

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Community Native Language Coordination Initiative proposal in the 2016 Budget

The proposed Community Native Language Coordination Initiative will build upon the successes of the Administration for Native Americans' short-term project-based funding. This initiative is an important way to support community capacity building. These educational systems development projects will ensure high quality language instruction, appropriate and culturally responsive curricula, professional development, and additional services and supports are aligned, implemented, and evaluated to create a seamless path for Native language acquisition across generations for educational and economic success.

Purpose: In the past, ANA and ACF have heard that it is difficult to coordinate stand-alone language programs into the broader educational system. The Initiative will address gaps in community coordination and bring together key drivers of program effectiveness: strong community ties, integrated language/educational services, support services and interventions tailored to the specific community, high performing collaborations, and committed leaders and community champions.

Funding: In the budget, there is 3.5 million for this Initiative. ANA envisions funding 5-6 communities, with funding also being used to support technical assistance and evaluation.

1. What level of funding do you see as needed to support an initiative of this scope at the community level? (NL grants currently have a ceiling of \$300,000 per year)
2. What type of technical assistance would be needed by potential applicants pre award and post award? In what areas would potential applicants need technical assistance to develop plans for this work? For example, would tribal communities be interested in receiving assistance with conducting a needs assessment, mapping resources, collecting and analyzing data, forming governance structures for partnerships, or other needs?

Eligibility: ANA proposes to select participants in the Initiative from communities that already have a current Tribal Head Start or Child Care Center and a Tribal College or University to ensure that both early childhood education and higher education settings

are connected to the project. Applicants will go through a peer panel review process utilized as is the case in all ANA grant competitions.

Questions for consultation:

1. Should eligibility be restricted to communities with ACF-funded early childhood programs?
2. Should eligibility be restricted to communities with a tribal college or be broader to include some other designation, such as a Native Serving Institute of Higher Education (IHEs serving 10% or more AIANNHPI students)?
3. What considerations should ANA make when considering the ability of the applicant to coordinate with various levels of educational institutions, for example, past partnerships, letters of support for the proposed project and/or formal memorandums of agreement?

Goals: This Initiative is specifically intended to build an evidence base for intentional place-based strategies that promote both economic and social self-sufficiency in Native communities through language instruction and preservation. The overarching purpose is, ultimately, to sustain over the long-term Native Language instruction and the use of Native language as the foundation of culturally-based community strategies to ensure the short- and long-term vitality and well-being of Native families and communities.

The new Initiative will include a rigorous evaluation in order to identify the range of promising practices that deliver positive gains in Native language proficiency and fluency leading to progress across key indicators related to educational success, positive mental health outcomes, increased earning capacity, and other outcomes related to well-being.

Questions for consultation:

1. What considerations should ANA take into consideration for short-term and long-term vitality?
2. How should we measure/determine the impact that language instruction and preservation on educational success, positive mental health outcomes, increased earning capacity, and other outcomes related to well-being.? (Building the evidence base) For example, co-develop with grantees one set of metrics, or allow funding to be used for each grantee to develop their own set of metrics?

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment: ANA will be soliciting input via tribal consultation this spring, our first confirmed date is May 20, 2015 in Washington, DC. We welcome comments on any part of this proposal as we prepare our draft funding announcement. Please direct written comments to: Commissioner Lillian Sparks Robinson, Administration for Native Americans, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, Washington DC 20024 or anacommissioner@acf.hhs.gov