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## KA LAMA MOHALA FOUNDATION




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<b>Project Title:</b>	Lei Aloha O Ka ‘Ohana – Family, The Never-Ending Circle of Love
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$823,858
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	SEDS - Strengthening Families
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 46 Elders involved
- 275 youth involved
- \$42,464 in resources leveraged
- 2,065 individuals trained
- 32 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

Established in 2004 and based outside of Salt Lake City, the Ka Lama Mohala Foundation (KLMF) originated with the objective to share and learn hula. However, KLMF’s board of trustees soon realized the large Native Hawaiian population in Utah needed additional services.

Native Hawaiians in Utah face unique challenges integrating into mainstream culture and systems. The pressure to adopt unfamiliar mainland concepts and beliefs in school, to earn a living, and function in the larger community can be overwhelming to families. In addition, many people are geographically isolated from their extended families. As a result, traditional ‘ohana (extended family) interactions become less

frequent and the unifying basis for strong marriages and children’s well-being is lost.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

At the request of families in the community, KLMF created the “Lei Aloha O Ka ‘Ohana–Family, The Never-Ending Circle of Love” project. Using a curriculum developed with a prior ANA grant, the project’s purpose was to provide culture-based, family-oriented programs to increase the abilities of Native Hawaiians in Utah to form and sustain healthy relationships, marriages, and families.

The project’s first objective was to promote the traditional concept of ‘ohana to 1,500 Native Hawaiians in Utah. To achieve this, KLMF staff and volunteers led 12-week ‘ohana seminars where families discussed the meaning of ‘ohana, shared stories, and participated in important cultural activities. In total, 2,040 people completed these workshops.

The first part of the second objective was to provide instruction and practice on culturally-appropriate life skills and traditional teachings. To do this, KLMF offered 2-hour training seminars in

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ho'oponopono, a traditional Hawaiian way of reconciliation and harmonization; over 100 people attended a seminar. One KLMF staff member shared the relevance of 'ohana and ho'oponopono, stating "These are the tools that our ancestors used to manage harmony." The second part of this objective was to provide activities and support to children through the Na Keiki Support Group. Over the course of the project, 275 youth participated in popular events including a youth camp and summer reading program.

The project's final objective was to establish an 'Ohana Support Network and Resource Center to assist 1,850 Native Hawaiian family members as they develop life skills and family values. The resource center was established at KLMF's headquarters, the Hawaiian Cultural Center in Midvale. It included materials on genealogy, books from Hawaiian authors, and activities for youth. There also were computers available for people to search for jobs and create resumes, as well as to keep in touch with their extended families. Other resources included information on local health services, Pacific Islander-owned businesses, and scholarships, a small food pantry, and clothing drive. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, the center was forced to close after the project ended.

As part of the 'Ohana Support Network, KLMF hosted a series of popular events which included a "Poke Challenge," where participants competed as families to make the best poke (a traditional Hawaiian dish); a "Ladies Night Out" where female Pacific Islander health practitioners performed health checks; and keiki (children) summer camps, which introduced youth to Hawaiian culture. Youth also learned their genealogy chant, an important Hawaiian tradition that connects youth with their ancestors and builds family relationships.

## **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

The project helped KLMF to successfully strengthen partnerships with other Pacific Islander organizations throughout Utah. These organizations, which include Hawaiian nonprofits, healthcare providers, and media outlets, helped implement the project, recruit participants, fill service gaps, improve services, avoid duplication of effort, and pool resources in carrying out their work for Pacific Islander communities.

One of the biggest impacts of the project was on couples. As part of the 'ohana training, couples learned the deeper meaning of words such as ohana, aloha, and mahalo, which project staff reported transformed their thinking. Participants also shared testimonials on the project's blog, [leialohaokaohana.blogspot.com](http://leialohaokaohana.blogspot.com). According to beneficiaries, "mahalo" became a deeper way of simply saying "thank you." One participant said, "Whenever I say 'aloha' now, it carries way more meaning than it did before." Non-Hawaiian spouses of Native Hawaiians also improved their ability to work with their spouses. One participant stated, "I feel like I can talk to my husband about things that maybe before I wouldn't know what to say. But [now] I understand his culture much more."

The project also impacted youth, most of who grew up on the mainland, as they gained new and important connections to their families, ancestors, and cultural identity. Staff indicated the communities' Elders appreciated the project, since it has made it easier for them to open up to their children and grandchildren. According to one of the KLMF trustees whose grandchildren participated in the project, "It is like one big happy family, and it's like we've never left. The spirit of 'ohana is here."

**PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH**



<b>Project Title:</b>	Shivwits Band of Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Strategic Action Plan Project
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$110,536
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Tribe

**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 3 Elders involved
- 12 youth involved
- \$21,337 in resources leveraged
- 22 individuals trained
- 4 partnerships formed

**BACKGROUND**

Located in rural southwest Utah, the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is comprised of 244 members, whose ancestors settled in the area approximately 900 years ago. About 60 percent of the Tribal population lives in poverty; as a small community, the Band has limited access to economic opportunities. One of the few sources of income is leasing land for non-members to run businesses, which provides few, if any, employment opportunities for Band members.

Since it last developed a strategic plan 20 years ago, the Band’s leadership has evolved and the community has focused on pressing, day-to-day issues while neglecting long-

term needs such as building infrastructure, securing sustainable economic development, and strengthening Tribal administration and policies. In recent years, Band leadership hosted several community and Council meetings, where participants continually voiced the need for better planning to address these and other issues.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The Band’s leadership collaborated with RezBuilders, LLC to develop a 1-year strategic planning project to clarify community goals and develop implementation strategies.

The project’s first objective includes: 1) train the project coordinator and five Shivwits Planning Committee (SPC) members in techniques for developing and conducting a community needs assessment survey, and 2) develop a survey to gather community input for the plan. Fifteen community members attended an 8-hour training with the Falmouth Institute on the development and preparation of a survey. Working with a team of consultants, SPC members developed a survey in December 2011 that included questions on

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demographics and preferences for cultural, economic development, health, education, and housing priorities. The survey also included identifying resources for these priorities within the community.

The project's second objective was to implement the community survey and draft a strategic action plan based on survey results. Project staff circulated the needs assessment survey in January 2012 to every community member 14 years of age and older. After receiving fewer responses than originally projected, the Band hired two survey assistants to go door-to-door in the community to follow-up. In total, the Band received 36 responses, which were compiled into a report by the Falmouth Institute. The Band also hosted two follow-up meetings with project staff, SPC members, and the community to discuss the results.

In late March 2012, the Band hosted a 2-day, off-site retreat to develop the strategic action plan. The retreat drew 28 participants, including Elders and youth, who established Band values, strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats; developed a vision for the Band; and defined its mission. Participants also outlined goals, objectives, and tasks, ordered each by priority, and assigned responsibilities for implementation.

The project's third objective was to review and revise the strategic action plan and obtain approval from the Shivwits Band Council. In June, the first draft was presented to the community for review and comment. In total, the SPC and members of the community met a dozen times over the course of the project to review, edit, and modify the plan. In the summer of 2012, the Council approved the final strategic plan, which has since been distributed throughout the community.

## OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

According to project staff and Band leadership, the Band is enthusiastic about the plan. "The strategic plan really formalizes the consensus," said one SPC member. Another Council member expressed that the strategic plan is an important asset to the Band's development, saying "People can come in and see what we did, that we have it planned out, and start moving forward with it." It demonstrates community support for specific goals, allowing Band leadership to apply for project funding in a targeted, systematic way. Further, having a community-supported strategic plan solidifies the Band's vision for development and provides a blueprint to future leadership. By the end of the project, staff estimated that roughly 80 percent of the Band's membership was now aware of the strategic goals. Band members are motivated by the process, and plan to host annual strategic planning meetings using the skills they gained.

In addition, the project elicited interdepartmental dialogue between the Band's various agencies, helping share knowledge and work collaboratively, and sparking interest in pursuing bigger projects. Community development has been progressing quickly in the past few years, and through this project, diverse parts of the community have come together to work strategically. For example, the Band determined through the planning process that building a convenience store along Old Highway 91 was a top priority. Soon after the project ended, the Band received approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to use trust funds from a water rights settlement to begin the project. Band members predict that this success will generate additional enthusiasm. "Once we get the money for the convenience store," said one member, "people will say that, 'Hey, this works, let's get more involved.'"