
ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE



Project Title:	Planning and Development of Taxation Codes and Ordinances
Award Amount:	\$130,471
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	9/1/2003 – 8/31/2006
Grantee Type:	Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 2 elders involved
- \$300 in revenue generated
- \$11,480 in resources leveraged
- 4 people trained
- 1 partnership formed
- 1 product developed
- 6 governance codes/ordinances implemented

BACKGROUND

The Ely Shoshone Reservation is located in White Pine County, Nevada. It is roughly 250 miles northeast of Las Vegas in the east-central portion of the state of Nevada. The reservation is a checkerboard of three parcels of land of which two are located within the City of Ely. The reservation's three separate land parcels span 10, 11 and 90 acres of land individually for a total of 111 acres of reservation land under the control of the Ely Shoshone Tribe. There are approximately 461 tribal members.

In 2002, the Ely Shoshone Tribe developed a Tribal Community Economic

Development Strategy (CEDS) that set forth the community's short-and long-term development goals. The Tribe's long-term goals include a reduction in its reliance on federal dollars through the development of revenue-earning projects able to sustain tribal operations and maximizing the Tribe's self-determination in all areas of tribal life. To achieve these ultimate goals, the CEDS plan identified specific community needs and outlined action plans to meet those needs through attainable short-term goals and objectives. One of the identified short term objectives was the development of the Tribe's tax collection infrastructure through the creation of tax codes and ordinances to establish a political environment that would be ready for economic development.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Planning and Development of Taxation Codes and Ordinances (Project) was to improve the Ely Shoshone Tribe's governmental and administrative infrastructure through the development of comprehensive taxation codes, ordinances, taxation court codes and a taxation use plan. The Project would enable the Tribe to implement necessary tax collection on the reservation. Mechanisms for the investment of tax revenues that created a sustainable income source for the

community would also be included in the Project.

The Project had two main objectives. First, the Project proposed to identify all sources of potential income generating taxes that could be collected within the reservation's boundaries. The activities in this objective included: educating the community on Tribal authority to tax; learning about the tax systems being utilized in other tribes in the State of Nevada; researching specific taxation issues; quarterly meetings with the tribal community; and the presentation of draft taxation ordinances and codes to the Ely Shoshone Tribal Council for review. Project staff was able to complete all of the listed activities under this objective by the end of the Project.

The Project's second objective was to develop comprehensive Tribal taxation codes, administrative codes, court codes, and ordinances to effectively establish an administrative structure for the collection of taxes. The activities in this objective included: negotiating with the State government on tax collection agreements; analyzing the liability of the Tribe and its members for State and Federal taxes; continuing the public education component from the Project's first objective; training the community on the tax codes; preparing the Tax Use Revenue Plan; and holding a public hearing to present the final draft of the taxation ordinances prior to their approval. The grantee successfully completed all of the activities under this objective within the timeframe of the no-cost extension.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The most clearly identifiable outcome resulting from this Project was the development and implementation of six governance ordinances related to tax collection within the Ely Shoshone

Reservation. With the ordinances' implementation, the grantee achieved the Project's objectives and created the tax infrastructure needed before the tribal community could benefit from future economic development.

One benefit from this Project was the opportunity for the Tribe to work with local governments (both city and county).

One outcome that did not meet expectations was the level of community participation in the tax ordinance development process. Despite Project efforts to advertise various ordinance hearings, few community members participated in the events. Community members who participated had positive impressions of the Project. The Tribal Chair explained, "The tax code, the tax plan, and the business enterprise are new, so we haven't fully realized the impact. It's still too early to know the impact, but we are ready. Everything is in place."

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE



Project Title: Northern Paiute-Kuyuidokado Language Preservation Project

Award Amount: \$440,398

Type of Grant: Language

Project Period: 9/1/2003 – 8/31/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 4 jobs created
- 4 Native American consultants hired
- 100 elders involved
- 840 youth involved
- 12 partnerships formed
- 14 products developed
- 1 language survey developed
- 8 language teachers trained
- 5,110 Native languages classes held
- 636 youth (0-18) have increased ability to speak Native language
- 63 adults (18+) have increased ability to speak Native language
- 8 people have achieved fluency in Native language

BACKGROUND

The federally-recognized Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe governs a reservation with a resident population estimated at 2,200 individuals. In addition to its social and economic programs, the Tribe runs a Cultural Center which promotes education of the Pyramid Lake Paiute culture. The

Tribe is also home to an elementary and junior/senior high school.

The Tribe is descended from the Kuyuidokado band of Northern Paiute. Of the 320 members over 60 years of age, 68 (21 percent) are fluent in the Kuyuidokado dialect. By comparison, of the 1,650 tribal members between the ages of five and 61 years, only 48 (3 percent) are fluent speakers.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Northern Paiute-Kuyuidokado Language Preservation Project is to improve the tribal member's language proficiency. The Project's three primary objectives were to sponsor community language instruction classes, a Summer Language Camp Program and a "Language-in-School" Education Program.

The Project's initial outreach to the community included distributing fliers, bulletins and articles in the public newspaper and planning meetings with elders and tribal officials. The Project successfully conducted weekly community language classes using audio and visual tools to document the classes for participation and homework exercises. They also executed biannual evaluations for

fluency achievements and program recommendations.

The Project also successfully conducted yearly ten-week summer language camps; coordinated special tribal leader and elder presentations on Northern Paiute traditions and customs and held annual camp evaluations to improve the quality of the camp's services.

For the "Language-in-School" program, the Project coordinated lesson plans and activities; prepared "Traditions and Legends" information for classroom use; conducted in-school classes, prepared end-of-year class activities and home study activities and evaluated the program's effectiveness.

The Project was successful in achieving its goals. Over 5,110 language classes were conducted, including classes for the Tribe's children, adolescents, adults and elders. In total, an estimated 840 tribal youth and 100 tribal elders were involved in the Project. As a result, 636 youth and 63 adults increased their proficiency in Kuyuidokado, as measured through regular testing. Eight language teachers were trained and eight people became fluent in Kuyuidokado.

In addition, the Project produced an alphabet writing system and translated books, songs, games and a "word-a-day" calendar for the Tribe which facilitated the language's everyday use.

Teacher turnover in the third year was the Project's only challenge. However, existing staff and previous language students helped fill the void while permanent teachers were recruited.

As a signal of its success and sustainability, the Project's director will continue to teach Junior/Senior High School classes through tribal funding.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

Pyramid Lake Tribal members expressed that the language program has kept their language alive in the community. One member remarked, "It's nice to hear the kids speaking Paiute. Everyone who knows the language should speak to everyone and anyone they know." Students learning the language said it was good to learn to communicate with other Paiutes and maintain the language. One student explained it in this way, "[The language] tells us who we are and without it we really aren't a people."

People have shared their positive impressions about the program and voiced that they would like it to continue. One tribal member who has re-learned the language shared that, "I worked hard and re-learned the language because I had forgotten a lot, being away for so long. It took me about two years to re-learn, but now I do pretty well. Knowing the language has opened doors for me; I'm doing things now that I never thought I would be doing, all because I know the language." He now teaches language classes in other communities and tutors young people.

Additionally, the teachers enjoy knowing that the language will continue with their students and find themselves learning and improving their fluency. The head of the after-school program said, "It helps the kids with their self-esteem and self-identity."

Other tribes in the region have also been positively impacted through shared information on curriculum and language program initiation. For instance, Project staff was able to develop information exchange partnerships with four other native language programs in the surrounding area, mutually strengthening their programs.

WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA



Project Title: A Socio-Economic Profile of The Washoe People

Award Amount: \$122,518

Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 3/31/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1 job created
- 5 Native American consultants hired
- 21 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 8 elders involved
- 1 product developed

BACKGROUND

The Washoe Tribe's traditional homeland surrounds Lake Tahoe in Nevada, their spiritual center. Currently, the Tribe inhabits four geographically separated communities stretching over three counties and two states: Stewart Community, Carson Colony and Dresslerville Community in Nevada and Woodford Community in California. The Tribe was federally recognized in 1934. The Washoe Tribe includes 935 currently enrolled members in approximately 320 on-reservation and 425 off-reservation households. Most tribal members are adults because the one-quarter blood quantum requirement restricts children of the members from enrolling in the Tribe.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This Project desired to design and conduct a culturally-sensitive Community Needs Assessment and Demographic Data Collection with the guidance from Washoe Elders Advisory Circle and applied research consultants. The Washoe Tribe's program staff planned to complete surveys on 300 of the 320 on-reservation households located within the four communities and 100 of the 425 off-reservation households.

The completed surveys would clarify the needs, desires and goals of the Washoe people in cultural preservation, natural resource management, economic development, employment, education and family needs. This information would provide a basis for Washoe leadership decisions.

Unfortunately, the Project experienced a delay in start-up resulting from consultant non-performance. In addition, a university commitment to provide applied research expertise was not honored. The Washoe staff finally secured assistance from other consultants, but with the delays, a Project no-cost extension was necessary.

The first objective was to develop a culturally-sensitive community needs and

resources assessment instrument that gathered current and accurate demographic data. The Project deviated from the original grant application in how it tested and refined the survey. The survey measurement tools endeavored to tackle the multi-dimensionality of community needs. The survey also attempted to identify those needs which the community judged to be the most pressing. However, based upon staff and community feedback, the survey construction and subsequent administration were an effective set of exercises despite the deviation from the original plan.

The second objective implemented was a survey of 285 on-reservation and 128 off-reservation households.

The third objective was to complete the Tribal Data Resources Database which provides details of on- and off-reservation demographics.

Compiling the subjective data from the survey in the second objective did not lend itself to easy aggregation. (Although the Project planned to complete a Socio-Economic Profile of the Washoe People, by the final month of the Project, this was not complete.) The Washoe Tribe was granted a one-month no-cost extension to complete this objective. Communication with Washoe program staff after Project completion confirmed that the remaining activities were completed within the adjusted timeline.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The Washoe Tribal government committed itself to a process in which the beneficiaries of this Project influence and share control over development initiatives that affect them and subsequent resource decisions. The survey sought community involvement to determine priorities that will lead to policy considerations. This commitment to

community participation in the Project's implementation contributed to its success.

Washoe elders and tribal employees have discussed the Project's influence. The elders who were hired as interviewers communicated the findings they had gathered from the field. They shared how the majority of Washoe households had complaints about an unresponsive tribal police. They articulated the common desire to bring back their language, the basket-making, the get-togethers and the dances. They spoke passionately about the widespread insistence to provide at-risk tribal youth with activities to keep them away from drugs and alcohol.

Washoe Tribal Council now has clear, current and accurate information about the needs and demographics of its people. A foundation for appropriate policy implementation and project development has therefore been successfully built by the work of this Project. Lana Hicks, a tribal elder, summed up this collective mood after a meeting with staff and beneficiaries, "Now I see the reason for this survey, and I'm interested to see the results it will produce. Everything I've heard...are the things we want to do for our people."

"Now I feel good about the future health of our people because now I will know what is needed and by whom."

Fred Runlet
Executive Director