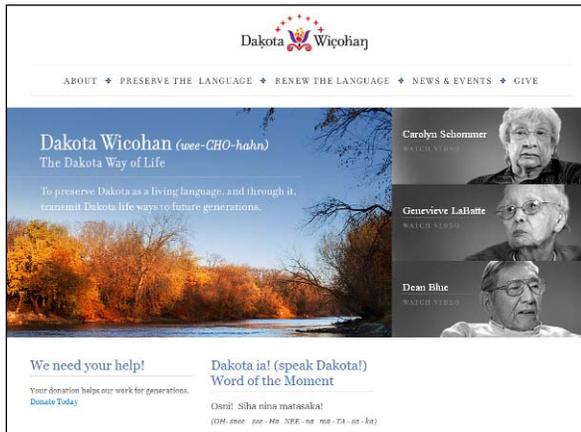


DAKOTA WICOHAN



Project Title:	Protecting Our Language
Award Amount:	\$62,135
Type of Grant:	Language
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 jobs created
- 4 Native American consultants hired
- 25 elders involved
- 11 youth involved
- \$80,000 in resources leveraged
- 3 individuals trained
- 19 partnerships formed
- 38 youth increased their ability to speak a native language
- 11 adults increased their ability to speak a native language

BACKGROUND

Dakota Wicohan is a native nonprofit, located in Minnesota, with a mission to preserve the language and lifestyles of the Dakota people. The language, historically known as Sioux, has three different dialects: the Lakota, the Western Dakota (or the Nakota), and the Eastern Dakota. The Eastern Dakota dialect is spoken by the Dakota bands indigenous to the Minnesota region: the Mdewakanton, the Wahpekute, the Sisseton, and the Wahpeton. Dakota

Wicohan works to preserve the Eastern Dakota dialect.

At the time of application submission, there were 11 living first language speakers of Eastern Dakota in Minnesota. Dakota Wicohan has worked since 2001 to preserve the language through a master/apprentice language teacher program, family language nests, and networking and partnering with others working on language preservation.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to protect the Eastern Dakota dialect of the Dakota language by recording, transcribing, and archiving video of the 11 remaining elder speakers speaking the language.

The first objective of the project was to interview and record 100 percent of the remaining Dakota speakers. During the course of the project period, three of the speakers were not willing to participate in the recording; consequently eight of the original eleven speakers were interviewed and recorded during this project. The project staff interviewed and recorded an additional 11 elders from the Dakota communities, and though these elders were not fluent speakers, they provided information on the language history and

reasons for the loss of their language. The project staff recorded 23 hours of footage during this project, including interviews of first generation speakers who lost their fluency with second generation speakers, Dakota conversations between elders, and conversations between elders and learners of the language. Some of the recordings can be viewed on the Dakota Wicohan website: www.dakotawicohan.com.

The second objective was to transcribe the recordings of the elder speakers. To accomplish this objective, the project director and project coordinator were trained in transcription techniques from the University of Minnesota Dakota Language Department. Additional training was provided by the Minnesota Historical Society. The project staff had a lengthy discussion about whether the transcription should be word for word or whether it should be a paraphrased version of the interview. Working with elders and the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society, project staff decided to transcribe a paraphrased version of the interview rather than a verbatim transcription.

The third objective was to archive 100 percent of the original recordings. The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society provided training for the interviewing, recording, transcribing, storage, and duplication of the recorded material. Based on the training, project staff decided to archive two different versions of the project; an edited version would be provided to external sources, and Dakota Wicohan would maintain the original copies. Dakota Wicohan archived the footage in accordance with oral history standards learned from the University of Minnesota

and Minnesota Historical Society, such as abiding by the legal procedures for release and use of information.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through this project, Dakota Wicohan was able to preserve audio and video recordings of the last living first language speakers of the Eastern Dakota dialect. At the end of the project period, only seven of the 11 last speakers were still alive, demonstrating the urgency of the preservation efforts. While the original intent of the project was to record, transcribe, and archive interviews with the Eastern Dakota speakers, in the course of recording and speaking with the elders about their language and language loss, project staff gathered enough information to create a documentary DVD to tell the history of the language. Dakota Wicohan received financial support from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete an editing plan and thematic cataloguing of the recordings for the historical DVD. The cataloguing will allow viewers to learn about the life ways, traditional thought and decision making of the Eastern Dakota speaking people.

Once the documentary is completed, Dakota Wicohan plans to distribute the DVD to the Eastern Dakota communities and the University of Minnesota Dakota Language Department. The language department has requested the DVD so their students can hear first speakers and accelerate their comprehension of Eastern Dakota.

“The oral history project has been a complete success. And while the work expanded and evolved into something much bigger, we can feel good about the amount of language that is documented and thus protected.”

Teresa Peterson, Project Director

FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA



Project Title:	Fond du Lac Energy Efficiency and Strategic Planning Project
Award Amount:	\$272,569
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2010
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 4 jobs created
- 50 elders involved
- 300 youth involved
- \$75,300 in resources leveraged
- 27 partnerships formed
- 2 ordinances developed

BACKGROUND

The Fond du Lac Indian Reservation lies in northeastern Minnesota, approximately 20 miles west of Duluth. The Treaty of 1854 established the reservation, which spans over 100,000 acres. Approximately 1,500 Native Americans live on the reservation, and there are approximately 3,900 enrolled members.

The long-term goal of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is to move “toward self-sufficiency by constructing and developing enterprises and programs to promote economic self-sufficiency, environmental protection, and social development.” The Reservation Business Committee (RBC), responsible for advancing this goal, was established in 1934

and is comprised of five elected officials. The RBC owns and operates seven businesses that serve the reservation and surrounding communities. It is the largest employer in the greater Cloquet area. The reservation has experienced recent economic growth. The RBC is looking for ways to cut costs and expand efforts in sustainable development.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project’s purpose was to create two community development plans for the reservation, one on energy efficiency and conservation projects, and the other on strategic governance.

The project’s first objective was to create an energy management plan and to appoint an oversight energy committee (EC) to maximize energy usage efficiency and develop energy resources. In addition to appointment of the EC, the activities under the first objective included auditing all commercial facilities on the reservation, developing internal tribal energy policies and management capabilities, and development of a regulatory and technical capability. To accomplish this, project staff utilized students and tribal housing residents

(trained in energy auditing before the project period) to conduct home energy audits. Through this process, the project team identified \$500,000 in annual savings in lighting costs, with an additional \$500,000 in other energy savings. The project team also worked with the tribal college to receive donations of a 3.8 kilowatt wind turbine, and solar panels on the tribe's green house.

The second objective was to develop a strategic governance plan defining more efficient governmental practices and providing a long-term vision for developing the reservation's economy, services, facilities, and infrastructure. Initially, project staff intended to hold three public meetings on the development of the plan and to involve the community in the planning process. Instead of this, however, they gathered input from tribal members at six general public meetings, at a tribal health fair and an enrollee day, through meetings with two elder groups, and through meetings with directors of tribal administrative departments. At these meetings and gatherings, project staff surveyed tribal members, collecting their thoughts on economic development opportunities and responsible and transparent government. These ideas then were incorporated into the strategic plan, which was approved officially by the RBC before the end of the project period.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

According to project staff, the energy management plan provides baseline information on the reservation's energy supply, usage, and costs, and will serve as a road map enabling the band to efficiently and effectively meet its future energy needs. If carefully implemented, the plan's energy efficiency measures could cut energy costs at tribal facilities by 15 to 25 percent. The

plan outlines savings and rebates that can be secured through federal and state grants, and calls for the tribe to install a 12.5 kilowatt photovoltaic system and to conduct biomass research through this funding.

The strategic governance plan merges new ideas with existing plans and ordinances, providing ways to develop the tribe's economic capital, human resources, and membership. The plan addresses coordination and communications between tribal administrative divisions, protects natural resources, and serves as a blueprint for enhancing economic development opportunities and promoting responsible and transparent government.

“By providing an energy management plan and a strategic plan, the project has given the tribe a clear vision and outline on how to pursue potential projects.”

Jason Hollinday, Project Director

FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA



Project Title:	Fond du Lac THPO TEPA Project
Award Amount:	\$97,885
Type of Grant:	Environmental
Project Period:	Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2010
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 job created
- 6 elders involved
- \$3,587 in resources leveraged
- 9 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

The Fond du Lac Indian Reservation, established by The Treaty of 1854, spans over 100,000 acres. During the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Fond du Lac Reservation became one of six Ojibwe reservations in the state of Minnesota organized as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The governing body of the Fond du Lac Band is the Reservation Business Committee (RBC).

In 2008, Fond du Lac Band administrators developed an integrated resource management plan (IRMP) addressing all aspects of resource management for projects under consideration on reservation lands. As part of the plan, the Fond du Lac Band sought to reduce reliance on outside agencies, and to align land ownership, usage, and development opportunities with tribal priorities and cultural values. In the

plan, tribal leaders proposed to establish a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in accordance with National Park Service (NPS) rules, and to develop a tribal historic preservation plan to protect, preserve, and promote historic, cultural, architectural, and archaeological resources on the reservation. Moreover, they sought to adopt a Tribal Environmental Policy Act (TEPA) to increase the band's capacity to address the environmental impact of tribal land development projects; ensure the tribe made appropriate efforts to incorporate and utilize National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines into these projects; and to provide greater protection to the tribe's natural resources.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to improve the Fond Du Lac Band's ability to address land issues and become self-sufficient in the area of land ownership and usage.

The first objective was to draft a Tribal Historic Preservation Plan. To accomplish this, project administrators hired a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (also referred to as a THPO), who then participated in trainings and meetings on developing a

Tribal Historic Preservation Plan. In cooperation with staff from the Duluth Archaeological Center, the THPO and project staff worked to determine which historic preservation activities and functions the tribe should properly and effectively assume. Through review of Indian law and plans other tribes have designed, the team developed a draft Tribal Historical Preservation Plan.

The second objective of the project was to finalize and adopt the Tribal Historic Preservation Plan. For this, the RBC established a review board and adopted by-laws to govern how the board conducted business. Project staff presented the plan to the RBC, received feedback, and implemented the recommended changes. Staff then presented a THPO application to the RBC and received permission to submit the application to the National Park Service.

The third objective was to develop and adopt a Tribal Environmental Policy Act (TEPA), building tribal capacity to address environmental concerns, protect natural resources, and meet NEPA guidelines and standards while maintaining tribal decision-making authority and sovereignty over reservation lands. To accomplish this, the project team drafted a TEPA, which was later approved by the RBC. In addition, project staff created an organizational flow chart to identify tasks, roles, and responsibilities in conducting environmental assessments, generating impact statements, and carrying out other tasks related to NEPA compliance or inquiries.

A fourth and final objective was to adopt a Tribal Environmental Policy Ordinance. To do this, the previously established review board drafted an ordinance and by-laws, and submitted them to legal counsel and the RBC for input. The board then made the requested changes and submitted the final product for approval. The ordinance was

adopted by a tribal council resolution before the end of the project period.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

A significant outcome of this project was the creation of a Tribal Historic Preservation Office, which was approved by the National Park Service during the project period. The new THPO gives Fond du Lac Band members a platform by which they may comment on off-reservation projects affecting tribal resources. Project staff state that having a THPO will especially benefit tribal members with a subsistence lifestyle and those living on ceded territory. According to the project team, the new Tribal Environmental Protection Act will benefit tribal members in many ways, especially in providing measures to protect wetlands and guidelines on building in them.

The TEPA and the Tribal Environmental Policy Ordinance enable the tribe to navigate NEPA processes more effectively, enhancing the capacity of the Fond du Lac Band to self-govern and regulate the environment on the reservation. Overall, the project enabled the tribe to create a plan to sustainably protect, preserve, and promote historic, cultural, architectural, and archaeological resources.

MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER



Project Title:	Healing Generations Project
Award Amount:	\$149,770
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 2 jobs created
- 2 people employed
- 20 elders involved
- \$11,042 in resources leveraged
- 30 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

There are 34,000 American Indians living in the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, representing the second largest urban Indian community in the country. They are served by the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC), which has been in existence since 1978, the year the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed.

The MAIC's ICWA Program offers five resources: 1) the Indian Family Stability Program, which provides preventive services for families who have had their first contact with county child protective services (CPS) to keep children from being placed in foster care; 2) collaborative case management, to work with families who are involved in ICWA/child protection court proceedings, to help them accomplish their court ordered case plans; 3) a tribal liaison

program, to provide authorized advocacy on behalf of out-of-state tribes for families involved in ICWA; 4) court monitoring, to provide monitoring in metropolitan counties, assuring compliance with the mandates of ICWA; and 5) the QUICWA Project, funded by a previous ANA grant, supporting interagency communication and case management for ICWA cases, as well as compliance monitoring.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project's purpose was to strengthen the continuum of services for families who have been involved in child protective services/ ICWA court proceedings through data collection, community input, and planning.

The project's first objective was to gather data to assess the status, needs, resources, and barriers to success of three population groups: grandparents raising grandchildren, teens transitioning out of the foster care system, and families reunited after children have been in the foster care system. To accomplish this, project staff conducted three focus groups, representing the three target populations. These focus groups were recruited from the partnering groups helping to facilitate efforts of this project.

Furthermore, over 30 participants completed

surveys developed for this purpose. Through these data collection methods, the project team gathered data on the perceived needs of these groups and their barriers to success, and gleaned recommendations on how to address these problems in the community.

The second objective was to gather input through community planning meetings from community members, service professionals, representatives of tribal communities, and members of the target populations to assist in developing programs the MAIC could use to strengthen services. Using data from the needs assessment process, the project team created a community planning council, involving elders, members of the target groups, service providers, and representatives of tribes whose families were impacted. In this way, project team members learned, through first-hand accounts, the critical needs in the community. Next, the project team analyzed the data and developed a complete implementation plan for enhancing MAIC services. This plan then was submitted to the community council and approved.

The third objective was to develop a program plan, including lesson plans, activities, interagency agreements, and evaluation protocols for the implementation of a pilot program addressing the cultural needs of the target population. To complete the plan, an outside consultant evaluated existing curricula, met regularly with the planning council, and implemented the council's feedback throughout the process.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project team created a map of services available to American Indian families in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, enabling the MAIC and project partners to understand how and where human services were being delivered to the community. The map has enhanced the MAIC's capacity to plan

programs, coordinate and collaborate with other agencies, and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. The team also has gained a greater understanding of where gaps in service exist, providing a framework by which the organization can improve services to the community in the future. Project staff formulated a new set of goals and objectives, lesson plan topics, and program activities, in coordination with other service providers and tribes. They also have gained a better understanding of how to advise tribes on accessing funds for human service needs, particularly on how they can compile and submit relevant, pertinent documentation validating the need for services to the appropriate funding agencies.

The project has facilitated significantly collaboration between various community service providers and furthered cultural awareness for agencies with limited experience working in Native American communities. The project also helped create awareness within tribal communities about the challenges they face.

Community members involved in the project commented on the various ways in which the project benefitted them. Grandparents raising grandchildren involved in the project stated the project left them feeling more empowered, with a more prominent voice in the system. Children and youth also benefited, reconnecting with their tribes and rebuilding family relationships. Overall, staff and community members reported feeling a renewed sense of passion and commitment to solving the problems of Twin Cities American Indian youth in the child protective services system. Project Director Riemers stated, "Seeing these children in poverty, and having a deeper understanding of their needs, has provided us with much stronger motivation to continue addressing the problems."