.

- Homeownership or Household Stability
(Down payment, home repair, home rehabilitation, home addition, multi-generational housing development)
- Education or Skill Building
Higher education, trade and vocational training attainment.
(tuition, fees, books, supplies)

- Financial Planning
(Financial education courses, training, financial advisement)
- Business Development
Business investments that leverage or supports business vitality and sustainability. (Capital investments, equipment, supplies)
- Food Security
Sustainable family food systems (gardens, greenhouses, land purchase, infrastructure investments, livestock, food processing/production equipment and supplies, hunting/fishing)
- Cultural Traditions
Language, Cultural Knowledge, Healing Practices, Art
(cultural mentors, apprenticeships, supplies, equipment)
- Health and Wellness
(Activities supporting mental, physical and spiritual well-being)
- Reliable livelihood
Other areas that may be considered that support providing for you and your family in dependable ways to secure the necessities of life: food, water, shelter, education, healthcare, ceremony, and community. (Reliable childcare, technology, debt relief, reliable transportation)

Reputation & Commitment to Wellness

Reputation reflects the integrity of our actions and our responsibility for our family and community relationships. As part of its review process, NDN Collective reserves the right to collect additional background information about applicants who may be invited as a grantee. This could include a check of public records and a formal or informal check of references within your community.

Additionally, a commitment to personal wellness, healing, and replenishing ourselves is needed to support the "good life" and sustain a life of abundance. You will be required to upload three reference or support letters that speak to your reputation and confirm your commitment to wellness.

4) Describe how your plan and activities will resource you and your family's wellness and/or healing.

Resource Planning

Planning is required to support a life of abundance and living the "good life". Resource planning includes assessing and identifying the strengths and assets, gaps and challenges, and making deliberate decisions in how resources are allocated and leveraged to fortify the family. Resources should support building resilience and power for you and your family.

5.) a) How are you planning for success? What challenges do you anticipate and how will you address them?

b.) Describe how you will use the grant funds to support your wealth building plan and activities, for example, supplies, equipment, travel, vendor or consultant payments, large purchases, and other activity costs. Include any costs you are allocating towards you and your family's commitment to wellness and any financial education or advisory services you are planning for. Provide a projected timeline of expenditures, not to exceed 12 months.

c.) Are there other resources, including, for example, skills, equipment, financial resources, or land that you are leveraging or using to support your wealth building activities? Please identify if they are secured or pending.

d.) If this is part of a collaborative or collective effort, please describe additional secured or pending resources. Include the names of other members of your collaborative or collective that are applying to the Collective Abundance Fund and whether or how you plan to leverage your group's resources.

Being a Good Relative

Indigenous wealth includes a spirit of generosity and the ability to contribute to social and cultural sharing across our families, clans, and communities. Being a good relative also includes creating safe spaces and protocols of engagement that consider the health and wellbeing of others, including the prevention/protection of participants from the harms of physical/sexual abuse or exploitation and the COVID 19 Pandemic.

6) a.) Describe how your wealth building plan supports a spirit of generosity. How will your activities - or the result of your activities - contribute to social and cultural sharing with family, extended family, clan, or community?

b.) In demonstrating your commitment to the values of being a good relative, please share what that looks like in the spaces your activities take place.

Navigators

Applicants may have a relative or other trusted community advisor to assist in navigating the application process, including logging into the application portal on behalf of the applicant. Navigators may also be a program staff member from a Community Development Financial Institution, a Tribal College or University, a Native-led Nonprofit, or a Tribe to assist the applicant in completing the application process. Applicants should select trusted advisors as their Navigator due to confidentiality and personal information shared in the application.

c.) Did someone assist you with completing the application? Yes No

(If Yes, please provide their information and describe how they supported you with the application process.)

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Phone: _____ Ext: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization (Native-led Community Development Financial Institution or Nonprofit, Tribal College/University, Tribe, if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Describe how the Navigator supported your application (writing, computer support, etc)

7.) I agree that:

All the information I have provided is true and accurate.

I understand that if awarded, I will be expected to adhere to my wealth building plan and activities. Any changes must be approved by my Program Officer. Further, I will submit a report prior to the end of the grant period, including documentation of grant expenditures.

I commit to living and or working towards a life of wellness.

Signature: _____

Required Documents

The following documents are required for any application to be considered. Failure to include any of the documents will result in an automatic declination due to an incomplete application

- a.) A copy of you or the head of your household's most recent U.S. Individual Tax Return (i.e., first two pages of Form 1040).

If no 1040 or state income tax return is available, then the following documents are acceptable:

If employed: the most recent pay stub

If self-employed: the most recent year-to-date profit and loss statement

If recipient of Social Security benefits: the most recent Social Security benefits letter

If unemployed: the most recent copy of your state Unemployment Income benefits letter

- b.) Please upload at least three reference or support letters that reflect your reputation (the integrity of your actions and responsibility to your family and community relationships) and your commitment to wellness or how you are working towards wellness. Letters from relatives are acceptable, however at least one letter must be from someone other than a relative.