



## **WIK Apprenticeship Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Waicahya Icagapi Kte (WIK)?**

It is a paid farm apprenticeship program that offers hands-on knowledge and support for folks wanting to learn about food production to increase self-sufficiency and produce food to increase local food access on Rosebud. Apprentices will work with the Garden Manager at Keya Wakpala Gardens to develop various skills in areas around food production and farm management. Participants will be paid \$15/hr and have the opportunity to submit a Farm Sustainability Plan for a chance of receiving up to \$5,000 in start-up funding.

### **Who is eligible for this program?**

Sicangu Lakota citizens, 18 years or older, who are committed to producing food for their Tiwahe and Oyate. Participants must be able to commit to working 30-40 hours per week; must have a valid drivers license; and must have personal transportation.

### **What are the Program Dates?**

February 28, 2022 - October 28, 2022.

### **When are the applications due?**

Applications are due no later than 11:59pm CST on January 28, 2022.

### **How can people apply?**

Online application via google forms. People can visit our facebook page where there will be a post with a link to the online application: [facebook.com/sicangucdc](https://facebook.com/sicangucdc). Also if you see the flier, you can use your smartphone camera and scan the QR code to take you directly to the online application. Paper copies can be made available upon request.

### **How does the program work?**

Apprentices will work at Keya Wakpala Gardens under the supervision of the Garden Manager, Michelle Haukaas. Apprentices will be exposed to every aspect of the growing season from seed to harvest. Upon completion of this program, apprentices will feel confident and knowledgeable in a diversity of regenerative agriculture systems. In addition to the on-farm skills, apprentices will also participate in:

- Presentations on various agricultural topics, practices, and methods

- Hands-on workshops offering exposure to subjects that could include: Canning, Fermentation, Cooking skills, Traditional food harvests and more.
- In-depth training on skills including SEI, Financial Literacy, basic carpentry skills, and more.
- Farm tours of operations across South Dakota

As a capstone, Apprentices will also develop a Farm Sustainability Plan where they can request start-up funds that can be used to start or expand their own food production.

### **What is a farm sustainability plan?**

A Farm Sustainability Plan is a detailed plan that outlines each apprentice's goals, and plans for starting their food production and how they are going to sustain their production operation year-after-year. Within the plan, apprentices will develop budgets explaining costs; outlining the locations of where they are going to start their production; what kind of production; and identifying stakeholders.

### **How much is the Start-up Money someone can request?**

Apprentices who successfully complete the program and develop a Farm Sustainability Plan can request up to \$5,000. Approval of each request is based on the level of detail in their budgets, and level of preparedness or readiness to implement their food production operation. A steering committee composed of Sicangu and non-sicangu community members will make the recommendation on start-up funds each apprentice receives.

### **What does waicahya icagapi kte mean in english?**

It translates to "they will grow or develop into producers"

### **When and how do participants get paid?**

Apprentices will submit weekly worklogs and get approval from project staff outlining their hours worked. Once approved, Apprentices will then be paid biweekly via paper check.

### **How many applicants are you selecting for 2022?**

Our goal is to select 5 applicants to participate in the program.

### **Who is managing or overseeing this program?**

Program is managed under the Sicangu Food Sovereignty Initiative. FSI Director, Matte Wilson, oversees and provides support and guidance for program implementation and direction. REDCO Director of Learning and Development, develops training curriculum and coordinates training and workshops. FSI Garden Manager is the main point of contact for all on-farm activities and will serve as apprenticeship supervisor.