
HOH TRIBAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE



Project Title:	Hoh Tribal Language Assessment Project
Award Amount:	\$70,269
Type of Grant:	Language
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Mar. 2011
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 full-time equivalent job created
- 15 elders involved
- 11 youth involved
- \$4,400 in resources leveraged
- 8 partnerships formed
- 1 language survey developed
- 50 language surveys completed

BACKGROUND

Located in northwestern Washington State, the Hoh Tribe has 230 enrolled members. The tribe shares its native language, Quileute, with the nearby Quileute Tribe. At the start of this project, the Hoh had only two known fluent Quileute speakers, and tribal leaders did not know the levels of fluency among other tribal members.

Moreover, the tribe did not maintain an archive of language resources, so members had limited access to information on the historical, traditional, and contemporary use of the language. In an effort to gain a better understanding on the status of the language and to begin preservation efforts, the tribe created a language preservation program in 2009.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project purpose was to encourage preservation of the Quileute language within the Hoh Tribe by assessing the status of the language and by developing the requisite tribal policies and partnerships to promote learning and understanding among tribal members.

The first objective was to survey the tribal community on the status of the language, establishing a clear understanding of the number of individuals who spoke the language, their level of understanding, the extent to which they use the language, and their attitudes about the language. Project staff strove to collect baseline data to assist them in designing and implementing future programs for restoring the language. Due to the poor health of the project coordinator, most intended activities were not implemented during the first six months of the project period. To address this problem, tribal administrators hired a new project coordinator, who, along with a consultant, analyzed surveys conducted by other tribes to determine the types of survey questions to use in the Quileute language survey. Next, staff developed a survey, gained approval for use from the Hoh Tribal Business Committee, and recruited two volunteers to

help conduct the survey. By the end of the planned project period, the team surveyed 50 tribal members, both in-person and through telephone interviews. Because staff did not complete the survey analysis before the project period ended, the coordinator requested and received a six-month no-cost extension (NCE). During the NCE period, the project team completed the analysis.

The second objective was to identify institutions and organizations in possession of archives, records, documents, and materials depicting the Hoh tribal language and culture, and to gain access to these materials. To accomplish this, the project coordinator and the consultant identified and contacted various organizations known or believed to hold archives or repositories of such documents. Working primarily with the consultant, the tribe was able to collect and catalogue 98 cultural resources.

The third objective was to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Quileute Tribal School (QTS) to assure access to the school's language archives and curricula. The project coordinator met with QTS staff, developing an MOU acceptable to school administrators and to the Hoh Tribal Business Committee. The MOU allowed the Hoh Tribe the right to use to the cultural archives of the school.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Although the project faced significant delays, the project team utilized the NCE period to complete most of the project activities. According to the project team, the language assessment was the first research conducted on the status of the Quileute language by the Hoh Tribe. The assessment provided the tribal community with a greater understanding of how many people in the tribe speak the Quileute language, how the language is used in the community, what were the community attitudes toward the

language, and which language-related services may be needed.

By identifying and collecting language and cultural resources, the project team provided the tribe's culture and language committee with materials connecting tribal members with their heritage and encouraging greater knowledge of the Quileute language. By joining forces with a school possessing an existing language curriculum, the team provided the tribe's language committee with new resources. In addition to the partnership with the Quileute Tribal School, project staff built or strengthened relationships with seven additional partners. According to the project coordinator, these partnerships and knowledge gained through the project will help the committee formulate strategies to preserve and revitalize the language and culture of the Hoh Tribe.

LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL



Project Title:	Healthy Marriages for Healthy Families
Award Amount:	\$1,008,965
Type of Grant:	SEDS - Strengthening Families
Project Period:	Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2011
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 5 elders involved
- \$234,990 in resources leveraged
- 431 individuals trained
- 16 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

With 4,029 enrolled members, Lummi Indian Nation is located on the Lummi Indian Reservation in Whatcom County, Seattle. A majority of Lummi households are single parent, and many Lummi women have reported physical abuse by a partner. In 2005, there were more divorces in the Lummi courts than marriages. According to tribal officials, the Lummi Police Department routinely responds to domestic violence reports, and the Lummi Nation Child Support Program has been inundated beyond its capacity.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to promote healthy marriages and healthy relationship practices on the Lummi Indian Reservation. The first objective was to hire a support network coordinator, a marriage counselor,

and an advocate/assistant. Tribal administrators made these hires within the first six months of the project.

The second objective was to develop a definition of healthy marriage according to Lummi cultural standards. To gather input, five elders conducted 212 oral surveys with community members. This process facilitated community investment in the project and the results informed staff's creation of an inclusive definition of a healthy Lummi marriage.

The third objective was to develop and maintain outreach strategies, intake procedures, and information packages to maximize access to services and information available through the project. To accomplish this, project staff created a customized intake form and an information package containing relationship evaluation tools, definitions, brochures, and other information about the project. Outreach strategies included elders' face-to-face contact with community members, frequent website and email updates, and collaboration with partnering agencies. Related to this, the fifth objective was to mobilize and maintain an ongoing publicity campaign to ensure community awareness of the project. Project

staff created monthly newsletter articles, listservs, emails, weekly flyers, Facebook and Twitter accounts, posters, brochures, business cards, and a program logo (pictured above). Staff stated these efforts resulted in more inquiries into the program and an increased volume of clients.

The next objective was to coordinate educational opportunities for clients to participate in, such as seminars, classes, workshops, and counseling sessions. Project staff were successful in coordinating a series of these opportunities pertaining to parenting, communication skills, relationship dynamics, strengthening families, and classes for teens. Classes were typically two to three hours per class, once a week for 10 to 12 weeks. The goal was for participants to miss no more than one class in any series in which they enrolled. However, a challenge emerged in regards to consistent attendance at some of these classes, so a series of drop-in, self-contained sessions were offered as well. By project's end, a total of 431 tribal members had attended at least one class or workshop.

The sixth objective was to organize an annual Get Hitched Gala. According to project staff, these were "big bridal shows" in which tribal members who were thinking about getting married were invited to a formal event featuring information on what couples need to know before getting married, including a showcase of all the products and services needed for wedding planning. Project staff successfully hosted the galas each year at different venues, and always featured local vendors such as caterers, DJs, and photographers.

The seventh objective was to evaluate all available project data on an annual basis regarding progress of couples and overall success of the program. In the final year, project staff were to use the data to formulate a sustainability plan for the

project. Data consisted of the results of surveys, questionnaires, and counselor reports. Staff successfully used this information to modify the project from year to year based on what seemed to be working and what needs were still unmet. Staff did not create a sustainability plan, but they are using data gathered from this project to pursue future funding opportunities.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Participants cited improved communication with their spouses and children, greater awareness of interpersonal dynamics, and healthier familial relationships. Many participants stated that they gained new insight into how they were raised, which has allowed them to raise their own children in a healthier manner. In some cases, this has resulted in generational cycles of abuse and neglect finally being broken. Spouses and children of participants also benefitted, as they now enjoy stronger relationships with their husbands, wives, and parents.

The five tribal elders involved in this project expressed gratification for the opportunity to interview community members, stating that the process was empowering and gave them a meaningful role in an important community effort.

Partnering tribal divisions and outside agencies gained expanded professional networks and shared resources.

Lastly, the tribe as a whole benefitted from having a self-made definition of healthy marriage. This definition is currently in the process of being incorporated into Lummi law through resolution, which means it will be utilized as a standard to uphold in formal processes such as family court cases involving child support, custody, and visitation rights.

NORTHWEST INTERTRIBAL COURT SYSTEM



Project Title:	Promoting Tribal Sovereignty by Creating Infrastructure for Code Maintenance
Award Amount:	\$621,841
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2009 – Dec. 2011
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 11 elders involved
- \$13,355 in resources leveraged
- 14 partnerships formed
- 12 governance codes/ordinances developed

BACKGROUND

The Northwest Intertribal Court System (NICS) is a native nonprofit formed in Lynnwood, Washington in 1980. NICS serves the legal needs of its seven member tribes: Chehalis, Muckleshoot, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Sauk-Suiattle, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, and Tulalip. In recent years, tribal court staff, attorneys, and community members in all seven tribes detected serious internal inconsistencies in their legal codes. This problem has become more prevalent over time as tribal bodies of law have been amended and expanded to meet the developing needs of NICS's communities. Consequently, codes have been critically deficient due to a basic lack of structure necessary to ensure consistent development

and proper maintenance. While some of the identified inconsistencies are minor, a growing number of major discrepancies presented significant obstacles to the functioning of NICS member tribal courts.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this two-year project was to promote tribal sovereignty and self-sufficiency among the seven NICS member tribes through the development of a legal code structure designed to enhance the strength and validity of the tribal bodies of law. The first objective was to create a code maintenance plan for each of the seven NICS member tribes. Code maintenance plans were to contain specific systems and procedures to ensure the proper incorporation of amendments, the documentation of legislative history, and the effective maintenance of an accurate, official version of each tribe's body of law. Project staff met with member tribes to assess their legislative history. Discrepancies regarding rules, roles, and responsibilities had created confusion and disorder in many cases. For example, various legal entities, such as prosecutors

and judges, often worked with different versions of codes. Additionally, most tribes lacked specific processes for incorporating amendments into tribal codes and proposing formal changes.

After the review, staff created a code maintenance framework that each tribe could customize to suit its individual needs and priorities. Tribal justice communities from each tribe attended bi-weekly meetings with tribal councils and legal staff members to provide input on the framework. Six out of the seven member tribes adopted the framework (Port Gamble declined because it already had one). Project staff liken the framework to a “road-map” through which concrete guidelines are provided for the effective maintenance of codes on an ongoing basis.

The second objective was to draft a legislative procedures code and an administrative procedures code for each tribe. Legislative procedures pertain to tribal councils, whereas administrative procedures pertain to tribal agencies and departments. Staff gathered existing code samples from member tribes and distilled them into a single model. Staff surveyed tribes on the prioritization of administrative or legislative codes and formatted templates consistent with each tribe’s existing code. Next, project staff identified and addressed all discrepancies between each tribe’s constitution and codes. By project’s end, staff created 12 new codes; each tribe received code in their expressed priority area, and five tribes received both administrative and legislative codes.

OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Due to the nature of this project, its impact will become more evident over time. However, several entities have already experienced benefits. Tribal courts now are functioning more smoothly, with increased clarity regarding codes, policies, and

procedures. Consequently, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges are able to work more effectively and efficiently with one another, and tribes will save money through judicial economy. Additionally, the appellate process will be minimized as a result of implementation of the 12 new codes.

Due to the improvements, tribal courts will be able to coordinate more easily with state courts. For example, in a domestic violence case, if a tribal court issues a protection order, the individual being protected needs the state courts to enforce that order for it to be effective. Prior to this project, this type of comity was not always given due to questions from the state regarding the validity of certain tribal court rulings. However, project staff hope that with more efficient systems in place, decisions rendered by tribal courts will be honored by the state court system with increased regularity.

This project has enabled tribal councils to make informed legal decisions free of conflict due to clear code language. Transparency has been enhanced; tribal constitutions are followed with more fidelity and due process is better ensured. All of this equates to enhanced legal functioning and increased preservation of sovereignty amongst NICS’s member tribes.

“Discrepancies in the codes have been identified and reconciled, and the tribes now have a solid framework with which to move forward. The impact has already been felt, and will continue to grow.”

Dana Merriman, Project Director