
COHARIE INTRA-TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.



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| Project Title: | Coharie Health Access, Improvement, and Awareness Project |
| Award Amount: | \$264,863 |
| Type of Grant: | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| Project Period: | Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2010 |
| Grantee Type: | Tribal Nonprofit |

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 jobs created
- 25 elders involved
- 30 youth involved
- \$63,059 in resources leveraged
- 32 individuals trained
- 10 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

The Coharie Indian Tribe consists of 2,791 enrolled members and was recognized by the State of North Carolina in 1971.

Approximately 80 percent of its members reside in the tribe's service area, Harnett and Sampson counties, which consistently rank below state levels along numerous critical health indicators. Although recognized by the state, the tribe is not federally recognized, so its members do not receive health care from the Indian Health Service.

The tribe currently is governed by the Coharie Intra-Tribal Council, Inc., which consists of seven members elected by the tribal membership and seeks to address a broad scope of interrelated social, economic,

and health problems on behalf of tribal members.

Major barriers to health care for tribal members include an inability to pay for health services, apprehension toward Western medicines due to lack of cultural sensitivity in service delivery, unavailable prevention programs, and insufficient access to care in rural areas. As a result of these barriers, the Coharie Tribe has a disproportionately high percentage of members suffering from diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol, and a number of other maladies and disabilities.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to increase access to health care and to enhance awareness and knowledge of health care issues and resources among members of the tribe. The project's single objective was comprised of three core components to be completed over a two-year duration.

The first project component was to provide in-home medical services to tribal members, with a target figure of 112 individuals and/or families to be served over two years. To accomplish this, project staff utilized a small

team of registered nurses (RNs) to provide in-home medical services to 171 tribal members.

The second project component was to conduct quarterly health screening clinics, equaling a total of eight over the project's duration. To reach as many tribal members as possible, the clinics were advertised well in advance and held in several different locations. The primary aim of the clinics was to provide health education and preventative care. Numerous screenings were offered, including blood pressure, glucose levels, cholesterol, flu shots, and vision exams. The project staff aimed to serve a minimum of 180 individuals at these clinics, and the target was exceeded, with 254 tribal members receiving screenings.

The third project component was to design health-related pamphlets and brochures and disseminate them at tribal community meetings. Project staff originally had planned to design and customize the educational materials to make them culturally appropriate, but they later decided that using existing health education materials would be more pragmatic and cost-effective. To disseminate the materials, the project team attended community meetings, providing the materials to 357 tribal members. This significantly exceeded the pre-project goal of 200 tribal members receiving health education resources.

Lastly, project staff created a health advisory committee for the tribe, consisting of three RNs, an outreach coordinator, and a health care consultant. This committee conducted an ongoing evaluation of community health needs, exchanged contact information, and coordinated the deployment of a mobile health unit staffed with a physician and an RN to provide additional screenings, treatment, and prescriptions for community members.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Project staff stated that the project had a significant, positive impact on the Coharie Tribal community. First and foremost, free medical services provided to 171 tribal members obviated many unnecessary and costly emergency room visits; free medical treatment was provided to all recipients, the vast majority of whom did not have health insurance or other financial resources to pay for these services. Moreover, home visits resulted in critical references to physicians for eight cases in which recipients had serious health conditions requiring additional care. In these cases, recipients stated that they were not aware of the severity of their conditions and that if not for the home visit they likely would not have received any form of treatment.

Additionally, according to project staff, the health screening clinics, mobile units, and dissemination of health education materials were highly effective in raising awareness of behavioral determinants of health, promoting health literacy, and communicating the importance of preventative care for all tribal members, particularly elders and youth.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS



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| Project Title: | Fisheries and Wildlife Digital Permitting System |
| Award Amount: | \$213,000 |
| Type of Grant: | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| Project Period: | Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010 |
| Grantee Type: | Tribe |

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- \$73,530 in resources leveraged
- 32 individuals trained
- 33 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is a federally recognized tribe with approximately 14,000 members. EBCI operates a trout fishing program in its waters through the tribe’s Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program. This program offers residents and visitors opportunities to fish mountain streams that are stocked regularly with trout from the tribe’s hatchery.

Prior to this project, the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program had been utilizing a paper permitting process to sell fishing licenses. These paper permits were sold by authorized vendors (local business partners, such as tackle shops and gas stations) and the revenue earned was submitted to EBCI. However, considerable deficiencies in this system, such as lost paperwork and inconsistent tracking, often have delayed or prevented collections. This has resulted in significant uncollected revenue for the tribe.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to develop and implement an electronic fishing permitting system and website in order to collect tribal revenue more efficiently.

The first objective was to obtain, install, and implement use of 30 electronic permitting units and associated equipment at existing vendor sites. Several tribal departments collaborated in the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to find a contractor to install the units, train vendors on how to use the permitting system, and to build the accompanying website. The Millennium Group won the bid process to perform these tasks and, according to the project director, has a strong track record working with state and private contractors in developing and managing electronic fishing permit systems.

The project team purchased 38 total units (which included computers, monitors, and accessories) for use in the following ways: 30 units were designated for vendors to sell fishing permits, two units were assigned to the contractor to provide technical support, one unit was used by the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program, and five

spares were to be used as back-up units in case of technical problems. Training on the new computer systems and software was given to vendors in groups, followed by individual sessions to reinforce proficiency. Each vendor was given an incentive in the form of an 8 percent commission for each permit sold.

The second objective was to establish a website for the Fisheries and Wildlife Program that would inform vendors and customers of opportunities within the program, fee schedules, and electronic permitting. The contractor developed the website, which also was intended to function as an e-permitting portal.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project team was fully successful in converting the paper permit system into an electronic one and creating an associated website. Electronic permitting systems were installed at the facilities of 29 vendors by the end of the project period. Each of these vendors had been trained to proficiency in the use of these systems, and the grantee expected several more vendors to sign up by the beginning of the next fishing season. According to project staff, the new permitting system has expedited payment to vendors, offers more accurate monitoring and evaluation, and ensures far greater efficiency in collection of tribal revenue.

The official website was developed and brought online by the end of the project period. The website includes tribal fishing regulations, a map of streams located on the tribe's lands, and a brief history of fishing on the reservation. The new permit website will be linked to other tribal websites after the project period. The grantee had 2,600 customers registered on the new website by the end of the project period. The database is customized and a license for use of the

software was issued by the project's contractor to EBCI. A 10-year contract has been signed between the Millennium Group and EBCI that entails system maintenance, troubleshooting, and technical support, and allows for a one-time upgrade of the entire permitting hardware system.

The new electronic permitting system provides accountability and predictable income, as the tribe is guaranteed payment from vendors by the 10th day of each month. Vendors are required to turn in revenue beyond the 8 percent that they keep and will no longer be able to sell fishing permits if they do not submit revenue. Lastly, the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Program has reduced time and complications associated with issuing permits manually, improved its management of customer and transaction data, and increased revenue for the tribe. Due to the 10-year contract between EBCI and the contractor, the capacity gained from this project will be sustainable for at least a decade.

“The new process is more efficient, saves time, and guarantees timely payment to the tribe. Accountability is improved tenfold.”

- Robert Blankenship, Project Director

OCCANEECHI BAND OF THE SAPONI NATION



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| Project Title: | Occaneechi Homeland Preservation Project: Phase III |
| Award Amount: | \$129,766 |
| Type of Grant: | Social and Economic Development Strategies |
| Project Period: | Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010 |
| Grantee Type: | Tribe |

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 2 jobs created
- 1 business created
- 40 elders involved
- 20 youth involved
- \$11,541 in revenue generated
- \$29,418 in resources leveraged
- 35 individuals trained
- 25 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

The Occaneechi Indian Tribe lives predominantly in the rural area of northeast Alamance County, a few miles north of the town of Mebane in central North Carolina. The tribe has 829 members, and though it is not federally recognized, it received recognition from the State of North Carolina in 2002. The tribe historically has relied on the production of tobacco as a cash crop, but tobacco sales have declined precipitously in recent years. As a result, many tribal members are selling land that has been in their families for generations and are looking elsewhere for income.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was twofold: to stimulate the tribal economy in an effort to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to promote cultural awareness about the tribe. The project proposed the creation of an authentic 1940s era farm that would serve to increase tourism, resulting in revenue for the tribe and increased cultural awareness for visitors.

The first objective was to enhance further the Occaneechi Tribe's existing Heritage Tourism Program by creating a 1940s era Occaneechi Farm on the tribe's land while utilizing tribal members to help plan the layout, prepare the site, and renovate donated structures. On the site, the project team planned to create a smoke house, corn crib, and tenant farm house from the 1940s era. Tribal members, including elders, helped plan the layout of the farm house, contributed old photographs, and provided input from memories of farm life. In an effort to reconstruct the farm accurately, the project team hired two consultants to interview 75 elders and gather input on the technology and mode of rural living during that time period. Project staff partnered with

several community organizations, visitor centers, and convention bureaus to promote the heritage site, and partnered with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for cultural resources used in the project.

The North Carolina American Indian Economic Development Initiative provided the project team with a business plan, and the Duke School of Forestry donated several small historical buildings. However, anticipated revenues from the project have not been realized because many of the historical buildings that will comprise the farm are not fully built or have not yet been transported to the site. Project staff members indicated that in some cases they did not have the equipment or expertise to reassemble these buildings. Given these obstacles, the project team was not able to fully complete this objective.

The second objective was to train at least 15 tribal members to work effectively with the 1940s heritage farm component of the tribe's Heritage Tourism Program. However, only five tribal members received the full allotment of training (20-24 total hours) for work on the project. Another 15 individuals were partially trained and received approximately eight hours of training each. Additional historical training was provided by the University of North Carolina's Archaeology Department. All trainings were provided at the tribe's 1940s era farm site.

Project staff encountered three major challenges in implementing the project. The first challenge was an underestimate of the overall project cost. This resulted in insufficient funds to complete several activities, including the creation of a smoke house, corn crib, and tenant farm house.

Carpentry skills featuring custom wood cuts were required to refurbish and reassemble the old farm house buildings. Project staff encountered a challenge hiring a carpenter

for this work and thus the project was unable to complete renovations.

The third challenge was an unexpected change in leadership midway through the project. The original project director developed a serious health challenge which necessitated the hiring of a new project director. However, the new project director did not have as much time to donate to the project, which resulted in a lack of coordination on project activities. In the end, project staff was not able to fully overcome these challenges, as evidenced by the fact that they were unable to successfully complete project objectives.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Trainees increased their knowledge of tribal history and culture through training in modern tribal legal, social, and political issues, as well as economic history, language, and culture. However, this proliferation of cultural awareness was somewhat limited as the number of school children visiting the site experienced a significant downturn, from 1,000 in 2008 to 310 in 2010. Program staff attributed this decrease in attendance to the recession in the national and local economies.

Despite several setbacks, the project team still hopes to complete the heritage site, including the 1940s era farm, by spring 2011. Project staff members expressed confidence that the original objectives of this project will be possible to achieve when the economic climate improves. In the meantime, the project team has secured vital community and political support to continue project activities, and plan to do so upon securing new funding.