



**CATAWBA**  
NATION FOUNDATION

# 2026 Grant Cycle Cleveland Co. Region Information Session

February 2026

# Agenda

- Welcome & Agenda Review
  - CNF Team
  - CNF Overview
  - Funding Principles
  - Areas of Focus
  - Grant Eligibility
  - 2026 Changes
  - Grant Cycle Timelines
- Application Process Overview
  - Foundant Overview
  - Application: Budget Template
  - Application Resources
- Live Q&A



# About Catawba Nation Foundation

# Meet the Team



**Kristine Urrutia**  
Executive Director



**Tina Cheney**  
Finance Director



**Tanya Varanelli**  
Operations Lead

Scan for  
Contact Info



# Mission and Values



The Catawba Nation Foundation funds projects that focus on educational advancement, cultural preservation, environmental conservation, and economic development for the Catawba Nation, Cleveland County and the surrounding region, and Native American Tribal Nations and communities throughout North Carolina.

## Our Values



Collaboration



Community



Ethical



Leadership



Mutual Respect



Responsive



The Catawba Nation Foundation was established as a stand-alone philanthropic 501(c)(3) as part of the Nation's 2021 Compact with the State of North Carolina. Our work is funded primarily from proceeds generated by the Nation's Catawba Two Kings Casino.



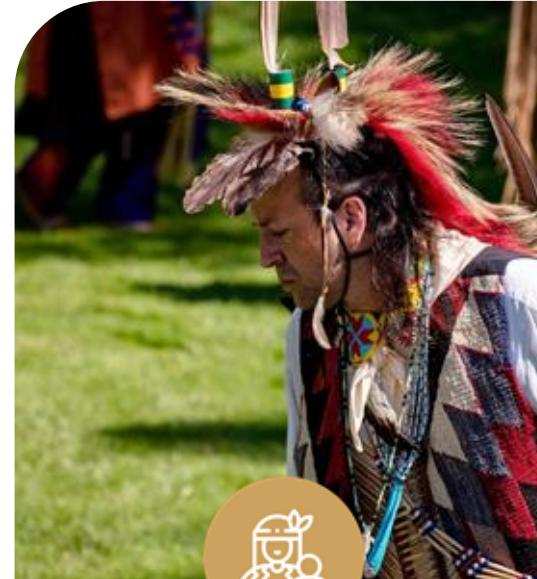
# Who we fund



**Catawba  
Nation**



**Cleveland County  
Region\***



**North Carolina  
Tribes & Native  
Organizations**

*\*Cleveland County Region includes Cleveland, McDowell, Burke, Gaston, Rutherford, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Lincoln Counties.*

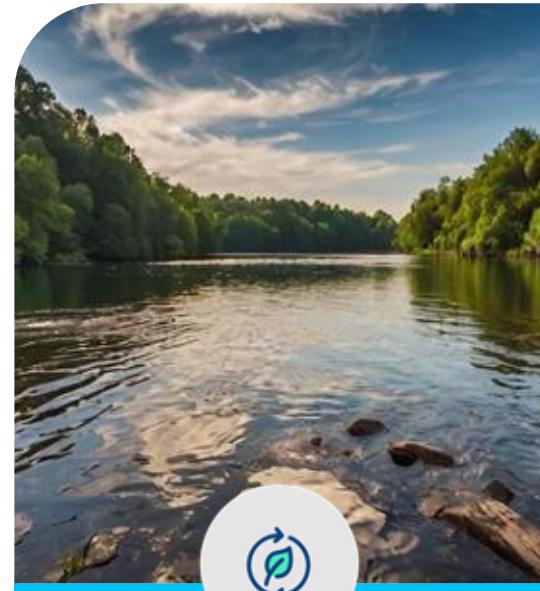
# What we fund



**Educational  
Advancement**



**Cultural  
Preservation**



**Environmental  
Conservation**



**Economic  
Development**

# Grant Eligibility

- Organization Type
  - 501(c)(3) or other tax-exempt organization
  - Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)
  - Tribal Government
  - Tax-exempt organization dedicated to Native American Communities
- Tribal Affiliation
  - Catawba Nation
  - North Carolina Tribes

# Recent Changes

- Separate Grant Cycles for each Area of Focus
- Request Amount Range
  - Share Any Matching Grants
- Grant Request Categories
  - General Operating
  - Program/Project
  - Capital/Equipment
- Budget Template
  - Allowable IDC Rates

# Grant Timeline

- **Cleveland County Region**
  - Applications open March 1 – 31, 2026
  - Awards will be announced by August 1, 2026.
- **North Carolina Tribes and Native Organizations**
  - Applications open September 1 – 30, 2026
  - Awards will be announced by December 1, 2026
- **Catawba Nation**
  - Applications open in Fall 2026



# About the Grant Cycle

# 2026 Grant Cycle Timeline – Cleveland County Region



**March 1 - March 31**

Application Window

**May**

CNF Board Reviews  
All Applications

**August 1**

Award Announcements

# How to Apply

- **Visit [catawanationfoundation.org](http://catawanationfoundation.org)**
- **Click “Apply” button**
- **Register to create an Account**

Logon

Email Address\*

Password\*

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Catawba Nation Foundation's online grants portal!

Applicant Tutorials:

[Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation](#) (mins: 0.00 to 1.34)  
[Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding](#) (mins: 1.35 to 3.20)  
[Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard](#) (mins 3.21 to 4.48)  
[Written Tutorial](#)

First time here?

Click "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your organization's logon credentials.

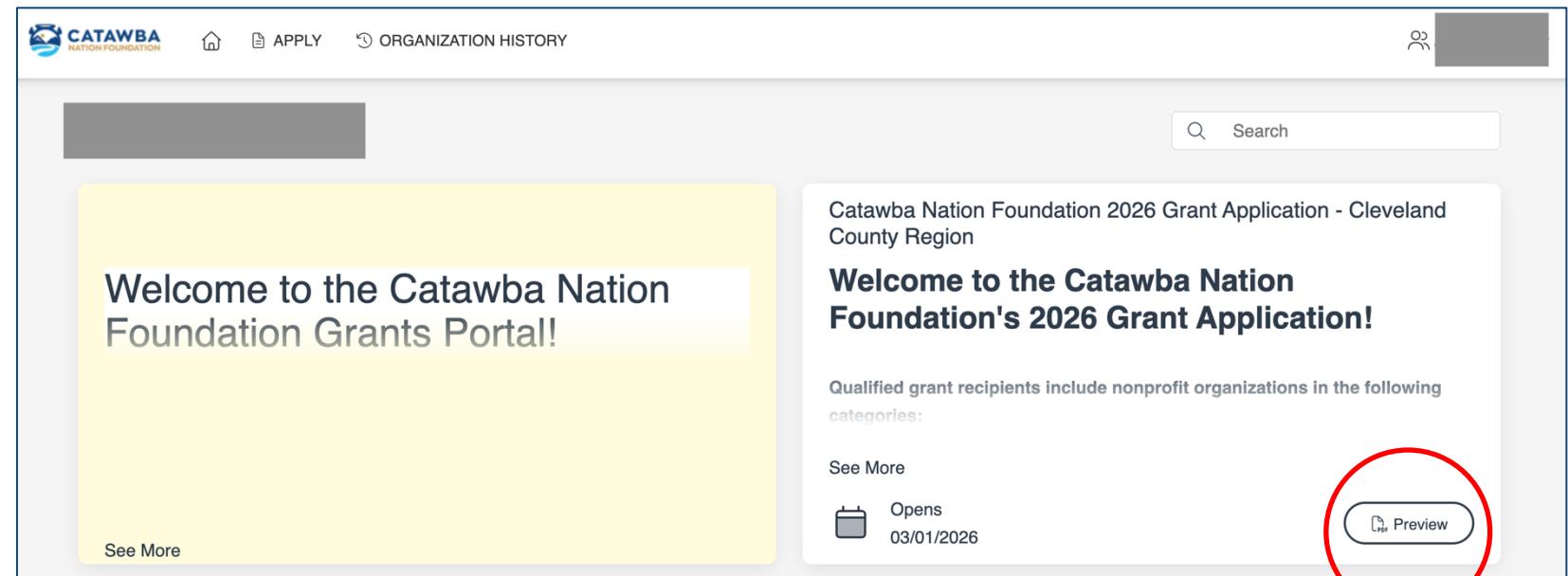
*TIP: This email address is the one we will use to communicate with you if we have questions, which sometimes require prompt response. We suggest using an email address that is available to anyone at your organization who needs to access the application.*

Been here before?

If you have already used our new online grant system, but have forgotten your password, please click "Forgot Your Password?" and follow the instructions.

# How to Apply

- **View Applicant Dashboard**



The screenshot shows the Catawba Nation Foundation Grants Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Catawba Nation Foundation logo, a home icon, an 'APPLY' button, and an 'ORGANIZATION HISTORY' button. To the right of the navigation bar is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'Search'. Below the navigation bar, there is a large yellow rectangular area containing the text 'Welcome to the Catawba Nation Foundation Grants Portal!' and a 'See More' link. To the right of this area, there is a white rectangular box with the heading 'Catawba Nation Foundation 2026 Grant Application - Cleveland County Region'. Below this heading is the text 'Welcome to the Catawba Nation Foundation's 2026 Grant Application!'. Underneath this text, there is a description of the grant categories: 'Qualified grant recipients include nonprofit organizations in the following categories:'. Below this description is a 'See More' link. At the bottom of the white box, there is a calendar icon followed by the text 'Opens 03/01/2026'. To the right of this text is a button labeled 'Preview', which is circled in red.

# Application Resources - Budget Template

The Catawba Nation Foundation Grant Committee will seriously review and evaluate the grant budget attached to your grant application.

## Which Grant Budget Template Do You Need?

The budget template you should complete depends on how your grant funds will be used. Please review the guidance below:

1. All Applicants **MUST** Complete Operations Budget Template
2. Applicants Funding a Specific Project or Program will **ALSO** Complete Project/Program Budget Template
3. Applicants Purchasing Equipment or Completing Construction will **ALSO** Complete Capital/Equipment Budget Template

<b>Grant Budget Instructions</b>	 Operation Budget (Required)	 Project-Program Budget	 Capital-Equipment Budget
99 Accessibility: Investigate			

# Application Resources – IDC Rates

- Tiered IDC Based on Organization Type
  - Tribal or grassroots orgs: 15%
  - Small nonprofits: 12%
  - Universities, hospitals, large institutions: 10%

# Application Resources

- **Info Session Slides and Recording**
- **Application Preview**
- **FAQ Guide**
- **Budget Template file**
- **Tuesdays with Tina** – one-on-one sessions focused on budget guidance



Live Q&A

# We're Here To Help

## **Kristine Urrutia, Executive Director**

- [kristine@catawbanationfoundation.org](mailto:kristine@catawbanationfoundation.org)
- 704-456-9599 x102

## **Tina Cheney, Finance Director**

- [tina@catawbanationfoundation.org](mailto:tina@catawbanationfoundation.org)
- 704-456-9599

## **Tanya Varanelli, Operations Lead**

- [tanya@catawbanationfoundation.org](mailto:tanya@catawbanationfoundation.org)
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[CATAWBANATIONFOUNDATION.ORG](http://CATAWBANATIONFOUNDATION.ORG)