



- **Why This Program**
- **Constituents:**
  - **Food Pantries serving Food Insecure Families**
  - **Home/Community Gardeners**
- **Realities on the Ground**
- **Challenges Solved**
- **Engaged Tribal Elders and Food Sovereignty Experts**
- **Program Details and Rollout Plans**



### Introductory note

This origin of this program dates back to 2010 when I first met Chief Henry Red Cloud of the Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation– the beginning of a decade long friendship.

In 2014, the Obama White House and the Navajo Nation’s offices in Washington DC both strongly urged AmpleHarvest.org to expand into Indian Country because Native American traditions valued gardening and food donations. While AmpleHarvest.org’s web site technology at the time prevented this, we incorporate the needed upgrades when we overhauled the site in 2021.

This document explains the thinking behind the program as well as the systemic solutions that it brings.

Note.... “Indian Country” is the generally accepted term used by most Native Americans and the US government to describe the Native American Reservations nationwide.

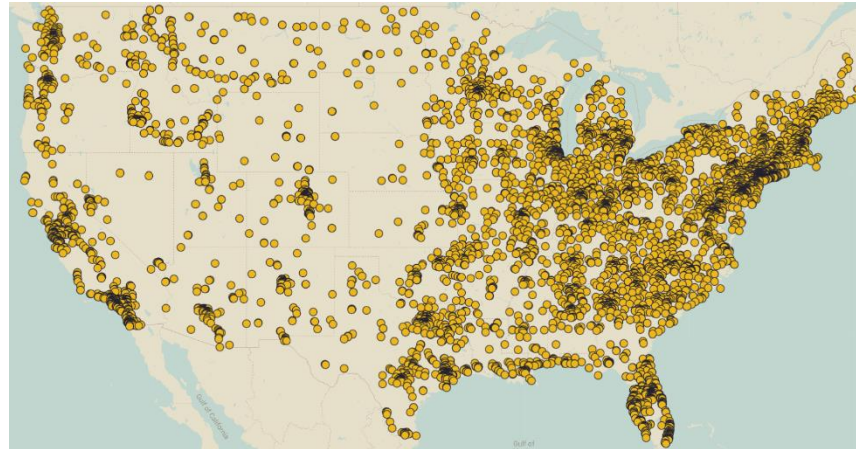
## Why This Program:

33,500 food pantries feed malnourished and hungry families nationwide  
62 million nearby gardeners harvest more garden produce than they can use

AmpleHarvest.org connects these dots.

This solution revolves around two parallel processes:

Creating food donation opportunities for gardeners nationwide by encouraging food pantries to join AmpleHarvest.org – especially in areas where none have yet signed-up



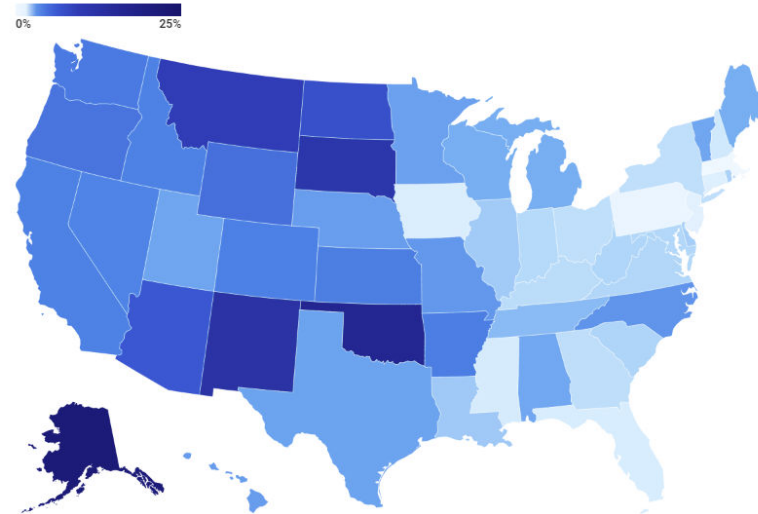
Educating Native American gardeners nationwide that they can donate their surplus harvests to a nearby food pantry, and that AmpleHarvest.org can help them find one.

**AmpleHarvest.org in Indian Country** is focused on adding many more food donation opportunities (pantries) in Native American Reservations, especially those in the empty parts of our map, and helping nearby Native American gardeners learn about donating their surplus harvest.

The result is a sustained supply of surplus locally grown fresh food donated to nearby food pantries ever year.

## Why This Program

Share of population identifying as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races in 2020.

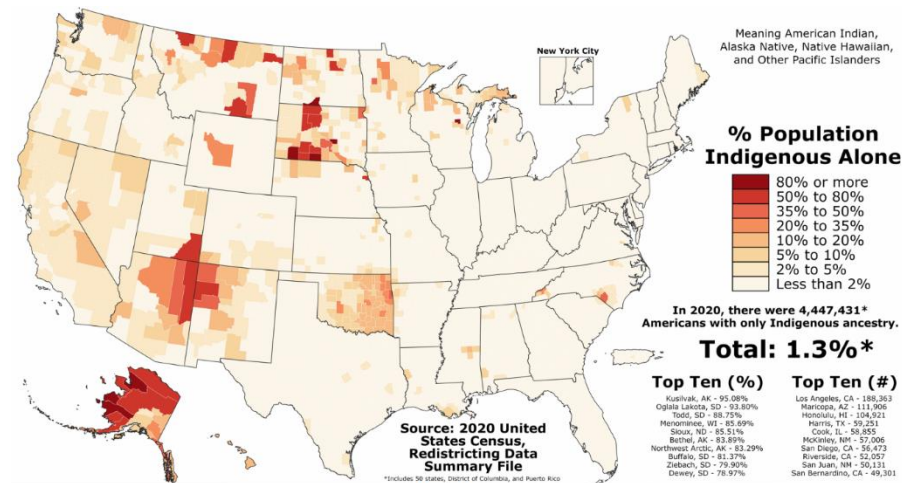


Map: Adriana Rezal • Source: USAFacts • Get the data

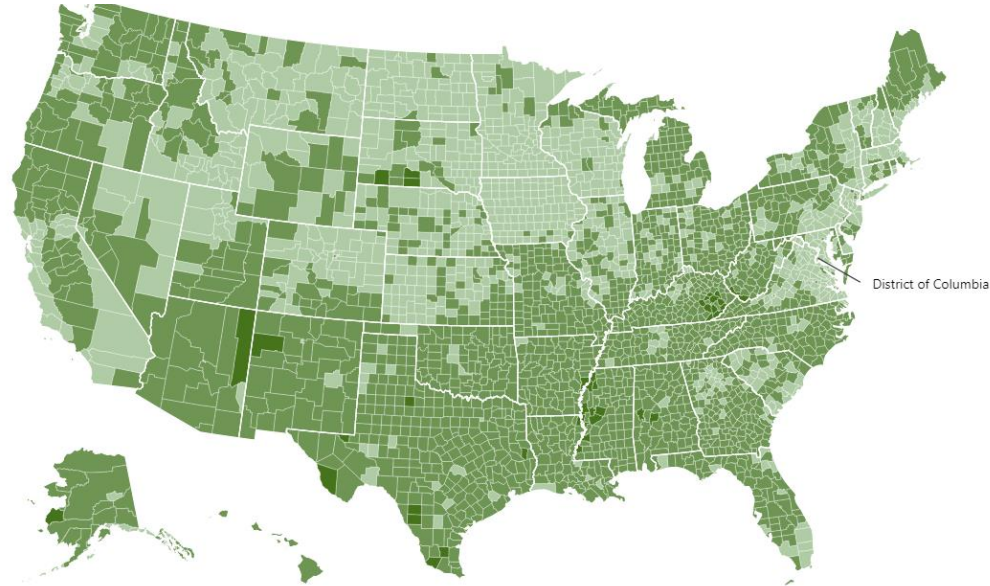
USNews

Nearly six million people nationwide identify as Native American.

At least 25% of the people in the dark blue states are Native American.



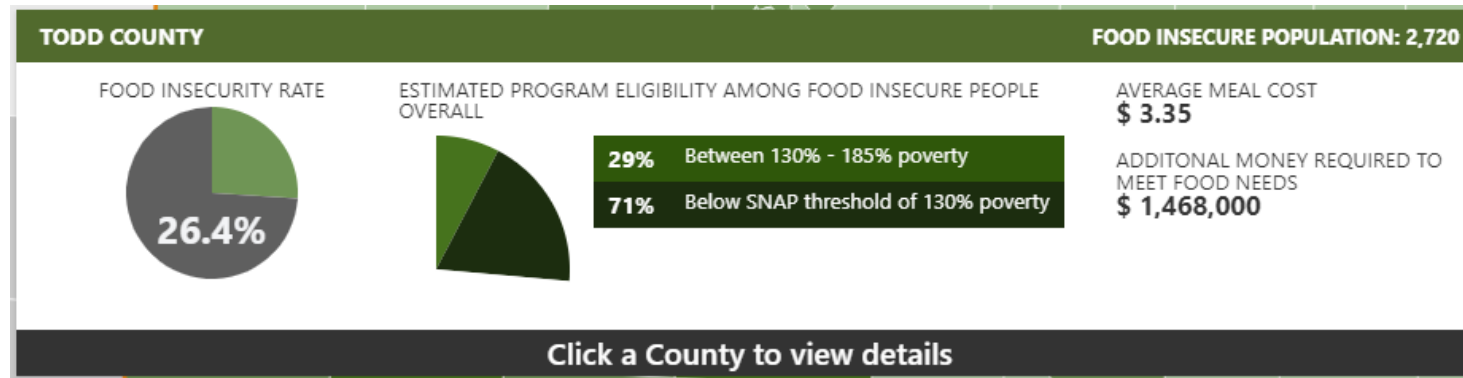
The orange/red counties are those with 80% or more being Native American.



## Mapping Hunger

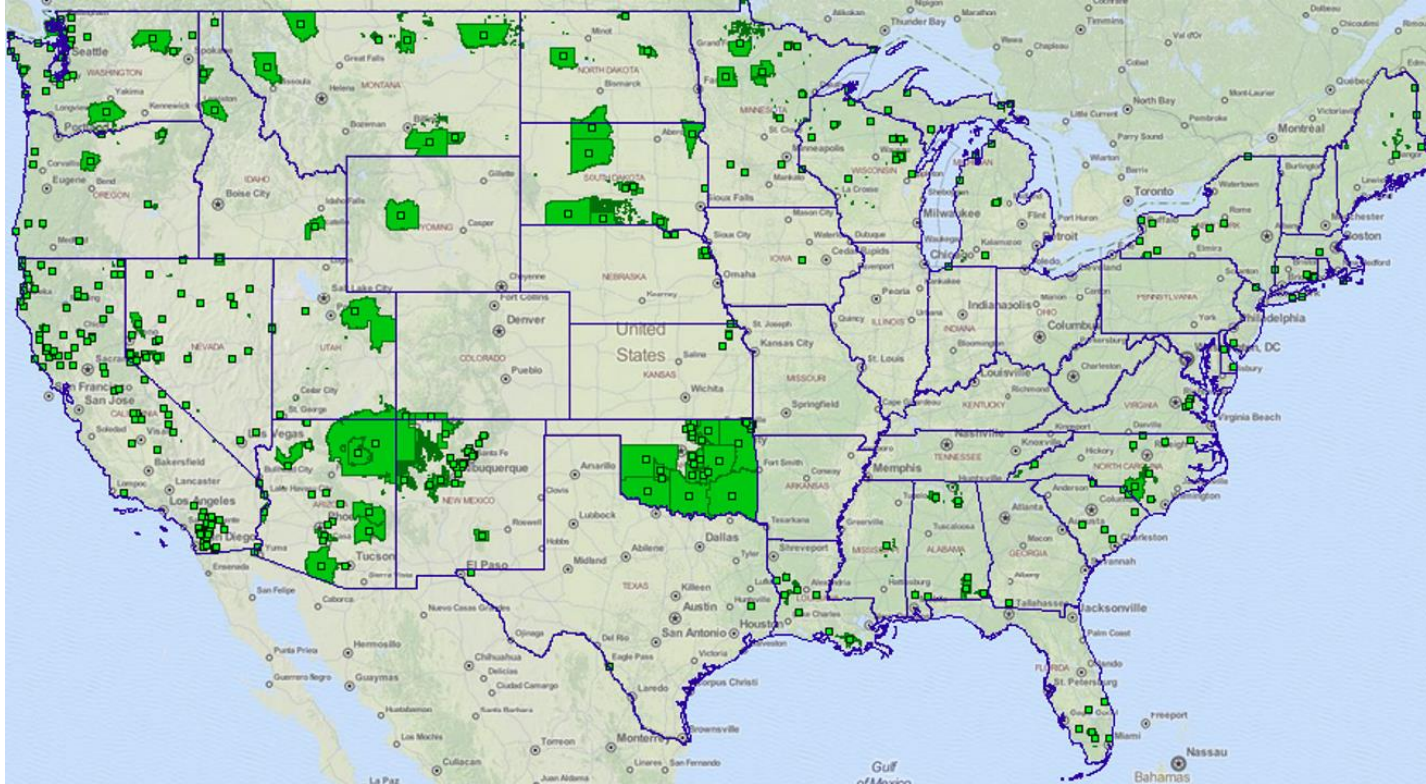
Food insecurity exists in EVERY county, with rural ones being particularly hard hit.

Todd County on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for example has a 26% food insecurity rate with 71% eligible for SNAP benefits.



This is unfortunately typical of Tribal areas.

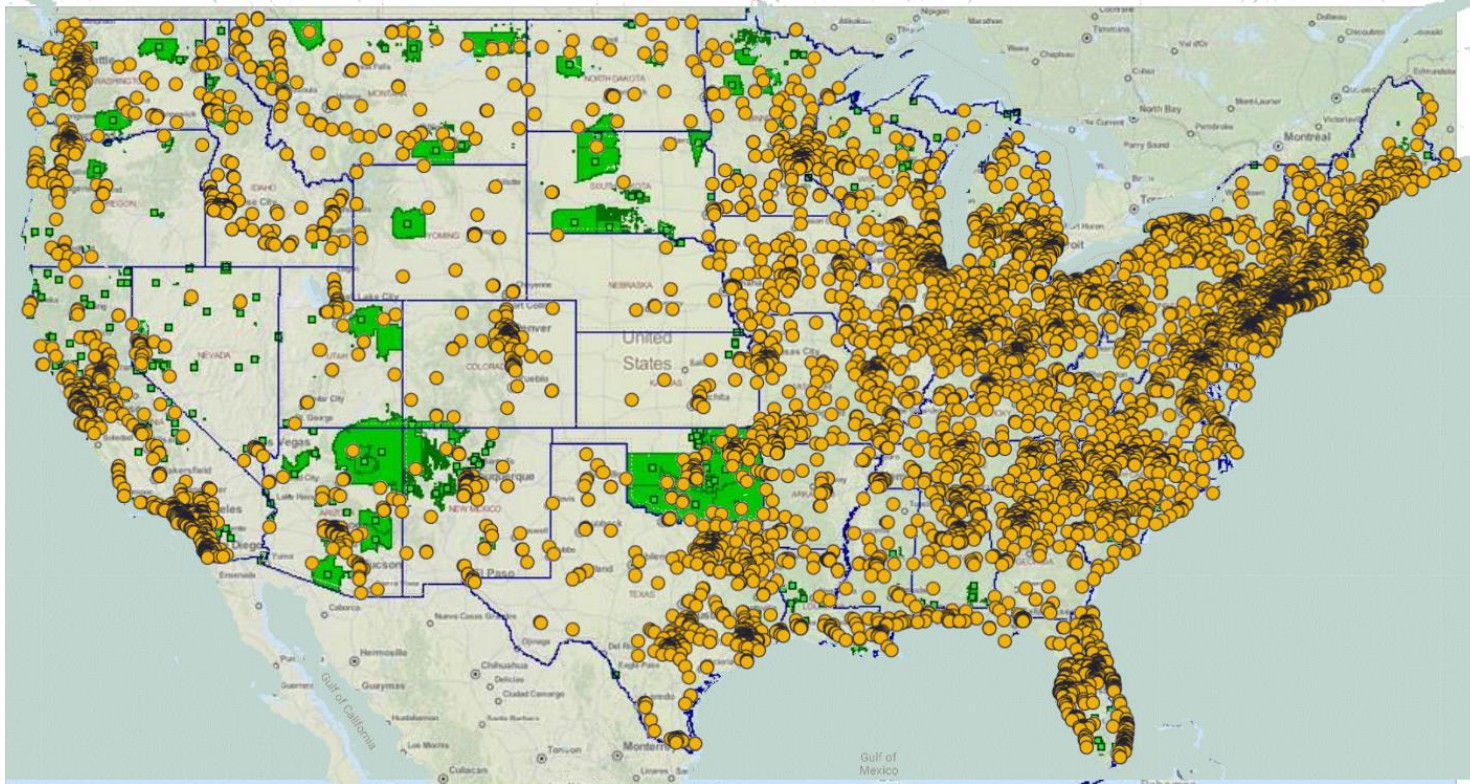
## Native American Reservations



Many Native Americans live on 326 Federally recognized Reservations across 36 states. Note that some are huge and some only a few square miles.

These are the areas of focus for this program.

### AmpleHarvest.org member food pantries



Each of the 8,000+ orange dots is a current AmpleHarvest.org member food pantry.

A large portion of the map lacking these dots aligns with Tribal areas.

This program is designed to make donating surplus garden harvests as common place in Tribal communities as it is in the rest of the country.

Native American Reservations overlaid with AmpleHarvest.org member food pantries

## Native American Food Pantry Models



Some are more traditional Feeding America type pantries

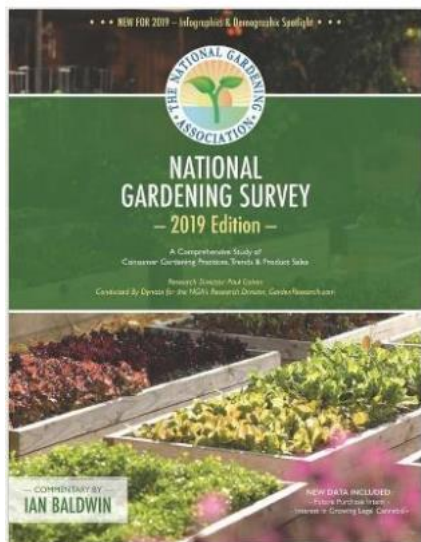


Some are run by Tribal governments



Some are a few shelves in a local retail store





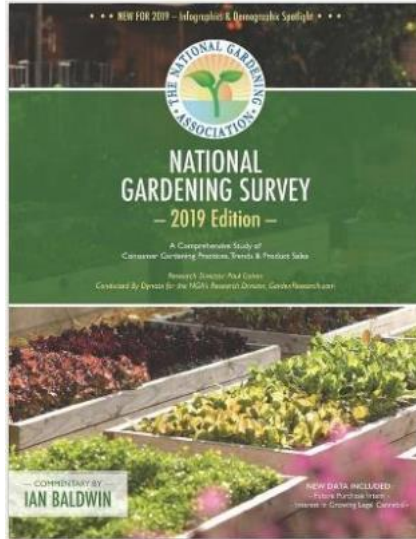
## Gardening in Tribal Communities

According to studies by the National Gardening Association, Native Americans do more gardening per capita than any other minority

“Which of these activities have you or other members of your household participated in during the past year?”

		<u>Vegetable gardening</u>	<u>Container gardening</u>	<u>Herb gardening</u>
<b>Ethnic/Racial Identity</b>	African Amer./Black/Caribbean	13%	7%	8%
	Asian American/Pacific Islander	30%	23%	22%
	Caucasian/White	28%	24%	18%
	Latin/Hispanic	18%	14%	13%
	Native American, Inuit or Aleut	32%	23%	26%
	Other Race	20%	7%	10%





## Gardening in Tribal Communities

According to studies by the National Gardening Association, Native Americans do more gardening per capita than any other minority

“Which of the following did you or someone in your household purchase in the past year?”

		<u>Vegetable garden plants</u>	<u>Vegetable garden seed</u>
<b>Ethnic/Racial Identity</b>	African Amer./Black/Caribbean	20%	26%
	Asian American/Pacific Islander	28%	45%
	Caucasian/White	37%	27%
	Latin/Hispanic	29%	29%
	Native American, Inuit or Aleut	42%	68%
	Other Race	31%	29%



## The New York Times

On Remote Farms and in City Gardens, a Native American Movement Grows

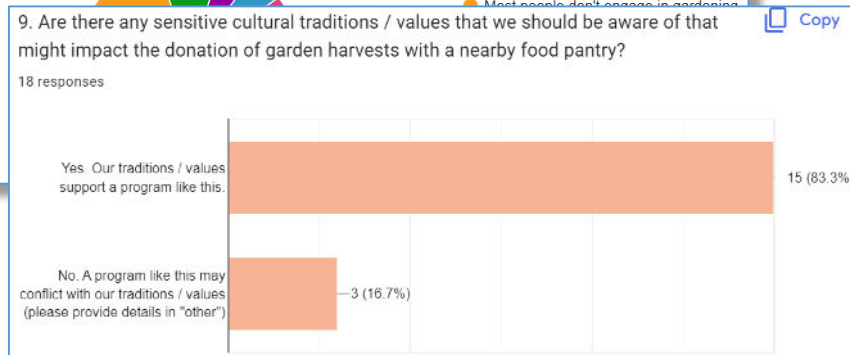
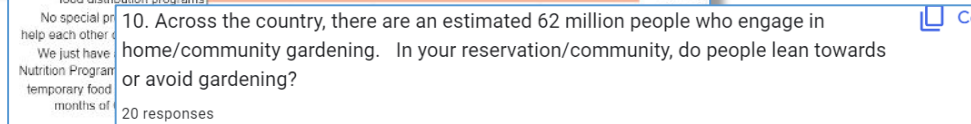
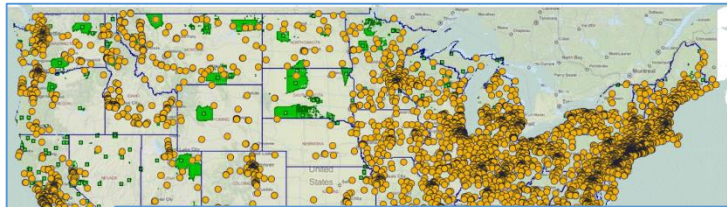


## Gardening in Tribal Communities

Gardening is tied to making Indigenous foods available to food insecure families



## Finding the Problems and Creating the Solutions



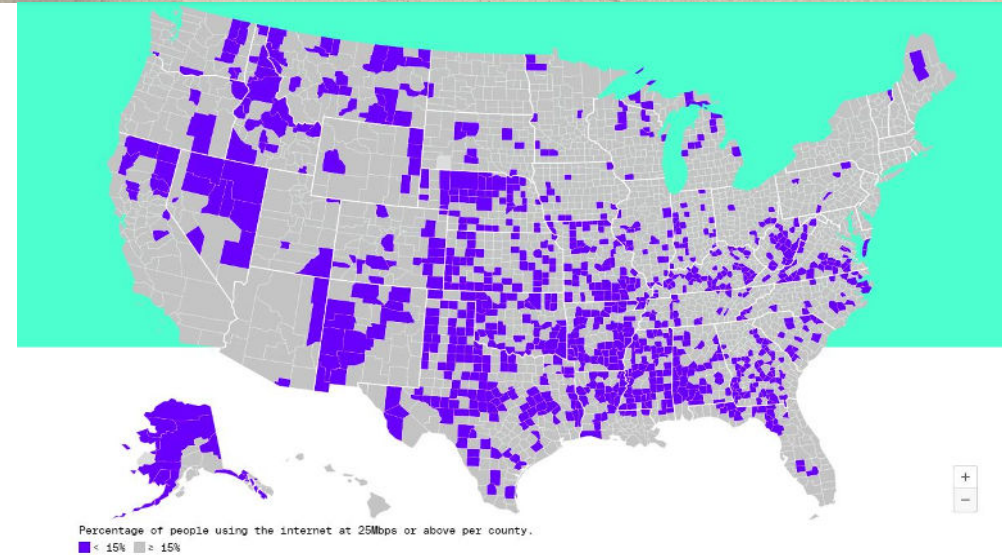
AmpleHarvest.org spent several years working to identify problems that kept Tribal communities from benefiting from our award winning solution.

This included consulting with and surveying Indigenous food sovereignty experts and Tribal elders, attending Native American conferences, researching available literature (with a particular focus on respectful use of language and images as well as Indigenous gardening), and consulting with government officials, to better understand the realities on the ground.

We listened. Then we created solutions.

Finding the Problems and Creating the Solutions

✓ PROBLEM SOLVED



**Problem: No Named Streets**

Solution: What3Words technology.

✓ PROBLEM SOLVED

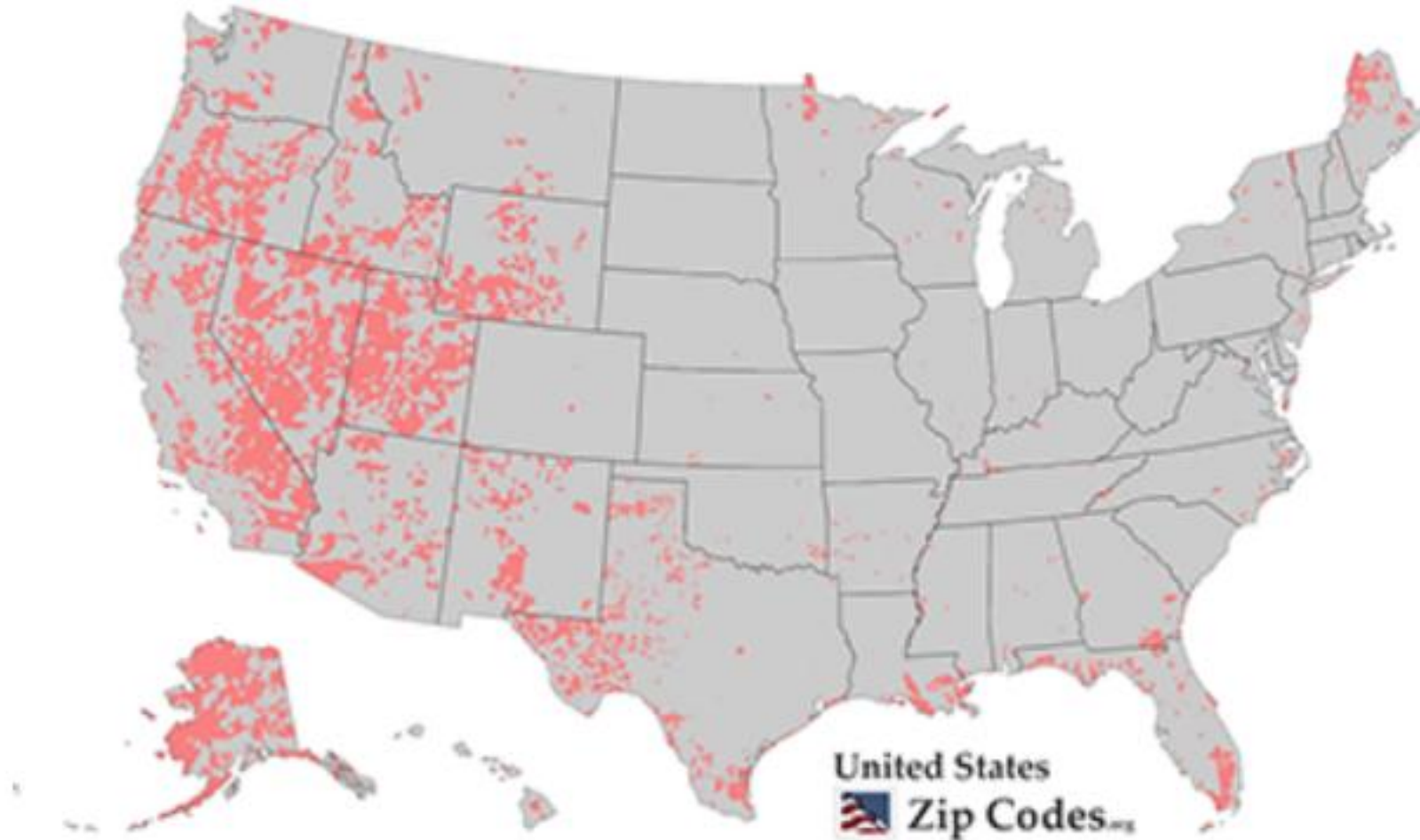


Food pantry in Newcomb New Mexico on unnamed street.  
Can't be found with Google Maps or Waze

**Problem: Communities With No Zip Codes**

Solution: "Nearby zip searching"

## Places without ZIP codes

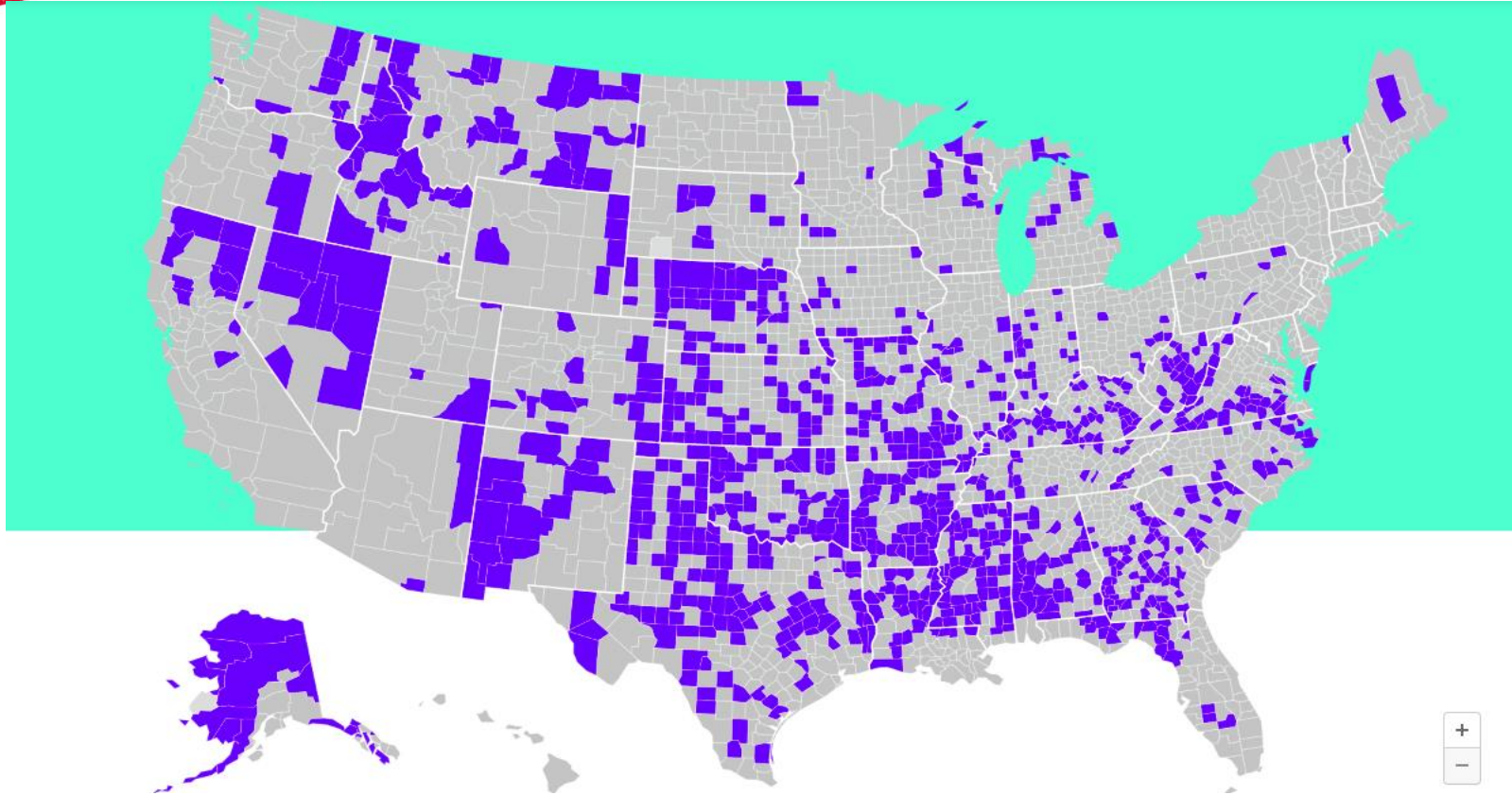


✓ PROBLEM SOLVED

**Problem: Limited Internet Access/Speeds**

Solution: Managed bandwidth images/pages

✓ PROBLEM SOLVED



Percentage of people using the internet at 25Mbps or above per county.

■ < 15% ■ ≥ 15%



Chief Henry Red Cloud, Lakota



Mark Ford, Apache  
Feeding America Tribal Partnerships



April Tinhorn, Hualapai + Navajo



Janie Simms, Chickasaw



Maxine Hillary  
Former Deputy Executive Director at  
Navajo Nation Washington Office



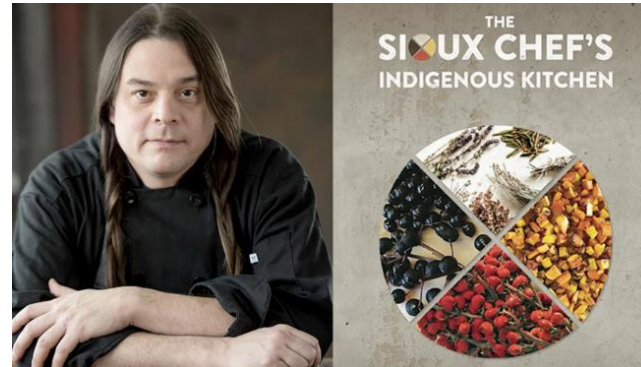
Shannon Mai,  
Alaska Tribal Public Health Advisor



Chief Henry Red Cloud, Lakota



Sean Sherman, Sioux  
"The Sioux Chef"



Bill Miller, Mohican  
3 time Grammy winner





## Program details and rollout plans

### Putting It All Together

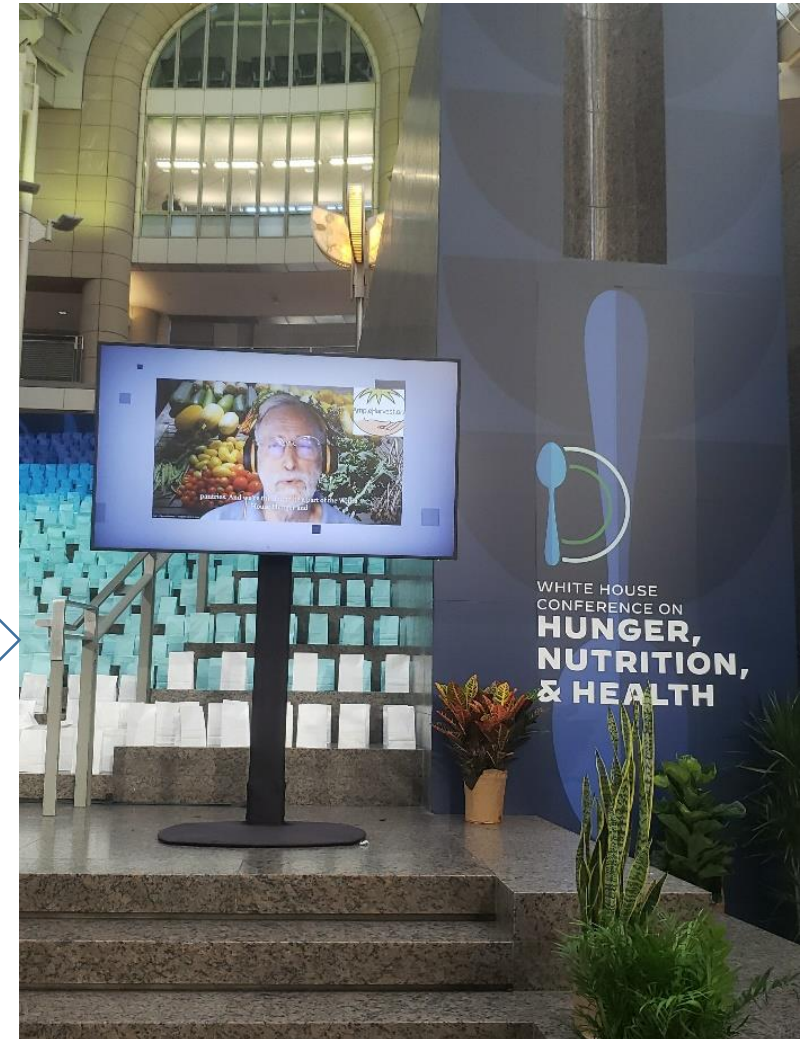
A 16 page deep dive document of **AmpleHarvest.org in Indian Country** (available at [www.AmpleHarvest.org/AHiC](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/AHiC) ) details the overall scope of AmpleHarvest.org's core program and **AmpleHarvest.org in Indian Country**.

It has been shared with the USDA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the White House, Feeding America, the Washington office of the Navajo nation and others.

A press announcement and blog posting ([www.AmpleHarvest.org/IndianCountry](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/IndianCountry)) were published to help the general public understand the thinking behind the program.

In October 2022, AmpleHarvest.org in Indian Country was announced at the **White House Hunger Nutrition and Health Conference**

tdg Communications, a Native American Owned PR/media firm is now guiding the rollout.



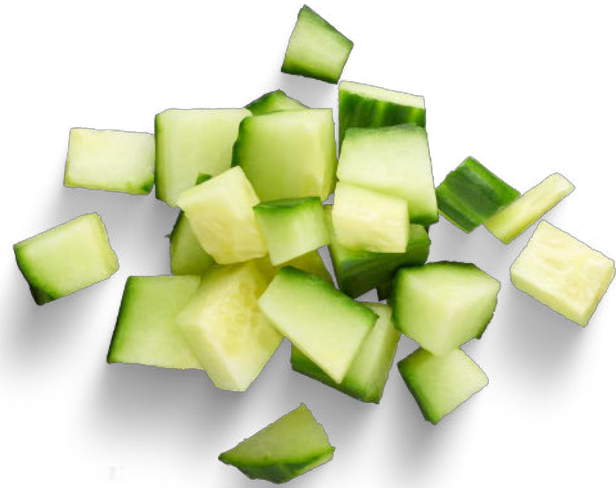
## Putting It All Together

Like the initial launch of AmpleHarvest.org in 2009, we are focused on finding and inviting food pantries on all Reservations to join **AmpleHarvest.org in Indian Country**.

Unlike 2009, we're now utilizing AI to greatly speed up the process, and bring the benefits to Tribal communities quicker than ever.

This will be followed by a large scale outreach and education program for Native American gardeners across the country.





AmpleHarvest.org  
In Indian Country



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