
BRIDGEPORT INDIAN COLONY



Project Title: Bridgeport Indian Colony's Language Program Implementation Project

Award Amount: \$124,750

Type of Grant: Language

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/28/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 10 elders involved
- 10 youth involved
- \$15,500 in resources leveraged
- 10 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 10 youth have increased their ability to speak a Native language
- 15 adults have increased their ability to speak a Native language
- 4 products developed

BACKGROUND

Bridgeport Indian Colony is a federally-recognized tribe representing 129 tribal members. The Tribe governs a 40 acre reservation in Mono County where 32 members reside. Ninety members live within the immediate Bridgeport area.

Their membership is comprised of Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe, Mono and Miwok descendants, but the principal tribal association is Northern Paiute. Only eight elders, aged 70 to 90 years, are fluent.

In 1997, a cultural needs survey revealed that 92 percent of respondents desired Paiute language classes. Since then, the Tribe has completed several steps toward the design of a language preservation program. In April 2004, the Tribe hired a part-time Paiute Language Instructor and the Tribe developed a Language Program Plan.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Bridgeport Indian Colony's Language Program Implementation Project purpose was to employ a full-time Instructor and execute their Language Program Plan.

The first objective was to teach the Northern Paiute language to its members. To achieve this objective, basic language materials, such as flash cards, bingo cards and subject area worksheets (i.e., animals, foods, colors, basic phrases) were developed. Core class attendance totaled five members. Two of the fluent elders also regularly attended classes.

The Project's second objective was to document the language. The Project attended training in video, software, production and editing, and it produced four VHS tapes of elders' language use, chronicling activities such as the pine nut harvest and traditional storytelling.

The Project's third objective was to provide opportunities for all tribal members to communicate outside the classroom. The Project organized special events such as a Pine Nut Dance, Pine Nut Festival, Storytelling Gathering, potlucks, basket weaving and beading classes. More than half of the Tribal membership attended each of the four major gatherings. Traditional Paiute singers, storytellers and artisans were hired to enrich these occasions. Teaching words and phrases associated with each activity created an interactive atmosphere for showcasing Northern Paiute culture and language. The Culture Committee, Tribe, Colony elders and youth promoted these events to ensure their success.

The Project's fourth objective was to increase the language program effectiveness. The Project intended to seek constructive feedback from the Tribe and external sources. No constructive feedback was gathered; this was due, largely to the absence of measurable standards.

The last objective was to share the language materials with the larger community of speakers. This objective was incomplete.

This Project was implemented by two staff members – the full-time Language Instructor and a Cultural Coordinator responsible for program administration. One year into the 17-month Project, the Cultural Coordinator left, leaving a critical vacancy that remained unfilled for the Project's duration. During the grant period, nearly all tribal administration positions were also vacated, compounding the problem. As a result, there were no grant fund draw-downs after October 2005 and much of the product budget was not spent. The failure to purchase additional audio-visual equipment prevented the Project from developing language CDs. The staffing shortage also helps explain why the last two objectives were incomplete.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The fact that nearly half of the tribal membership attended each of the major special events reflects the Project's positive impact on the community. Alana Weaver reflected upon the need for the language classes, "My mom taught me and I teach my nephew, but it is not enough. We wanted our language back." For students such as Alana who are continually engaged in the language classes, a clear step has been taken towards re-connecting with their ancestors' language. Indeed, the younger students revealed that they take their Paiute lessons with them to public school and share them with their fellow classmates – spreading cultural awareness and demonstrating pride in their heritage. Grace Dick echoed this sentiment of pride when considering the impact of the community activities: "The get-togethers provide a time for our people to get together and enjoy our culture. They allow us to feel comfortable and excited about who we are."

Madeleine Stevens, one of the eight remaining fluent elders, suggested "they need more classes." Students were troubled by the Project's inability to develop interactive language training tools. Alana reasoned, "I would have liked to have copies of lessons on CD so we can bring them home instead of just practicing a few hours a week in class."

The Project has taken a small step towards breathing life into the vanishing language. When asked to consider the entirety of the Bridgeport Indian Colony's Language Program Implementation Project, the Language Instructor said simply, "I wish I could have done more."

CALIFORNIA INDIAN MANPOWER CONSORTIUM, INC.



Project Title: Mutual Support Initiative to Strengthen Tribal TANF Programs

Award Amount: \$202,001

Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/28/2006

Grantee Type: Native Non-Profit

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2 jobs created
- \$11,407 in resources leveraged
- 93 people trained
- 4 partnerships formed
- 1 product developed

BACKGROUND

California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC) is comprised of federally-recognized tribes, reservations, rancherias, bands, colonies and public or non-profit American Indian organizations. CIMC orients its programs and activities towards the social welfare and educational and economic advancement of its member tribes, groups and organizations living in the State of California. CIMC is based in Sacramento.

Native Americans suffer from a disproportionate degree of social disintegration relative to other sectors of the U.S. population. They endure higher divorce rates, lower educational achievement, greater dependence on government welfare systems and higher incidences of substance abuse. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF) program was established in 1997 to address issues such as these.

CIMC has been involved with TANF since its implementation and has observed that tribal TANF programs could be more effective. CIMC attributes tribal TANF program shortcomings to an overall lack of training and support.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Mutual Support Initiative to Strengthen Tribal TANF Programs (Project) was to strengthen and improve tribal TANF operations. This Project had three dependent objectives.

The first objective was to create a National Tribal TANF Database with ten tribal TANF Best Practice templates. The Project's successful implementation was predicated upon the willingness of tribal TANF programs to offer their success stories, best practices and insights. Their contributions failed to materialize despite the Project's encouragement by facsimile, phone and letters. The tribal TANF programs' reluctance was due to a lack of trust, increased workload, skepticism about the Project's motivations, and concern about providing proprietary information to CIMC for Project use. Unable to collect TANF

program information, the Project did not achieve this objective.

The second objective was to create a Peer Mentor Network. This Network of trained peer consultants representing successful tribal TANF programs would be engaged in Mutual Support Learning Clusters to assist struggling tribal TANF programs. The Peer Mentors Network was the principal piece of this Project and was intended to continue this project's objectives beyond the grant period. This objective also encountered obstacles which CIMC was unable to overcome. This shortcoming fed into the overall hesitancy of tribes to admit to and seek help in overcoming their internal TANF program implementation problems.

The final objective was to build ten collaboratively-developed model tribal TANF programs. This objective was dependent upon the achievement of the first two objectives and therefore was also not accomplished.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The CIMC grant application proposed sharing best practices among tribal TANF programs and having trained peer mentors provide technical assistance to tribal TANF providers. These are concepts that, once executed, could be a solid foundation for an effective provider network.

There was a clear lack of tribal TANF program involvement and input in the original grant application. This was a problem which manifested itself during the planning and design phases. The established tribal TANF programs provided information on design issues (such as strategies for the identification of local program participants); however, when asked whether they would be willing to share their information, these programs provided no data. Furthermore, the absence of such critical elements as

quality control assurance for peer mentor activities became challenges that the Project and CIMC could not overcome. A lack of initial research and the failure to procure preliminary commitments from tribal TANF programs undermined a project whose need remains. This was an important "lesson learned" for both grantee and grantor.

Lorenda Sanchez, Executive Director of CIMC, offered this observation:

"We now realize that we could not simply ask tribes to share their info. We needed to establish a base of trust with the 51 current TANF programs and then move into the info-sharing stage. We feel that base of trust has been established, and we now feel confident moving forward into the gathering of best practices. The Project has a great deal of potential and as TANF programs begin to participate, it will begin to build a customer base."

CIMC has begun working with Tribal networks (e.g., Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians) and has started to gather some local program response. This may be an indication of future success for CIMC's vision, but for now remains an unrealized goal under the ANA grant.

CALIFORNIA INDIAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER



Project Title: Knowledge Circle Project

Award Amount: \$401,047

Type of Grant: Social and Economic
Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/28/2006

Grantee Type: Native Non-Profit

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 4 jobs created
- 6 Native American consultants hired
- 18 elders involved
- 389 youth involved
- \$1,500 in revenue generated
- \$311,706 in resources leveraged
- 38 people trained
- 8 partnerships formed
- 4 products developed

BACKGROUND

The State of California is home to 15 percent of the nation's Native American population, 109 federally-recognized tribes, and other non-federally recognized tribes. California's Native American Heritage Commission conducted a comprehensive survey that revealed the need and desire for a living museum featuring interactive exhibitions that would "reinforce the fact that California Indians are alive today, and are a visible part of contemporary society." Based on those results, the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) was

established. In 2001, CIMCC bought a facility in Santa Rosa in Sonoma County where it intended to create and design its museum.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Knowledge Circle Project was to produce plans for living exhibits. The Project's first objective was to research and construct an exhibit outline on the history of California's tribes. This objective involved ten activities, many involving the tribes and communities in California. The Project encountered a minor hurdle at this stage. The original designers, with whom the Project had worked prior to writing the grant, asked for more money than was granted and budgeted. The Project quickly found a new designer who could work within the approved budget. Although this was a setback, the Project was able to complete this objective on time, with a sizeable amount of feedback from their partners.

The Project's second objective, to produce a detailed design package and preliminary cost estimates, had 11 activities and involved intense work by the design team as well as the CIMCC Exhibit Committee. The

Project successfully completed preliminary cost estimates (\$3.1 million), a preliminary lighting plan and layout, and reproduction methods for graphic panels.

The Project's third objective was to produce architectural drawings and final cost estimates. The Project completed the architectural construction documents. The documents have been printed, bound and shared with partners. The grantee has also printed an Exhibit Resource book. For the approved and finalized designs, a final cost estimate (\$5.65 million) was completed.

With a final cost estimate, the last objective was fundraising training. The Project trained CIMCC Board and staff how to conduct a capital campaign. The training helped them produce a strategic capital campaign plan that outlined steps for raising 100 percent of the funding.

To create exhibits that were interactive and accurate, the Project gathered stories and artifacts from different communities and tribes. Since California is such a large state, the Project divided it into six areas for collecting information. Each area was then assigned to a research associate. The Project selected Native American university students who also received a small stipend and training on artifact collection and interviewing techniques. They were responsible for locating artifacts, gathering oral and tribal histories, and conducting research in colleges and libraries.

A major challenge encountered by the Project was getting people to share information. The Project had to create an understanding within the tribes and communities about why and how the data collection was being conducted. To overcome this challenge, the Project produced pamphlets, fliers, and a DVD to explain what was being implemented. Once the barriers were broken and tribal communities understood their contribution's

significance, the gathering of stories and artifacts went more smoothly.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

As a result of this Project, the museum has already begun showing temporary and trial exhibits. Over 300 fourth grade children were invited to the museum to test exhibit ideas. Not only did this benefit the Project, but students gained insight about California Indians. Students heard about California Indians from Indians themselves. These students gained a better understanding of contemporary Indians in California, and what they have endured historically to get to where they are today.

The Project stimulated media interest. CIMCC produced a press release, increasing positive media coverage. The articles published in the newspapers, fliers, DVDs and newsletters distributed have generated pride in the Native culture.

The community is excited about a museum that shares their story in their own voices. The museum is a place where they feel comfortable and proud of their history and who they are today. One community member commented, "Most museums that have Indian exhibits alienate Indians rather than welcome them like we feel here."

The community is also eager for the youth to see and learn about Native culture. Another community member stated, "Working with a lot of young people, I have found out that our youth do not have a clue as to the history of our people. The young people need a place like this to come learn the history of their people."

"The Project has finally become a reality to the Native people of California. It promotes healings by talking about the Indian perspective and what our contributions to society have been."

Nikki Lim, Project Director

GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA, INC.



Project Title: Capacity Building for Long-Range Preservation by Community Survey Project

Award Amount: \$58,592

Type of Grant: Language

Project Period: 9/30/2005 – 9/29/2006

Grantee Type: Tribal Non-Profit

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2 jobs created
- \$8,300 in resources leveraged
- 3 language products created
- 10 elders involved
- 21 youth involved
- 47 language surveys completed
- 10 people trained

BACKGROUND

The Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians of California, Inc. (GBMI) is a non-profit organization that manages the affairs of the federally-recognized tribe, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians. A four-member Tribal Council directs GBMI which focuses on educating and informing the general public on the culture, language and community of the Gabrieleno Indians.

The Tribe believes that the community is losing its ability to speak its native language – Kumivit. With a population of only 53 living members, the Tribe worries that it might lose the expertise of its elders, making it vulnerable to losing its cultural identity. Citing the Tribe's precarious population base and the loss of tribal elders, GBMI is

addressing the deteriorating Native language.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Capacity Building for Long-Range Preservation by Community Survey Project was to employ tribal members to develop and conduct two language surveys to determine the community's present Kumivit language capacity. The Project would compile the survey results and report to the Tribal Council. Then the Tribal Council would meet with community members to develop a Long-Range Plan for language preservation.

The Project successfully completed two language surveys and one language plan based on a series of meetings held among the Project, the Tribal Council and community members. Of the 53 total tribal members, 47 completed the second language survey. The survey results revealed that the Kumivit language had not been commonly spoken at home by tribal members since the first half of the 1900s. It was spoken only at social gatherings and community events.

The Project developed a Long Range Plan to create Kumivit fluency. It includes a set of specific objectives including the compilation of a Kumivit language database that will be

later developed into a dictionary, a Kumivit CD-ROM, a children's story book, the purchase of a language tool known as the Phrasalator, employment of a linguist to teach classes, and the production of a video language documentary.

The Project overcame many challenges as it implemented project objectives. The Project Coordinator lacked reporting experience. This challenge was overcome through constant communication with ANA and the completion of computer training. In addition, the originally proposed linguist did not participate in the Project after grant award due to concerns about a potential conflict of interest with a neighboring tribe. As a result, the Project completed its objectives without any linguist assistance. Finally, the Project staff lacked proficiency in the computer software systems necessary for project implementation. To address this deficiency, the staff attended ten hours of computer training classes.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

One of the biggest beneficiaries of the Project was the Gabrieleno Tribe's youth. The Project gave the youth a forum in which they could participate – in community meetings and community decision-making. Additionally, the language surveys presented the youth with an opportunity to seek out assistance from the Tribe's elders to discover the genealogy of the Kumivit language within their family tree. These intergenerational activities also benefited the Tribe's elders, who felt that they became more connected to the youth.

Five tribal youth that volunteered for the Project benefited uniquely from their participation. The Project trained the youth volunteers in research methodologies. This training not only enhanced the volunteers' knowledge in research, but it also augmented their knowledge of the

Gabrieleno Tribal community and created a positive environment for intergenerational communication and activity, strengthening the community's social capital.

The Project's two staff members completed computer training sessions that improved their knowledge of standard Office Suite software. This helped them to record data and report results, as well as build their skills and confidence in using current technology, thereby increasing their future employment opportunities. Also, their successful implementation of the language surveys, and subsequent development of the Long-Range Plan for Kumivit language preservation, have increased their confidence in their own project management skills.

Finally, the Project benefited the entire community by taking the first step to preserve its language. The opportunity for tribal elders, adults and youth to interact and work together to complete language surveys and participate in decisive community meetings has augmented this small community's social ties. Project staff noted that some of the elders stated that the future of their language and culture is now safe.

According to Valkyrie Houston, the Project Coordinator, the Project brought the Gabrieleno Tribe "a step closer" to attaining and preserving the Kumivit language. Dorothy Mathews, the Project Specialist, shared her feeling that the Project had created "a competitive interest in cultural activities" amongst neighboring tribes and will likely contribute to an increase in the number of language and cultural grants that they seek.

HOPLAND BAND OF POMO INDIANS



Project Title: Tribal Environmental
Regulatory Enhancement Plan

Award Amount: \$338,139

Type of Grant: Environment

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/28/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 4 jobs created
- 4 Native American consultants hired
- 50 elders involved
- 120 youth involved
- \$44,207 in resources leveraged
- 5 people trained
- 9 partnerships formed
- 8 environmental codes/regulations/
ordinances developed

BACKGROUND

The Hopland Band of Pomo Indians is a federally-recognized tribe that governs a 371 acre reservation. Tribal enrollment is roughly 700 members with 178 members living on the reservation.

In 2002, during the Tribe's Strategic Planning Sessions, the Tribe identified environmental issues as a top priority that needed to be addressed within the next two years, including pesticides, open dumpsites, pollution runoff, streams and drinking water wells contaminated by generations of pesticide use, and high arsenic levels. The Tribe was concerned about the resulting threats to health, especially for the children and elders.

Community members voiced the need for codes and policies, and review of land uses on or near the reservation.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Tribal Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Plan (Project) was to plan, develop and implement an environmental regulatory policy consistent with their Tribal culture. Unfortunately, the Tribe encountered its first major challenge at the Project's initiation. Due to the remote location, the Tribe had difficulty finding a qualified Project Coordinator. The job was posted multiple times before the Tribe found a qualified candidate.

The first objective was to conduct an Environmental Regulatory Code and Ordinance Assessment. The Project compiled and reviewed the archived material on environmental regulatory rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. In addition, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Committee was formed, comprised of community members, a Tribal Councilor and an elder. The Project and EPA Committee developed strategies to involve and educate the community. The community strongly supported and embraced these environmental activities, increasing their knowledge and interest in their environment. To complete the first

objective, the Project planned to produce GIS base maps. This presented another challenge, since the only individual capable of conducting the GIS mapping left their position, leaving the Project without a key resource. As a result, the Project reorganized their budget to purchase the necessary equipment and train one of their staff in GIS mapping. The maps were created detailing reservation land ownership, land use, roads, wells, and water bodies.

The second objective was to write the final Environmental Master Plan. The Executive Director completed this Plan.

The last objective was to secure Tribal Council approval of the Environmental Regulatory Codes and Procedures. The Project spent time educating the community on the codes as they were being developed which helped facilitate their approval. In total, the Tribal Council adopted eight codes, included solid waste management, plant and tree management and protection, water quality, cultural resources and pesticides protection management.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

This Project has received praise from the community. On the topic of ordinances, the Police Chief stated, “I am impressed with the study of the EPA ordinances to enhance the quality of life of the reservation inhabitants. The ordinances will do an effective job.”

This Project established momentum that has made the community more enthusiastic about maintaining the community’s environmental integrity. A tribal member commented, “We didn’t realize how much you rely on the land that you live on.” Prior to the grant there were unwanted materials strewn along the creeks, abandoned vehicles littering the community, and plants and trees needing preservation. The Project promoted

gardening which resulted in a large group of volunteers being mobilized to tend the new public garden. The Tribe also celebrated Earth Day and the majority of community members attended. The day was filled with hands-on education and Tribal members went home with seeds for their gardens and trash bags to pick up loose rubbish. Clean-up activities are on-going within the reservation and students and community members are pitching in to clean up the home sites. The Tribal Secretary noted, “The more flowers and things we see show there is growth and changes that have happened in the last couple of years because of this grant.” [sic]

Although not specific to ordinance development, the Project has multiple spin-off activities. For example, the casinos have deposited green matter in newly-constructed worm beds and the Tribe has initiated an excess oil recycling project with local businesses. As a result, neighboring communities have contacted the Tribe seeking assistance to initiate similar recycling projects.

The Project has also opened the door to new relationships and support from outside their tribal community. For instance, the local hardware store donated materials for the clean-up campaign and local lawyers provided workshops.

“We ended up with very valuable deliverables/products because of this grant. The Ordinances were very in depth and will assist us. We are very pleased with the end product.”

Tribal Member

NOR EL MUK BAND OF WINTU INDIANS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Project Title: Nor El Muk Governance Management Capacity Project

Award Amount: \$108,502

Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/20/2004 – 8/31/2006

Grantee Type: Native Non-Profit

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 2 Native American consultants hired
- 30 elders involved
- \$8,850 in resources leveraged
- 15 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 8 governance codes/ordinances developed

BACKGROUND

The Nor El Muk Nation, a band of the Wintu Indians, is a non-profit that was created to pursue federal recognition and to help in the restoration of the Nor El Muk Band of Wintu Indians Tribe. The Nor El Muk Band's traditional homeland is located on the headwaters of the south fork of the Trinity River in northern California. Its 650 members still live near ancestral lands in Hayfork, California and surrounding communities.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Nor El Muk Governance Management Capacity Project was seen as a means to develop organizational policies and

procedures, provide programs and services for tribal members and ensure continued sustainability of basic tribal governance.

The first Project objective was to develop the Nor El Muk's organizational and fiscal infrastructure including the creation of necessary policies and procedures. Nine staff and Tribal Council members received training on the development and implementation of fiscal policies and procedures necessary for the Tribe's administration. Project staff developed these fiscal policies, reviewed and revised them and sought their approval by the board.

The second objective was to develop personnel policies and procedures. The California Indian Legal Services implemented a training session during the extension period of this project.

The Project developed organizational and fiscal infrastructure despite a myriad of unplanned challenges. Staffing problems interrupted the Project's timelines. Severe weather impacted meeting attendance. Quorums for non-profit decision making were not achieved due to severe winter weather.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The ANA funding has aided the Tribe by increasing its governance capacity through educational opportunities and learned skills. The Tribe can now manage its affairs and sustain local offices. Furthermore, with a new computer system in place, the grantee is now able to more efficiently manage its fiscal affairs. The overall administrative capacity of the Tribe has increased.

Economically, this project has allowed the Nor El Muk community to expand its funding base and given it the tools to manage larger project budgets. Indeed, the internal capacity built through this Project directly led to the Tribe's ability to secure outside funding for projects. For example, project staff has secured grant funding for the restoration of the Natural Bridge, an ancestral place of native significance and a popular local attraction.

Another benefit resulting from this project has been the partnerships formed that have led to increased in-kind matching contributions to the Project. California Indian Legal Services is one example of in-kind matching contributions obtained for this project. The grantee has increased its capacity to seek and receive funding from additional sources.

This project laid the foundation for the Tribe's future development; the community showed an interest in its success and wanted to be involved. The Project's achievements have helped the Tribe reinvigorate its native culture. It has renewed board and staff confidence in their ability to manage their own affairs. This confidence has spilled over to Tribal members who had previously not shown an interest in Tribal business. They are now providing input, asking questions and becoming more involved. A visible manifestation of this interest can be seen in the high number of community

members showing up for tribal/board meetings and the annual meeting. Patricia Mercier, the Accountant Consultant who has helped the Tribe draft their fiscal policies, stated that she was impressed with the Tribe for implementing these systems prior to being recognized. In her experience, tribes usually gain recognition first and become organized second. She stated, "The Nor El Muk are doing it the right way." Moving through this process has also fostered an increased interest in Tribal historical traditions and culture especially among the elders as they participate in Tribal activities. Project staff shared that tribal youth have shown an interest in the Project as well. As a result of this renewed tribal support the elders and the youth have discussed starting an intergenerational group.

REDWOOD VALLEY RESERVATION



Project Title: Cultural Education Program Development

Award Amount: \$263,000

Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 9/29/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 50 elders involved
- 200 youth involved
- \$25,504 in resources leveraged
- 49 people trained
- 16 partnerships formed
- 8 products developed

BACKGROUND

The Redwood Valley Reservation is located in Mendocino County, California. It includes 10.41 acres of the historic reservation of the Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians as well as 170 acres of land purchased by the Tribe in 1985. The Redwood Valley Reservation is the ancestral home of the Little River Pomo, a Northern Pomo group. The Tribe currently has 157 enrolled members.

From 2003-2004 the Redwood Valley Reservation developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) through a series of community planning sessions. One ancillary result of these planning sessions was that the Tribe realized its cultural identity was deteriorating in its contemporary setting. No systematic

documentation of the Tribe's traditional knowledge, culture, or history existed and no curriculum guide to its culture was available in the local schools attended by the Tribal youth.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Cultural Education Program Development (Project) was to begin a process of cultural revitalization. The Project's first objective was to establish a cultural resource reference section in the tribal library with a collection of 150 to 200 items addressing Pomo culture that included print, audio and visual/photo materials by the sixth month of implementation. To achieve this objective the grantee hired three Project staff. The Project staff conducted cultural knowledge surveys and found resources concerning Pomo culture for the collection. Library software was purchased; the collection was catalogued and a searchable collections database was created. Access policies for the collection were developed and on-site training was provided so library patrons could search the collection. A brochure for the collection was created and the success of the objective was evaluated. The only activity not completed within the objective was archival management training which

was not attended by Project staff due to scheduling issues.

The second and third objectives of the Project were completed. These objectives included the selection and completion of 15 to 20 local Native culture and history lesson plans appropriate for K-12 curriculum. Staff formed curriculum committee focus groups that conducted primary research through cultural site visits and desk research and selected culturally relevant lesson topics. After consulting with the elders and the Tribal Council, Project staff developed interview questionnaires to be utilized by tribal youth in interviews with the reservation's elders for each of the selected topics. Later, the data collected was compiled and edited into a final draft curriculum and the tribal community including the elders was consulted to verify that the curriculum was culturally appropriate.

The Project's final objective was to field test, evaluate and revise the curriculum guide as well as produce 500 copies of the guide for use within the community and as a supplemental resource for K-12 classrooms. By the end of the Project, staff had completed roughly half of the objective's associated activities. The curriculum had been tested by roughly 20 students and was slated to receive further testing. In addition, 500 copies of the curriculum guide had been produced.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The Project was very successful in achieving its proposed objectives. The Tribe has created a cultural resource for current and future generations. This Project has helped the community take an important step toward cultural revitalization.

First, the Project resulted in the creation of culturally valuable products including

puzzles, curriculum manuals and guides, language CDs, videos, DVDs and VHS tapes. The Project also developed a comprehensive resource library of archival materials that should prove useful to the community, the Tribe and researchers alike.

Additionally, intergenerational learning exchanges occurred between the elders, tribal youth and the rest of the tribal community throughout the grant's implementation. The elders self-esteem increased as they saw their stories and experiences having a positive impact on the youth. The youth increased their sense of self-value by contributing input at meetings and seeing the impact of their contributions. One community member said, "All the problems we're having are because people don't understand each other." She felt that the Project helped alleviate this lack of understanding as Tribal members worked together.

An ancillary benefit of the Project was its effect on the potential revitalization of tribal oratory. One of the Tribe's traditional cultural identifiers has been the skill of its members in eloquent public speaking known as oratory. The modern tribal community had witnessed a steep decline in its number of orators. The curriculum committee members gained confidence in their public speaking abilities while conducting interviews and meeting during the Project.

ROBINSON RANCHERIA OF POMO INDIANS



Project Title: Childcare Center
Award Amount: \$353,760
Type of Grant: Social and Economic
Development Strategies
Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/28/2006
Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 3 jobs created
- 1 business created
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 4 elders involved
- 29 youth involved
- \$67,176 in revenue generated
- \$12,243 in resources leveraged
- 37 people trained
- 8 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

The Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is a federally-recognized Tribe with a membership of 457 people. One hundred and fourteen members live on the reservation in Nice, California and another 120 members live in surrounding towns within a ten mile radius. The reservation is located 110 miles northwest of Sacramento in Lake County.

The unemployment rate is low (only 6 percent), largely due to the opportunities created by the Robinson Rancheria Casino and Bingo. Almost half of the Tribe's population is youth under 18 years and 40 to

50 percent of the children live in households comprised of low income working families. At Robinson Rancheria community meetings, tribal members were in agreement that locally-based childcare was needed.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Childcare Center (Project) was to develop a childcare center in their community. The Project had well planned objectives that were effectively implemented.

The first objective involved the preparation for opening a daycare facility. The process of hiring the Project director took longer than anticipated and all subsequent activities were thus delayed. However, once the childcare director was hired she was able to move through the preparations with ease due to her prior experience in the industry. Teachers and assistants were hired, needed supplies and equipment ordered and received, and the facility was set up in accordance with state licensure for daycares. In addition to setting up the facility, a great deal of time was spent preparing a curriculum and food menus for the children and advertising the center. All preparations were completed and the Project opened the Robinson Childcare Center in June 2005.

The Project's other objective involved the delivery of community services and training. The childcare services are being provided for 18 children (Center's maximum capacity) between the ages of three and five years.

The language skills of all children at the center were evaluated on a regular basis. When needed, the services of the child welfare coordinator were available for the children. The child welfare coordinator noted, "All development skills of the children in the center have increased. I can see that these children are blooming." The staff received training on an 'as-needed' basis; parent training was also offered.

The Project successfully overcame several challenges. Due to the Rancheria's remoteness, the Project found hiring a licensed director difficult. After the childcare director was hired, all the preparations to open the daycare went smoothly until it was time to enroll children. Tribal members were reluctant to enroll their children at the childcare center. This was an unexpected response given the community's previously expressed needs. After some investigation the Project learned that tribal members were not enrolling their children because the childcare director was non-Native. As a result, the Tribal Council became involved to encourage parents to send their children. Childcare vouchers for use at the Center were given priority over other alternative childcare options. Tribal Council members also went door-to-door with staff from the Childcare Center to encourage the parents to use the Center. With the Council's help the Center began to see tribal members enrolling their children.

In fact, the Robinson Childcare Center now has a waiting list and already has plans to increase its space.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The Robinson Childcare Center was a successful project. The Center is fully operational and at maximum capacity offering all the services it intended. The children have a productive environment in which to learn and play and a staff that consistently puts the children's needs first. Further, the parents of the children benefited because of the location of the childcare center. With the center being located on the reservation and adjacent to the community's major employer more parents were able to gain employment. Parents who were already employed no longer needed to travel more than 15 miles to take their children to daycare. The Robinson Childcare Center staff benefited from jobs created at the childcare center. The casino, a major proponent and partner of the Center, benefited economically due to the Center's provision of a reliable place for Casino employees to leave their children, ensuring their employees could be at work. Another parent reported, "The staff really tries to work with the parents to accommodate the parent's schedule."

"Routine and structure and respect for teachers and adults have improved and have a huge effect when our students enter kindergarten."

Parent

STEWARTS POINT RANCHERIA



Project Title: Environmental
Regulatory Enhancement
Project

Award Amount: \$65,500

Type of Grant: Environment

Project Period: 9/1/2003 – 1/3/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 6 jobs created
- 135 elders involved
- 197 youth involved
- \$5,220 in resources leveraged
- 2 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 4 products developed
- 3 environmental codes developed
- 3 environmental codes implemented

BACKGROUND

The Kashia Band of Pomo Indians is a federally recognized Tribe living at Stewarts Point Rancheria. The Rancheria, located in western Sonoma County, encompasses 41.85 acres of land in northern California and is home to 17 tribal families dwelling on 12 acres within the reservation's boundaries.

Prior to this ANA grant, the Tribal Council dealt with environmental issues on a case-by-case basis which was time consuming and often challenging. The Council wanted environmental ordinances that would save it time and provide the basis for fair, consistent and objective management.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Project was to protect the Rancheria's air, land and water from pollution and to preserve and secure the health, comfort, welfare and safety of its residents. It was expected that the Project would strengthen the Tribe's environmental laws and regulatory control over activities occurring on the Rancheria that might affect the health of the entire community's natural resources. The Project was also expected to enhance the Tribe's authority to regulate the environmental activities of non-tribal members and tribal members living off the Rancheria or who visit part time. Another expectation was to clarify the responsibilities of tribal members with regard to the local environment. In addition, it was hoped that a clear, fair and sustainable process for enforcing the Tribe's environmental laws would result, thus building the Tribe's overall environmental regulatory capacity.

The Project had two main objectives. First, the Tribe proposed to update, draft and approve three ordinances related to Solid Waste, Water Quality and the Water Utility District. Second, the Project intended to draft and approve a Tribal Enforcement and

Monitoring Procedures Plan that would assist the Tribe in enforcing its environmental laws and evaluating its success. Both objectives were to be met by using participatory community methods that included both tribal and non-tribal community members.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The Project achieved both of its objectives and completed the overwhelming majority of its proposed activities. The Project had a profound empowering impact on the Tribe and brought surrounding communities into the planning process, something that had not commonly occurred previously. The results have benefited the Tribe internally and improved the Tribe's relationships with the surrounding non-tribal population.

The new ordinances have created a regulatory foundation. One ancillary benefit of the Project is that the Tribe has decided to establish a community board that will work to address several issues, including environmental concerns, and will interact with the Tribal Council. The ANA grant has helped Tribal members take positive strides towards becoming a more self-sufficient community.

Some of the most important impacts of this grant came as a result of the consistent interactions between tribal elders, tribal youth and the overall tribal community. The interaction between the elders and the youth allowed both groups to listen and learn from each other's perspectives. The elders provided their knowledge on the history of the Tribe's land and natural resources. Elders shared stories of how they witnessed their streams becoming polluted with rubbish which was both a health concern and detrimental to their ability to catch fish for food. The elders and the youth were provided with an opportunity to have their input heard and considered by the tribal

community. One youth spoke about now wanting to go to college after being empowered by participation in this project.

This Project enabled successful community participation and involvement in the development of tribal environmental ordinances, thereby providing a model of community involvement and accountability for tribal governance.

TAFESILAFI, INC.



Project Title: “Solo o le Va” Samoan Language Prevention and Language Enhancement

Award Amount: \$168,555

Type of Grant: Language

Project Period: 9/30/2005 – 9/29/2006

Grantee Type: Native Non-Profit

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 4 jobs created
- \$39,161 in resources leveraged
- 1 product created
- 29 elders involved
- 617 youth involved
- 19 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

To help support the social and economic development of the Samoan community, 45 local churches formed a network to address the group’s needs. Local Samoan religious leaders and a group of Samoan Chiefs living in the Long Beach, California, area came together in 1997 to organize Tafesilafa’i which translates to “Let’s get together.” Operating in southern Los Angeles County as a non-profit, Tafesilafa’i was designed to “preserve and revitalize Samoan culture and language among people of Samoan heritage living in the Long Beach and South Bay area.” One of its principal activities during the past decade has been organizing the Tafesilafa’i Festival, an annual three-day celebration of Samoan culture, customs, language and dance. The Festival regularly attracts crowds in excess of 5,000 people.

The results of a 2001 ANA Category I Language Survey conducted in the Long Beach Native Samoan American community and supported by Tafesilafa’i revealed that Samoan comprehension of their native language was deteriorating within the local community. The importance of maintaining strong personal relationships is paramount to traditional Samoan culture. The nature of interpersonal relationships including relationships between individuals, the Creator and the environment is known as the “Va.” However, the Category I Language Survey indicated that Samoan vocabulary was being misused, causing a lack of understanding of cultural concepts such as the “Va.” Maintaining and strengthening the “Va” within the Samoan American community living in the Long Beach area became the central focus of this grant.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

To maintain and strengthen the “Va,” Tafesilafa’i developed a Category II Language project based on preserving Samoan oratories by local elders that would be used as language and cultural education tools. To do this, the grantee planned to record a series of video sessions of elders from the Samoan community discussing the nature of the “Va.” The final product would

be (as written in the Project proposal) a “teaching tool that defines proper relationships between individuals, families and the Creator.” In total, Tafesilafa’i committed to produce 30 sessions of professionally edited recordings of community elders discussing the “Va” and making a minimum of ten copies of each session for a total of 300 DVDs. These DVDs would then be used as language and cultural education tools and shared with other Samoan communities around the country through their distribution to various local and national public libraries, universities and more than 20 Native Samoan American Organizations.

The Project’s only objective was to “increase awareness of the Va” because “maintaining the ‘Va’ is the responsibility of all Samoans.” To accomplish this, the grantee intended to complete ten activities that centered around the production of an educational Samoan language video. However, the Project completed only three of those ten activities. The Project successfully identified the pool of elders to be interviewed, created an outline for the script to be filmed and recorded 32 videotaped sessions of the elders speaking. At that point, the grantee ceased momentum in its originally planned activities. The recordings of the elders speaking were abandoned in an unedited state. Instead, the grantee spent its funding on the annual Tafesilafa’i Festival and on the expansion of an already existing after-school Samoan language program. The grantee changed the scope and direction of the Project and the allocation of a considerable amount of its resources.

This project did face daunting challenges. The most glaring issue that confronted Tafesilafa’i was staff turnover which

impacted the grantee’s knowledge of the Project’s intended objectives and activities. During its 12-month implementation, the Project had three executive directors. In addition to the director position, the supervisor/independent evaluator was fired after having been paid the majority of his salary. This turnover seems to have played a critical role in steering the Project off-course. In the end, the final product developed by the grantee was a two-disc DVD recording of various American Samoan youth groups performing gospel, song, dance and oratory during the Tafesilafa’i Festival rather than the educational 30-session set of elders discussing the “Va.” Tafesilafa’i did tape 32 sessions of elders discussing a variety of topics including the “Va,” but the sessions were not recorded by the proposed professional videographers, and by the end of the Project, remained unedited in the Second Samoan Congregational Church’s office.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

Based solely on the Project’s stated objective to “increase awareness of the ‘Va,’” this Project made significant progress. Tafesilafa’i conducted 225 Samoan-based after-school classes after the initiation of the Project and was able to showcase and film its annual festival in celebration of Samoan culture. In all, several hundred Samoan-Americans were impacted from the actions taken by the organization during the life of the ANA-funded project. However, since the language classes and annual cultural festival were not part of the ANA-funded project, the overall impact that the Project has made in relation to its originally intended goal is minimal.