NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRAY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259228-OLS-25

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Amount awarded by IMLS: $90,156

The Chippewa Cree Tribe will enhance the available library services for all community members in their rural location. The project will establish a Cree-ative space at the library that features individual and group presentations on cultural teachings. It will also support summer reading events, cultural workshops with local artists, and a range of library community events, many with a planned cultural education focus. In addition to these outward-facing activities, the library will invest in software and technical services that support its archive collections, as well as personnel to carry out its many project activities.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Tribal Profile
- Narrative
- Schedule of completion

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

TRIBAL PROFILE

• A brief history of your Tribal governance, focusing on the department and/or partners that will be directly involved in carrying out the work.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe (***CCT***) of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation (***RBIR***) was organized in accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (34 Stat. P. 984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (74th Congress, Pub. No.147). The CCT has been a Self-Governance Tribe since 1994. In 1972, we were one of the first Native American communities to gain control over our local educational system and subsequently took control of an elementary school, a High School, and in 1981 Stone Child College (***SCC***). In 1983, the ***CCT*** established the Public Library at ***SCC***. The Library was granted a major addition in 2012. From 2013-2023 excluding 2016, the library was awarded the Excellent Library Services Award by the Montana Library Association/Montana Library Commission. In 2022, the library was awarded the International Guardians of Culture and Lifeways Libraries Institutional Excellence Award by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums.

• Your setting (e.g., communities and/or audiences served, including size, demographic characteristics, and geographic area).

The ***RBIR*** land base is approximately 130,000 acres. Nearly all the land, with very few exceptions, is held in trust for the full membership of the Tribe. The center of reservation activity is currently around Rocky Boy's Upper Box Elder Road. There is no town center on the Reservation and the community is considered "frontier." The reservation is located in North Central Montana just south of the Canadian border. The nearest International Airport is in Great Falls, located just over 110 miles away.

The most recent enrollment figures indicate that the current resident enrollment is approximately 7,319 with an estimated 3,455 Tribal members live on the reservation. The population is divided relatively evenly among men and women. The resident population of the Tribe is growing rapidly. English is our primary language. However, although in rapid decline, the ***RBIR*** is the only reservation in the United States that speaks Cree. This language makes our people a unique group with a distinctive set of cultural traditions and beliefs.

Bachelor's Degree or higher achievement rates for Rocky Boy community members are 14.5%, as compared to 36.2% for the nation and 34.6% for the State of Montana (2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates). The ***RBIR*** has an unemployment rate of 6.8%, as compared to 2.8% for the state of Montana and 4.0% for the United States (Montana Department of Labor and Industry, January 2025). Nearly half (41.98%) of individuals on the ***RBIR*** live below the poverty level compared to 12% for the State and 11% for the Nation. Additionally, the income levels on the ***RBIR*** fall well below other communities Statewide and Nationwide. Our median family income is $42,548 compared to $70,804 for the State and $77,719 for the Nation.

Project Justification

1. *What current need, challenge, or opportunity will your project address and how was it identified? Describe how you have used reliable sources to define the need, challenge, or opportunity and develop the scope for the project.*

The Chippewa Cree Tribe (***CCT***) of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation (***RBIR***) was organized in accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (34 Stat. P. 984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (74th Congress, Pub. No.147). The CCT has been a Self-Governance Tribe since 1994. The ***RBIR*** land base is approximately 130,000 acres. Nearly all the land, with very few exceptions, is held in trust for the full membership of the Tribe. The center of reservation activity is currently around Rocky Boy's Upper Box Elder Road. There is no town center on the Reservation and the community is considered "frontier."

The most recent enrollment figures indicate that the current tribal enrollment is 7,319. An estimated 3,455 Tribal members live on the reservation (Source: Chippewa Cree Tribe Enrollment Office, November 2024). The population is divided relatively evenly among men and women. The resident population of the Tribe is growing rapidly. English is our primary language. However, although in rapid decline, the ***RBIR*** is the only reservation in the United States that speaks Cree. This language makes our people a unique group with a distinctive set of cultural traditions and beliefs.

Educational attainment levels on the ***RBIR*** are low; this is an unfortunate trend seen across the country among Native Americans as a whole. Bachelor's Degree or higher achievement rates for Rocky Boy community members are 14.5%, as compared to 36.2% for the nation and 34.6% for the State of Montana (2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates).

The Reservation's rural location and geographic, topographic, and climatic conditions create physical and social isolation. Furthermore, the condition and availability of basic physical and educational/social infrastructures are insufficient to meet our current and future needs. The ***RBIR*** has an unemployment rate of 6.8%, as compared to 2.8% for the state of Montana and 4.0% for the United States (Montana Department of Labor and Industry, January 2025). However, this rate does not account for those who are discouraged workers, chronically unemployed, or not seeking jobs. When factoring in those elements, the unemployment rate varies from 60% in the summer to 80% in the winter. Nearly half (41.98%) of individuals on the ***RBIR*** live below the poverty level compared to 12% for the State and 11% for the Nation. Additionally, the income levels on the ***RBIR*** fall well below other communities Statewide and Nationwide. Our median family income is $42,548 compared to $70,804 for the State and $77,719 for the Nation.

Substance abuse is prevalent on the ***RBIR***. According to the Chippewa Cree Law Enforcement, there is a high percentage of arrests made where substance abuse was a factor in the incident leading to the arrest. Typically, around two thirds of arrests are substance abuse related. Studies show there is a direct correlation between mental health disorders and substance abuse. As reported by SAMHSA (2012), 26.7% of people with behavioral health issues also abused illicit drugs as compared to 13.2% of the people in the general population who abused drugs. The Rocky Boy Health Center Emergency Medical Services stated that they respond to an average of two overdose events per month. In Fiscal Year 2024, there were seventeen (17) overdoses reported by the Chippewa Cree Law Enforcement.

Suicide is closely linked to mental health and substance abuse disorders. There is a high prevalence of suicidal behavior on the ***RBIR*** as well. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Chippewa Cree Law Enforcement reported they had (31) suicide ideations and (17) attempted suicides. There is a major need to work with our community to implement mental health activities. The suicide rate in Montana has been the highest or near the highest in the Nation for nearly forty-five years, making suicide an ongoing public health issue faced by the State. In 2021, the most current CDC data indicated that Montana had the third highest suicide risk in the country at 32 per 100,000 people. The suicide rate in the United States during this same time frame, was 14.1 per 100,000 people. According to data gathered by Rocky Boy Health Center, there were seven (7) completed suicides from April 2023 to February 2024.

In recent years, the ***CCT*** underwent formal strategic planning. The collaborative planning sessions included the identification and engagement of appropriate stakeholders including Tribal council, Tribal departments, youth, elders, community leaders, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and local businesses. These efforts provided guidance in the development of the strategic plans, including the identification of core community needs. The community needs, as related to this project, are community awareness, mental health awareness, cultural competence, and formal education.

Stone Child College (***SCC***), the local tribal college, was created to address issues related to the aforementioned needs. It was chartered by the Chippewa Cree Business Committee (Tribal Council) on May 17, 1984, to deliver post-secondary education in our community. With the vision of making our dreams happen with academic excellence, culture, and commitment, ***SCC's*** mission is "*to deliver post-secondary educational opportunities through degrees, certificates and continuing education.* ***SCC*** *stresses the importance of preserving the Chippewa Cree language, culture and history.* ***SCC***

will promote transfer students, professionally prepared and career-ready individuals." The campus is centrally located between the Rocky Boy Agency and Box Elder, the two major communities on the reservation. ***SCC*** houses the Stone Child College/Rocky Boy Public Library, our only public library. The establishment of this library was necessary for the preservation and maintenance of the Chippewa Cree language, culture, and history, and for educational training of our community. ***SCC*** was chosen as the most viable host institution for the Rocky Boy Public Library, because of its location and administrators' commitment to literacy. This library will serve as the Community Library Project (***CLP***) site.

The Public Library was expanded in 2012 to accommodate more students and community members. The additional space provided through the expansion project is essential in providing a higher quality of service for our patrons. Building the addition was the first phase of the expansion project and was completed on schedule. The next phase of the project was furnishing and equipping the addition with appropriate technology, shelving, and furniture. The library has seen growth in the number of community members who visit the library. We have a long-term goal of building a new library for the purpose of facilitating future growth.

In preparation for this application, the library staff conducted a survey community wide to prioritize needs for the library. This survey was available throughout the entire month of February 2025. The survey was distributed to 65 community members, ***SCC*** students, and/or faculty. Survey respondents were asked how the library could be improved. The top responses were more community events/cultural events, additional space, book club, additional furnishings, quieter study areas, Chippewa/Cree Books, and Self-Help materials. Please see all results in the attached survey report titled "Supportingdoc1". We are designing this program in direct response to the needs identified in the survey.

Through demographic data, the community survey, and meetings held in preparation for this application, we identified the following needs:

Cultural Preservation and Awareness: The Chippewa Cree language is in decline and there is a need for dedicated space and resources to preserve our tribe's history, culture, and language. The survey indicated strong community interest in cultural workshops, events, and materials related to Chippewa Cree traditions and language as well as Chippewa Cree history books.

Community Engagement: Our reservation faces high unemployment rates and significant poverty levels. Social isolation is a concern due to the rural location of ***RBIR*** and a lack of community gathering spaces.

Access to Educational Resources: Educational attainment levels on ***RBIR*** are significantly lower than state and national averages. As the only public library on the reservation, the public library is a critical hub for literacy, education, and lifelong learning.

Access to Recreational and Educational Activities: Community members identified a need for more structured recreational and educational opportunities, including book clubs, cultural arts and crafts, and youth programs.

Mental Health Support: Community members identified a need for mental health tools, self-help resources, and a safe, welcoming space to support emotional well-being. With the increase in suicide ideation, suicide attempts, and completed suicides, our community is in dire need of mental health support.

Our project will also address the need for a central community gathering place that has a focus on literacy, education, and culture.

Our ***CLP*** aims achieve the overarching goal of the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant: to develop, enhance, or disseminate practices, programs, models, tools, or library staff training to strengthen library and archival services with Native American tribes. This will be achieved through objective one (1): serving the learning needs and interests of the community and through the following enhancements:

Enhance Literacy and Educational Access: The Rocky Boy Public Library is the only public library on the reservation. Limited educational resources and infrastructure contribute to low educational attainment rates. The project will provide enhanced periodicals, databases, and self-help materials to support lifelong learning.

Preserve and Promote Chippewa Cree Culture and Language: The Chippewa Cree language is in decline. The project will create a dedicated space ("Cree-ative Space") within the library for learning and exploring tribal history, culture, and language.

Improve Mental Health and Well-being: Social isolation, high poverty rates, and substance abuse contribute to mental health challenges. The library will offer a safe space for learning, creative expression, and community connection. Cultural arts and crafts, workshops, and individualized sessions within the Cree-ative Space will promote mental well-being.

Create a Central Community Gathering Space: There is no formal town center on the reservation, making the library one of the few places for community engagement. The project will expand library events and activities, monthly community and cultural events, summer reading programs, and cultural workshops.

Address Socioeconomic Barriers: Many community members cannot travel to the nearest off-reservation library in Havre, Montana (60-mile round trip). Expanding services at the Rocky Boy Public Library ensures access to educational and cultural resources.

Enhance Library Staffing and Facility Improvements: We will hire a Cultural Library Assistant (50% FTE) to support programming and services. The Cultural Library Assistant will oversee the Cree-ative Space and be responsible for supplies and activities related to this dedicated space.

*2. Who is the **primary audience** for your project and how have they been involved in the planning?*

The primary audience for the ***CLP*** is the community members of the ***RBIR***, including all enrolled members of the ***CCT.*** This project is designed to serve individuals of all ages by providing cultural, educational, and mental health resources through library programming. Over the course of the project, approximately (480) community members will participate in (12) community events, (30) individuals will engage in three cultural workshops, and (90) participants will take part in nine summer reading events.

Community members have been actively involved in the planning process by participating in surveys and providing direct feedback on the types of events and services they find most beneficial. Their input has helped shape programming priorities, including cultural workshops, expanded educational resources, and additional opportunities for engagement. Through their participation, the community has identified key needs such as Chippewa Cree language books, cultural events, and self-help materials. By incorporating this feedback, the project ensures that ***CLP*** programming aligns with the interests, traditions, and educational goals of the ***RBIR*** community.

Project Work Plan

1. What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence?

The Community Library Project (***CLP***) will address the overarching goal of the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant: to develop, enhance, or disseminate practices, programs, models, tools, or library staff training to strengthen library and archival services with Native American tribes. This will be achieved through objective one (1): serving the learning needs and interests of the community.

The ***CLP*** is designed to improve community awareness, cultural competence, and education on the ***RBIR***. The anticipated learning outcomes include an increase in cultural knowledge, as measured by library visits for cultural and language purposes; a rise in guest speakers and authors participating in community events; greater access to cultural archival material through Lyrasis DSpaceDirect Hosting; and improved mental well-being through the Cree-ative Space and self-help resources.

The project ***goal*** is, "*to enhance the available library services to all Rocky Boy community members."* To achieve this goal, the following measurable objectives have been developed:

Objective One: *During the project period of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, the CLP will promote mental well-being by increasing community programming, cultural events, and individualized sessions within the Cree-ative Space, thereby encouraging greater library engagement.* Success will be measured through the hiring of a part-time Cultural Library Assistant, participant sign-in sheets, event completion rates, increased library use, project records, participant surveys, and internal evaluations.

Objective Two: *During the same project period, the **CLP** will expand public access to cultural materials, community records, databases, and research resources*. This objective will be achieved by increasing the availability of cultural and archival materials, educational resources, and research tools.

To implement this project, twelve community events will be held, with six focusing on cultural education and selected by the newly hired Cultural Library Assistant. The remaining six events will center around book themes and holidays. Additionally, three one-day workshops will be offered, covering Ribbon Shirts/Ribbon Skirts, Regalia, and Beading—topics strongly recommended by community members in the recent survey. In July, summer reading events will take place every Tuesday and Thursday, following the theme "Unearth a Story" (dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology).

The Cree-ative Space will serve as a designated area within the library that fosters learning, creative expression, and community connection. Through cultural arts and crafts sessions, workshops, and individualized activities, the space will contribute to both cultural preservation and mental well-being.

These goals and objectives have been carefully designed to be efficient, effective, measurable, and reasonable. They will drive measurable improvements in library visits and use, access to cultural and language knowledge, community engagement, interest in historical archives, and mental well-being. The project will also increase awareness of and satisfaction with library resources while addressing the most pressing community needs.

To ensure community participation, all activities will be widely advertised through local schools, workplaces, and media outlets, including social media pages (library, ***SCC,*** and the Tribe's Facebook pages), and the local radio station, KHEW-88.5.

Key Activities for Objective One: Enhancing Community Programming

- Hire a part-time Cultural Library Assistant to lead cultural programming.
- Establish the Cree-ative Space within the library, focusing on Chippewa Cree language, history, and culture while supporting mental well-being.
- Collaborate with artists and cultural educators to host community events.
- Schedule and promote twelve community events, with at least six dedicated to cultural education.
- Organize appearances by Native American authors, artists, and speakers to engage the community.
- Host three one-day cultural workshops on Ribbon Shirts/Ribbon Skirts, Regalia, and Beading.
- Conduct summer reading events twice a week throughout July.

Key Activities for Objective Two: Expanding Access to Cultural and Educational Materials

- Maintain and update Lyrasis DSpaceDirect Hosting to provide digital access to archival materials.
- Work with Lyrasis technical support to continue migrating scanned historical records.
- Identify and subscribe to databases and periodicals relevant to the community's needs.
- Engage the Cultural Library Assistant and student volunteers in organizing and categorizing archival materials.
- Display traditional beadwork and cultural artifacts within the library.
- Promote awareness of archival collections and cultural resources to encourage community engagement.

A Schedule of Completion has been developed and is attached to this application to outline specific timeframes, assigned activities, and responsible personnel. The design and methodology of this project ensure that all activities will be completed on time and within budget. The expertise and commitment of project personnel will ensure the successful implementation of ***CLP*** activities and the achievement of project goals.

2. Who will execute each activity? Be sure to identify all key staff.

Mrs. Cory Sangrey-Billy, SCC President: Mrs. Sangrey-Billy is the ***SCC*** President and strongly supports all efforts of enhancing the public library. Mrs. Sangrey-Billy will devote 5% of her time as an in-kind contribution to the project to help with administrative duties. As President of the College, she administers many programs of similar size and scope and is well-prepared to administratively oversee the public library project. For a full overview of Mrs. Sangrey-Billy's relevant experience, please see her attached resume.

Ms. Joy Bridwell, SCC/Rocky Boy Public Libarian: Ms. Bridwell will contribute 25% of her time as Library Director to this project as an in-kind contribution. Her duties include: planning the acquisition, organization, maintenance, utilization and retention of materials and equipment in the library; supervising the library staff (including student volunteers); developing work schedules, authorizing time sheets, leave, and assignments; planning and implementing programs relating to the automation of the library operations; being responsible for resource sharing with the member libraries of the Western Library Network; working closely with the Dean of Academics, Faculty/Advisors, and Student Services Director; and documenting the circulation and inventories which are kept with an integrated library management system. In 2022, she was awarded the International Guardians of Culture and Lifeways Libraries Institutional Excellence Award from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums. For 6 years, she served as the Library Assistant, a role that has prepared her perfectly for her role as Library Director. Ms. Bridwell has been the Heald Libarian for 11 years now. For further details on her experience, please see her attached resume.

Cultural Library Assistant, To Be Hired: He/She will contribute 50% of their time as the Cultural Library Assistant to the project. Their duties will include, but not limited to, cataloging, labeling and shelving books; ordering library supplies; supervising student worker(s); answering the phone; cataloging magazines and newspapers; helping patrons to find the materials they need; serve as a mentor to library patrons; assist in the creation of Metadata; assisting with exhibit preparation and installation; assisting and supporting library staff in scanning and uploading historical archive documentation to Lyrasis DSpaceDirect Hosting; maintaining an extensive number of historical materials and documents in an organized manner; organizing and arranging archival and manuscript material in alphabetical, chronological, or other appropriate orders; maintain and care for the library's Cree-ative Space; plan and run cultural community events; plan and run cultural workshops; assist patrons who need materials located in the archive; assist patrons who need materials located in the Cree-ative Space; help purchase materials for cultural workshops; help locate instructors for cultural workshops; and work with cultural instructors to learn the skill to help pass on to patrons unable to attend workshops. They will work closely with the Library Director to implement the proposed program. For further details please see the attached position description.

3. *How have you involved stakeholders in the planning and development of the project and how will you incorporate their input throughout the project?*

Stakeholder involvement has been integral to the planning and development of the ***CLP***, ensuring that it reflects the needs, interests, and priorities of the ***RBIR*** community. Through surveys, meetings, and direct engagement with community members and leaders, we have actively sought input from those who will benefit from the project.

The Chippewa Cree Tribal Council, community leaders, educators, elders, youth, and local organizations have been engaged throughout the planning process. A key component of this engagement was a community-wide survey, conducted by library staff in February 2025, which helped identify priority areas for library improvements. The survey was distributed to 65 community members, ***SCC*** students and faculty, and their feedback played a crucial role in shaping the project's design. The survey responses highlighted a strong demand for cultural programming, mental health resources, and expanded educational opportunities. Additionally, in community meetings leading up to this application, stakeholders voiced the importance of a dedicated space for Chippewa Cree language, culture, and history, as well as more opportunities for community engagement and learning. These findings directly influenced the project's Cree-ative Space, cultural workshops, community events, and expanded access to cultural materials.

The ***SCC*** administration and library staff have also been instrumental in project planning, providing insight into how best to align the library's resources with the broader educational and cultural goals of the community. Throughout the project, we will continue to incorporate stakeholder input in several ways. Library staff will collect feedback from participants at each event, workshop, and summer reading session through surveys and informal discussions. This feedback will be used to adjust programming to better meet community needs. Once hired, the part-time Cultural Library Assistant will serve as a liaison between the library and the community, ensuring that programming reflects tribal traditions and values while addressing contemporary community needs.

Regular meetings with the Tribal Council, ***SCC*** administration, and community partners will ensure that the project remains aligned with broader community goals. The ***CLP*** will partner with artists, elders, and speakers to lead workshops and cultural programming. Their involvement will not only enrich the project but also provide intergenerational learning opportunities that strengthen cultural preservation efforts. Project updates, event schedules, and opportunities for community involvement will be shared through local schools, workplaces, social media, and the tribal radio station (KHEW-88.5).

By maintaining consistent dialogue with community members and stakeholders, the ***CLP*** will remain responsive, inclusive, and impactful, ensuring that it effectively meets the needs of the ***RBIR*** both now and into the future.

4. *What existing resources within the Tribe, assets within the library or community, and/or potential partners will you use during this project to aid in its success?*

The public library will serve as the central hub for all grant-funded activities, ensuring that resources are readily available to support the project's success. With an existing collection of books, cultural materials, and digital archives, the library provides a strong foundation for expanding access to educational and cultural resources.

Collaboration with the two local school districts will continue to ensure that the library's programs align with the educational needs of youth in the community. By working closely with educators, we can tailor our offerings to complement school curricula and provide additional learning opportunities outside the classroom.

The Tribal Elders Committee will play a crucial role in guiding the project's language and cultural components. Their expertise will ensure that all cultural programming remains true to Chippewa Cree traditions, values, and teachings. Elders will also serve as instructors during language and cultural events, helping to preserve and pass down knowledge to younger generations.

Local artisans will be recruited to lead workshops in subjects of interest to the community, such as beading, regalia-making, and ribbon skirt and ribbon shirt crafting. Their involvement will provide hands-on learning experiences that celebrate and sustain tribal artistry.

A student enrolled in the Teacher Training Program at ***SCC*** will be hired as the summer reading teacher, allowing us to support the development of future educators while also fostering literacy in the community.

Additionally, local elected leaders will continue to be involved, offering guidance and helping to secure additional resources when needed. Their support will ensure the project aligns with broader community goals and remains sustainable beyond the grant period. By leveraging these existing resources, partnerships, and community assets, the project will be well-positioned to achieve its objectives and make a lasting impact on the ***RBIR***.

5. How and with whom will you share you work's results and lessons learned?

The results and lessons learned from this project will be shared both within the community and beyond to benefit other tribal libraries, colleges, and institutions. A key component of this dissemination will be the continued expansion of our archive collections, which have been a long-term focus of our library. With support from this grant, we will consolidate and enhance these archives on a single digital platform, accessible through interactive interpretive kiosks. These resources will be open to the entire community, encouraging engagement with our language, traditions, stories, and culturally significant images.

The Library Director will play an active role in sharing project outcomes by networking with other tribal colleges, libraries, and grantees. Through professional connections, conferences, and collaborative discussions, we will share both successes and insights gained during project implementation. This will allow other institutions to learn from our experiences and adapt similar initiatives within their own communities.

Additionally, we will use local media, social media platforms, and community meetings, to provide updates and highlight key milestones. These efforts will ensure that the community remains informed about the progress of the project and has opportunities to provide ongoing feedback.

By making our findings accessible both digitally and through professional networks, we aim to contribute to broader discussions on cultural preservation, community engagement, and library-based education in tribal communities.

Project Results

1. What are your project's intended results and/or product(s), and how will they address the need, challenge, or opportunity you identified in the Project Justification section?

The intended results of this project are to enhance library services in a way that directly benefits community members by fostering cultural preservation, expanding educational opportunities, and promoting personal growth. By strengthening community members' knowledge and appreciation of Chippewa Cree heritage, the project will help address the decline of the language and ensure that cultural traditions remain accessible to future generations. The inclusion of innovative technology, such as archiving software and interactive interpretive kiosks, will provide greater access to historical and cultural materials, making learning more engaging and dynamic.

This project will also encourage an early interest in literacy and libraries among young community members through summer reading events, cultural workshops, and interactive programming. By creating a welcoming and resource-rich environment, the library will serve as a hub for education, connection, and self-improvement. These efforts will address the challenges of geographic and social isolation, low educational attainment levels, and limited access to cultural and mental health resources. Ultimately, the project will provide the tools necessary for community members to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and sense of cultural identity while fostering lifelong learning.

2. *How do you define success for this project, and how will it be evaluated?*

Success for this project will be defined by the extent to which it enhances cultural awareness, community engagement, and access to educational resources within the ***RBIR***. The project aims to create meaningful opportunities for learning and cultural preservation while increasing overall library use and engagement and promoting mental well-being.

Key intended results include the introduction of individualized and group presentations on cultural teachings within the Cree-ative space, the hosting of community events and cultural workshops, the facilitation of summer reading events, and the expansion of periodicals, databases, and subscriptions for library patrons. Additionally, the project will strengthen the library's archive collections through the use of archiving software, ensuring greater access to historical and cultural materials. Increased community knowledge of the library and its offerings will be measured through participation in events, workshops, and reading programs.

To evaluate success, performance measurements will include a 10% increase in library visits, a 15% rise in visitors seeking cultural and language resources, a 20% improvement in community awareness of available information resources, and a 20% reduction in the perceived lack of resources. These outcomes will be tracked using participant sign-in sheets, library usage records, project documentation, participant surveys, and internal evaluations. By systematically measuring these indicators, we will ensure the project is achieving its goals and making a lasting impact on the community.

3. *How will you disseminate the results (deliverables, lessons learned, etc.) of the project to the primary audience?*

We will disseminate the results of our project to the primary audience through various communication channels to ensure accessibility and engagement. Information will be shared through the social media platforms such as the library's, ***SCC's***, the Tribe's Facebook pages, and the local radio station (KHEW-88.5). Updates on project activities, successes, and lessons learned will also be presented at community meetings, Tribal Council sessions, and school district gatherings to keep stakeholders informed and involved.

Additionally, results will be showcased within the library itself through interactive displays, digital archive collections, and interpretive kiosks, allowing community members to engage directly with project outcomes. Surveys and feedback from participants will be used to assess the impact of the project, and this data will be compiled into reports that will be made available to the community and shared with other tribal libraries and educational institutions to promote best practices and future collaboration.

4. *How will you sustain the benefit(s) of your project beyond the conclusion of the period of performance?*

Project sustainability is a primary consideration of ***SCC***. This project's objectives are designed to be completed or self-sustaining by the end of the project period. We have created the following long-term sustainability strategies: 1) ***SCC*** and ***CCT*** will assume project responsibility beyond the funding period. This includes providing social and economic support and resources so that the library can continue to contribute to and support the services offered; 2) Beyond the funding period, ***SCC*** and ***CCT*** will leverage this program's proven track record to generate funding from national, regional, and local agencies and foundations to expand and share this valuable community resource, and 3) To ensure this project's quality and functionality, it includes the modification of delivery strategies based upon qualitative and quantitative internal evaluations, as set forth above. The project will have sustainable, on-going benefits for our community. These efforts will result in improvements in library visits and use, interest in and access to cultural/language knowledge, diversification in digital media use, increased community awareness of important issues, and increased satisfaction with library facilities. It will address our community awareness, cultural competence, and educational needs – thereby, preserving the strength and vitality of our community for future generations.

Our community members strongly support the library. This buy-in is reflected in the attached surveys. It has taken many years to build excitement and education about what the library offers. The library staff have worked tirelessly to build this trust and commitment from the community members and with this funding will continue to build on that relationship.

SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION **Legend:** College President: CP, Library Director: LD, Cultural Library Assistant: CLA, Artist/Craftsmen A/C, Student Volunteers (SV), and Summer Reading Teacher (SRT).				
Timeframe	**Goal(s)**	**Activities**	**Completion**	**Responsible**
Month 1	1	Negotiate and finalize grant award.	Month 2	CP, LD
Month 1	1	Orientate all project staff to programmatic design, including purpose, goals, activities, and expected results.	Month 2	CP, LD, CLA
Months 1-2	1	Purchase and renew software, databases, periodicals, and interactive interpretive kiosks.	Month 2	LD, CLA
Months 1-12	1	Maintain collection of memberships and consortia for community use.	Month 12	LD, CLA
Months 2-12	1	Migrate archive materials to Lyrasis DSpaceDirect Hosting. DSpaceDirect hosting program setup, upload content to DSpace, and deploy interactive interpretive kiosks.	Month 12	LD, CLA, SV
Month 2	1	Create and main Cree-ative Space. Hold individualized sessions with themes such as Chippewa Cree Culture to promote mental well-being.	Month	LD, CLA,
Months 2-12	1	Create print ads and radio advertisements for the community announcements and KHEW radio station.	Month 12	LD, CLA
Months 1-12	1	Hold Library Community Event Nights for all community members, six will have a cultural focus.	Month 12	LD, CLA
Months 8-12	1	Host three cultural workshops with local craftsmen/women.	Month 10	LD, CLA, A/C
Months 10-11	1	Host nine summer reading events every Tuesday and Thursday in July.	Month 12	LD, CLA, SRT
Months 1-12	1	Travel to IMLS Designated ATALM Conference.	Month 12	LD, CLA
Months 6-12	1	Travel to Chicago, IL to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference.	Month 12	LD
Months 2-12	1	Formative internal evaluations and monitoring.	Month 12; Ongoing	CP, LD, CLA
Months 2-12	1	All required performance and financial reports will be developed and submitted on time and in good order.	Month 12; Ongoing	CP, LD, CLA
Months 1-12	1	All documentation required to close out the grant will be submitted on time and in good order.	Month 12	CP, LD, CLA