

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA, AND SIUSLAW INDIANS



Project Title:	Hanis Coos Language Education Development Project
Award Amount:	\$268,853
Type of Grant:	Native Languages
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Aug. 2012
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 full-time equivalent job created
- 7 Elders involved
- 13 youth involved
- \$5,960 in resources leveraged
- 6 partnerships formed
- 29 Native language classes held

BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) are made up of four bands: Hanis Coos, Miluk Coos, Lower Umpqua Tribe, and Siuslaw Tribe. The Tribal service area includes Coos, Lane, Lincoln, Douglas, and Curry counties in South-central Oregon.

There are over 900 members in the confederated Tribes, with three Native languages spoken—Hanis Coos, Siuslawan, and Miluk Coos. In 2008, Tribal members developed a CTCLUSI strategic plan identifying the Tribes’ core values. During the planning process, Tribal members expressed the importance of a comprehensive language program for all three languages to the Cultural Committee and Cultural Department.

The Committee chose to first develop additional materials for Hanis Coos, and then use the Hanis Coos curriculum as a model for developing Siuslawan and Miluk Coos curriculums in later years. While some learning materials for the Hanis Coos language existed, materials were only in hard copy and lacked progressive lesson plans. Many Tribal members also requested a distance-learning program for learning the language.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project purpose was to develop CTCLUSI’s capacity to launch a comprehensive language education program for Hanis Coos. The first objective was to develop a first year Hanis Coos curriculum for all ages to use as a template for the development of further curriculums. The project staff included the Cultural Department director, his assistant, and a linguist with over 10 years of experience studying and preserving Hanis Coos. Together, they drew on existing Hanis Coos research to develop a series of lesson plans, covering topics such as phonetics, greetings, key vocabulary, family terms, grammar, and cultural activities to accompany vocabulary learning. From these lesson plans they

produced a summer school curriculum and a first year curriculum with accompanying audio CDs. The team also expanded the Hanis Coos vocabulary list by 700 words, bringing the total number of words on the list to 1,000.

The second objective was to create organizational infrastructure to provide the Hanis Coos language program to 45 children and 25 adults. Project staff implemented the curriculum in the classroom and summer culture camp programming for youth as it was being refined. Over the course of the project, staff taught 29 language classes to youth, which included vocabulary and grammar relevant to the seasonal, cultural calendar. Youth also participated in field trips with the Natural Resources Department and learned how to harvest traditional food, such as camos and wapeto.

Project staff created materials for distance learning, as well. Ten Elders received hard copies of the curriculum with accompanying CDs in the mail, and 42 adults and youth accessed the curriculum via a Hanis Coos website created by the project's IT specialist.

The third objective was to produce a high-quality CD featuring Tribal members singing and playing traditional songs. The Cultural Department director purchased software for recording and scoring music, and hired a music coordinator to develop the CD. As advised by the Culture Committee, the music coordinator began the recordings with a round song, a friendship song, and a gambling song. The children also learned blessing songs appropriate to open Tribal government ceremonies. By the end of the project, the team recorded and produced a CD with eight songs, and loaded 60-80 wax cylinder recordings of songs from the early 1900s onto the website.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

According to the Cultural Department director, learning the Hanis Coos language has had a healing effect on Tribal members suffering from the historical trauma of removal, termination, and loss of ancestral territory. Revitalizing old traditions such as naming ceremonies, nightly storytelling, and medicinal plant identification has restored a sense of identity and pride. In addition, being able to speak Hanis Coos has increased Tribal sovereignty, as Tribal leadership now conducts opening ceremonies in Hanis Coos rather than Chinook, the historical language of commerce in the region. Furthermore, enhanced recordings of Hanis Coos songs, 1930s wax cylinder recordings of the language, and ethnographic research of the Tribe's leading linguistic scholar also are available on the website, preserving the cultural history of the Hanis Coos people.

Youth learned vocabulary experientially as they harvested plants and explored the natural surroundings. According to the project director, this was an excellent way to learn the language, as much of the vocabulary and cultural expressions are based on the geography and natural world of Oregon's south-central coast.

Young people impressed community members with their performance of Hanis songs at the solstice and salmon festivals, feather dance, and canoe runs. The project director said they were thrilled to learn the songs, and absorbed cultural lessons within the lyrics and melodies.

Most importantly, parents engaged in the project by participating in 4 days of the summer camp, and they are bringing the language lessons home. As the younger generation of parents learns the language, they pass it on to their children, ensuring new generations will continue to value and use Hanis Coos.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS



Project Title:	Siletz Tribal Energy Program (STEP)
Award Amount:	\$340,069
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Mar. 2012
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 4 full-time equivalent jobs created
- \$587,963 in resources leveraged
- 18 individuals trained
- 34 partnerships formed
- 3 environmental codes developed

BACKGROUND

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of 27 Bands comprised of over 4,500 members. The land base of the Siletz Indians is a checkerboard reservation of about 4,800 acres, largely located in Lincoln County in southwest Oregon.

Many members in the Tribe's service area live in housing with poor insulation and face challenges with rising utility costs. Prior to this project, Tribal records indicated that 50 percent of off-reservation and 80 percent of on-reservation homes required significant weatherization.

The Tribe's Planning Department therefore saw a need for a cross-departmental program focusing on helping Tribal members lower the costs of energy use. Staff envisioned the program also would address high unemployment by providing training in

energy-management and construction industries.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project's purpose and first objective was to establish the Siletz Tribal Energy Program (STEP), housed within the Tribe's Planning Department, to serve as a central program to address energy-related challenges and coordinate energy efficiency work across Tribal agencies. A key task under this objective was to develop cross-departmental policies to encourage energy-saving practices. The project coordinator worked closely with the Tribal Council to develop and approve three new building, energy, and electric codes, which mandate that all new construction projects for the Tribe use materials and appliances that meet internationally-accepted energy efficiency standards.

The project coordinator also hired a Tribal energy technician to lead the expansion of the Tribe's energy audit and weatherization program. The technician completed 120 hours of Residential Energy Analyst Program (REAP) training from the Oregon Energy Coordinators Association. The training covered how to conduct an energy

audit, including lessons on how to use caulking, sealing, and cameras, and applying insulation for weatherization.

As part of this objective, project staff aimed to write a five year strategic plan for STEP. They were not able to complete it by the end of the project period, and received a 6-month no-cost extension. Due to an underestimation of staff time needed to write the plan, they were not able to finish it by the end of the extension. STEP intends to continue working on the plan, and set aside funds for this purpose.

Over the course of the project, the energy technician, in partnership with staff from the Housing Department, conducted audits for 43 households and provided information to Tribal members on STEP's mission and available services. The energy technician also demonstrated weatherization during audits to empower individuals to try home improvement techniques on their own. The wider community received education on environmental sustainability and energy saving tips through articles, Tribal newsletters, and STEP's Facebook page.

The project's second objective was to develop and implement a Siletz Energy Management Plan that would outline the policies and procedures for the continuation of the STEP program. The project coordinator was not involved in writing the grant for this project, and by the time it began the original grant writer had left her position with the Tribe. As a result, the project coordinator received little guidance on the Siletz Energy Management Plan. This lack of guidance and competing constraints on staff's time prevented the team from completing the plan during the project or no-cost extension period.

The third objective was to develop and implement a plan for providing ongoing training, skills development, and certifications for Tribal members seeking

employment in the field of energy efficient weatherization technologies and alternative energy applications. Project staff decided that the Oregon Energy Coordinators Association REAP certification program was a great fit for Tribal members wishing to enter the energy efficiency workforce. Rather than create a training program, STEP directed Tribal members towards the REAP certification training.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Although project staff faced a number of challenges, STEP successfully established itself through its rigorous outreach program as the community's primary resource for assistance with energy issues, and Tribal members now regularly approach STEP staff with energy concerns. Furthermore, Tribal members better understand the importance of weatherization in saving energy, and they are empowered with skills to retrofit homes on a small scale. Many tribal members already have seen electric savings.

In addition to learning about energy audits, many Tribal employees across different departments attended trainings in mold remediation, lead safety, and using infrared cameras to detect harmful chemicals. The trainings reinforced the importance of using proper home insulation techniques in Tribal housing and energy programs, and helped further build the Tribe's capacity.

With a view of expanding STEP, the Tribe created a planning technician position to conduct home energy assessments and retrofits. In addition, the Tribal energy technician gained certification as a professional energy auditor, and will continue to work with the Tribe in that capacity. The Tribe is committed to adhering to the new building codes, ensuring that future Tribal housing and facilities buildings will be energy efficient for years to come.