



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

June 7, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Emergency Native Language Funding Opportunity Announcement

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA), a program office within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), is announcing a funding opportunity to support Native American languages. Federally recognized and state recognized tribes that have living languages, Native Hawaiians, and the governments of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be eligible to apply, as explained in further detail below.

Background

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides additional appropriations for new programs which either have tribal set asides or will include Tribes and Tribal organizations as eligible entities. The ANA held a virtual Tribal Consultation Session on March 26, 2021, and a listening session on March 29, 2021, to solicit feedback on these programs, including the \$20 million appropriated for Emergency Grants for Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance. Tribal Leaders were notified of these sessions on March 19, 2021, and the ACF kept the record open for comment until Friday April 2, 2021. We understand that this was a quick turnaround for input; however, ARP only provides the ANA with 180 days from time of enactment to distribute these critical funds to support Native American languages. Therefore, the ANA needed early input to make decisions about this funding.

In addition to tribal consultation, the ANA also solicited feedback from other eligible entities such as state-recognized tribes, native non-profits, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native Hawaiian organizations and the governments of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

We asked a series of questions during the consultation and the listening sessions on how to distribute the funds, and we appreciated the feedback of the participants and written comments that we received. While there was not complete consensus, there was clear agreement on several parameters. As a result, we have made flexibility, ease of application, equitable allotments, and allowing the maximum number of living languages to be the top priorities in the distribution of this funding.

Non-competitive Awards

Tribal leaders have repeatedly requested that the ACF and HHS provide funding to tribal governments on a non-competitive basis. The new ARP Emergency Grants for Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance allows ANA to provide these awards on a non-competitive basis. This is a new flexibility that is not part of the Native Language Preservation and Maintenance or Esther Martinez Immersion program funding. Applicants are also not required to provide matching funds.

Allocation of Funds

ARP Emergency Grants for Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance listed “eligible entities” and did not further restrict the funding only to federally recognized tribal governments or limit it to current grantees. With 574 federally recognized tribes, plus at least an equal number of Native American non-profit organizations eligible to apply and operate Native Language projects, we needed to narrow the pool of eligible applicants in order to ensure the available funding could have some meaningful impact. The ANA has determined that the \$19 million will be allocated equally among federally recognized and state recognized tribes that have living languages, but each must apply in order to receive the funding. Native Hawaiians and the governments of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be able to apply for a total share of \$1 million.

Use of Funds

- All native languages are endangered, so all living Native American languages are eligible for funding.
- Tribes that are currently receiving ANA language funds may still apply for the Native Language emergency awards.
- Tribes may choose to designate another eligible entity to receive and manage the funds on their behalf. Information on that process is outlined in the application.
- We expect a large number of applications, so we will begin reviewing applications as we receive them. However, final award amounts will not be known until all applications are received.

The ANA will post a recorded webinar at www.acf.hhs.gov/ana with information on the application process for ARP funding. Information about free technical assistance is also available on the ANA website. To find the announcement and application package, please go to www.grants.gov and search “American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Emergency Native Language.” Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov and are due by at 11:59 pm, Eastern Daylight Time, on Friday June 25, 2021.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sauve
Acting Commissioner
Administration for Native Americans