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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

**(S.D.)-Pine Ridge Reservation Receives Grant To Increase Healthy Food**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/03/2012 09:48 AM

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) - A nonprofit organization on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has received a \$70,000 grant to improve access to healthy food for Oglala Sioux tribal members.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that they have awarded the grant to Lakota Funds. The money will go toward developing a mobile farmers market and promotional campaign to help farmers on the reservation. The hope is that it will increase direct producer-to-consumer sales on Pine Ridge.

The Pine Ridge reservation is considered a food desert, meaning there is little access to healthy foods.

Lakota Funds is one of several organizations in 39 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico to receive more than \$9 million from the USDA to help connect farmers to new markets.