

INTER-TRIBAL ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



Project Title:	Business Development and Business Support Project
Award Amount:	\$864,219
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2005 – Sept. 2008
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 5 jobs created
- 3 Native American consultants hired
- 5 individuals trained

BACKGROUND

The Intertribal Economic Alliance (ITEA) is a nonprofit tribal leaders' organization established in 2001 to create jobs and economic development for Indian reservations, Alaska Native Villages and Native Hawaiian Homelands. ITEA's mission is to use the economic and political power generated by intertribal business cooperation to create 200,000 sustainable jobs in native communities by 2010.

One of the most critical needs on reservations is to create sustainable jobs in order to reduce poverty and societal ills, and promote economic development. ITEA creates multi-tribal companies and reservation-based tribal businesses in varying industry areas. The multi-tribal firms obtain large federal and commercial contracts, and then subcontract all of the work to the tribal businesses, creating jobs on reservations. In 2002, ITEA created the first multi-tribal company, the Intertribal

Information Technology Company (IITC), owned by seven tribes, two Alaska Native Villages and one Native Hawaiian Homeland.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to provide the tribal businesses under IITC's contracts with the necessary tools to ensure they succeed in creating sustainable jobs for economic development.

The project's first objective was to establish an employee support network by negotiating teaming agreements between tribal governments, the multi-tribal companies, and the tribal businesses. The project plan included a target number of 50 teaming agreements over the course of the three-year project. The structure for negotiating the teaming agreements was not in place at the beginning of the project, as there were not many tribal businesses participating. Project staff therefore spent the first year recruiting tribal businesses and the second year attempting to recruit individual tribes. Staff found that most tribal businesses and Tribes lacked the capacity to become part of IITC's contracts. Despite this situation, project staff established ten agreements in the first year and two additional agreements in the

second for a total of twelve during the project.

Objective two was to identify potential federal contracts IITC could pursue in order to create 2000 jobs for the tribal businesses. The project's marketing coordinator was unable to identify any contracts during the project.

Objective three was to develop and implement an education and training program to increase the job sustainability and skill levels of the tribal business employees already working under an IITC contract. Project staff developed an idea to create a virtual network, however this did not materialize during the project and no training was conducted.

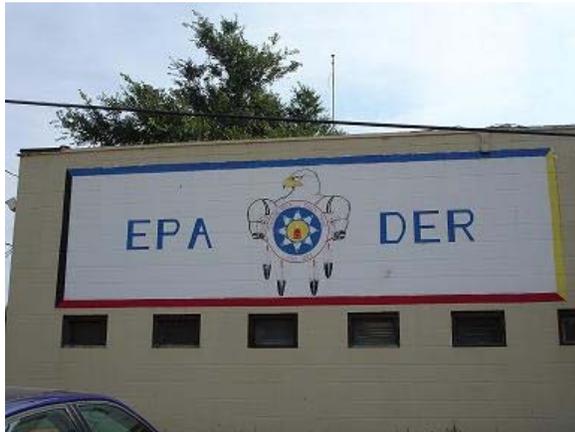
The project's fourth objective was to expand ITEA's administrative and management capability. Project staff held several round table discussions during the first year to discuss potential partnerships, however no partnerships were created. During the project ITEA strengthened its ability to communicate with tribes, tribal businesses and federal agencies.

Project staff generally found it difficult to determine a method of how to implement the project. This, combined with a late start, resulted in the project not meeting its targets and objectives.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

During the project, the twelve tribal businesses which established teaming agreements received mentorship from other federal contract companies. The companies aided the tribal businesses in setting up corporate and subcontracting structures. The businesses increased their capacity in areas such as technical infrastructure, work conditions, and installation of their own internal network servers.

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE



Project Title:	SRST Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Project
Award Amount:	\$154,808
Type of Grant:	Environmental
Project Period:	Sept. 2006 – Jan. 2008
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 job created
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- \$8,460 in resources leveraged
- 19 individuals trained
- 4 partnerships formed
- 3 environmental codes/regulations/ordinances developed

BACKGROUND

The Standing Rock Reservation is located on the border of North and South Dakota in Sioux County and Corson County. The reservation has a land base of approximately 2.3 million acres of land and a population of approximately 8225. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) is comprised of the Hunkpapa Lakota, Santee Dakota, and Yanktonai Dakota.

There are eight political districts on the reservation, including Long Soldier, Cannonball, Porcupine, Kenel, Wakpala, Running Antelope and Rock Creek.

As environmental issues on the reservation have become more evident in recent years,

the need for an environmental enforcement and compliance office became apparent.

Many incidents have adversely affected the environment on the reservation and surrounding areas while also violating environmental regulations. The SRST is not currently able to effectively enforce the Federal and Tribal Environmental Laws, and wants to develop a plan enabling the Department of Environmental Regulation to involve the Tribal Court System and establish a process of imposing fines on violators.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to develop and enhance the program capacity and regulatory capabilities of the Tribe’s environmental regulation department.

The first objective sought to strengthen existing environmental laws, codes and ordinances as well as create at least three new environmental regulations, including an underground storage tank code and a hazardous waste code. The first objective also included activities to establish a compliance and enforcement office for the Tribe. Due to problems hiring staff, the project began three months late. A planning

committee met monthly and sent information to tribal members updating them on the project’s progress. Project staff collaborated with consultants to complete a revised draft of the hazardous waste, underground storage tank, and environmental compliance and enforcement codes. The draft was to be submitted to the tribal council for review, but due to elections in the fall the project coordinator was unable to present the document before the original project end date in September. The project therefore received a four-month extension to present the draft to the council. Currently, the codes are being processed through the Tribe’s legal system, and have not yet been adopted.

Project staff organized four public meetings in different areas of the reservation to seek input from community members regarding the changes and new developments. There was also a biweekly radio show on the tribal radio station to solicit comments from the public, and the project coordinator published two articles in the Tribe’s newsletter. There is space established within the Tribe’s natural resource department to serve as the compliance and enforcement office, however it was not operational at the close of the project.

The second objective sought to create a tribal environmental enforcement and compliance plan. Project staff completed the plan and submitted it to the tribal office for review. The plan was not implemented during the project period, as it was not yet approved.

The project also provided training to staff members and tribal departments on code and regulation implementation. The project director received training in code enforcement, environmental inspection, and hazardous waste operations and emergency response.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The tribal community expressed their full support of this project, recognizing that once the new and updated codes and regulations are implemented, the health of the community will be improved. Tribal members are more aware of the environmental rules and regulations that apply on the reservation.

Tribal department staff members benefited from the training they received, which increased their knowledge of the Tribe’s environmental codes and ordinances.

“Once enforcement begins, the health of the community will be improved.”

Randal Eagleshield, Project Manager