



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259234-OLS-25

Native Village of Afognak

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$149,558

The Native Village of Afognak will improve collection stewardship and digital access while prioritizing the preservation of existing historical, linguistic, cultural and Tribal documents. The Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library houses a rich collection of resources, many of which have not been properly archived, including irreplaceable Afognak genealogy, oral history from Ancestors, Alutiiq language sessions, and photographs of the Afognak Village that was destroyed in 1964 Great Earthquake. The purpose of this project is to prioritize the preservation of these types of materials through digital archiving methods. To ensure their safekeeping and accessibility, project leads will archive these valuable resources in multiple formats and locations. These efforts will ensure that the materials are preserved for future generations.

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

The Native Village of Afognak (NVA) is a federally recognized tribe, one of ten Alutiiq tribes in the Kodiak Archipelago. Based on ANCSA regional shareholder counts, there were roughly 3,400 Alutiiq Shareholders in the Kodiak Archipelago at the time our regional corporation was incorporated in 1972. Today, there are over 4,500 shareholders and registered descendants overall and of that, over 900 Shareholders residing in the Kodiak Region. (Koniag, Inc.; 2024) These are the intended beneficiaries of our project along with the 858 enrolled Tribal Members of NVA.

The Alutiiq people of Kodiak historically resided in large coastal communities scattered throughout the archipelago, bound together by a shared language and a way of life and centered around traditional practices of hunting, gathering, and fishing. Archaeological evidence reveals that Alaska Natives have inhabited the Kodiak Archipelago for approximately 7,500 to 8,000 years. Around 2,500 years ago, NVA's ancestors established permanent settlement in the village of Ag'waneq on Afognak Island. This village, situated 20 miles north of Kodiak Island, remained home to members of the tribe until the devastating 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami. The catastrophe destroyed the village of Afognak, displacing its inhabitants. Today, most of the tribe's members reside and work in the city of Kodiak, remote villages within the archipelago, Anchorage, Seattle, and various locations across the lower 48 states. Those who remain in the Kodiak Archipelago are among the approximately 2,500 Alaska Natives who continue to live in the region, preserving a unified culture.



Kodiak Island, the largest island in Alaska and the second largest in the United States, spans an impressive 5,000 square miles. Within this area lies the rural-designated City of Kodiak, which had a population of approximately 13,500 according to the 2017 census. The island also hosts the nation's largest Coast Guard base and six active Native villages—Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions—each home to 40 to 260 residents. Collectively, the Borough had a population of 13,101 residents according to the 2020 Census. The city serves as the region's hub for economic activity, transportation, and governance.

Over half of the Kodiak Native population resides in the City of Kodiak, represented by three town-based tribes: the Native Village of Afognak, Tangirnaq Native Village, and Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. Communities on Kodiak Island face relative isolation, with travel between Kodiak and its villages limited to planes or boats, contingent upon weather conditions, as there are no roads connecting the city to the villages.

The Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library (NMAHL) is a longstanding program of NVA. The mission of the NMAHL is to serve as a bridge between the past and the future. The library houses a rich collection of resources dedicated to Alaska Native and American Indian culture, serving both Tribal Members and the surrounding communities. Its holdings include materials related to Tribal programs, Alutiiq culture, Afognak and Alaska history, Afognak genealogy, and additional topics requested by Tribal Members. The NMAHL will serve as the lead department in fulfilling the goals of this project.

Circa 2012, NVA worked with contractors to establish a centralized storehouse of Alutiiq language educational resources, launching the website www.alutiqlanguage.org – *Liicugtukut Alutiit'stun* meaning “we want to learn Alutiiq”. This website is home to curriculum, materials, dictionary, songs, classes, and history, was designed to provide a single location to access all things Alutiiq. NVA continues to manage and maintain the site for our community.

NARRATIVE

Agency-Level Goal 3: Advance Collections Stewardship and Access – **3.1** Support Collections care and management | **3.2** Promote access to museum and library collections.

NAE Program Goal: Objective 3 – Provide access to and preservation of information and collections.

Project Justification

Needs Statement: The Native Village of Afognak Tribal Governance (Supportingdoc1.pdf) establishes the Organization's guiding directives. This Tribal Library project supports the Culture and Heritage Ends Policy and the Sense of Community Ends Policy and will bring the Tribe in compliance with the Asset Protection Policy.

Preservation and promotion of cultural knowledge and history are essential for maintaining the identity and resilience of the Afognak people and community. Many of our traditions, stories, language, and practices are at risk of being lost due to the impacts of displacement, modernization, and the passing of Elders who hold valuable knowledge. There are no longer any living first language speakers of the Northern Accent of Alutiiq language, making our digital resources in our collection of extreme importance. Our community faces limited access to resources connecting us to our rich cultural heritage and language, leading to a disconnect from the customs and values that make up who we are as Alutiiq people.

The Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library serves as a bridge between the past and the future of the Afognak people. The library houses a rich collection of resources dedicated to serving Tribal Members, Kodiak patrons, and the surrounding villages. The library holds many valuable resources that have not been properly documented or archived, including irreplaceable Afognak genealogy, oral history from Ancestors, Alutiiq language sessions, and photographs of the Afognak Village that was destroyed in 1964 Great Earthquake. Many resources are available on our outdated website, with antiquated formatting and minimal site management ability by staff (Supportingdoc2.pdf). Over a decade ago, NVA digitized audio tapes from 1960s-early 2000s through a grant from the National Park Service. These recordings are available on our website to listen or download, with little information about the speakers, date, topics of conversation, or even the language spoken. We also have a number of photo collections on our website, which need to be better documented and searchable. Through this project, the Library Manager will document the metadata in a spreadsheet and make the information available on our website. Redesigning the website is necessary to make resources organized and accessible to our target audience.

Sharing the stories of our connection to the Afognak Village and our connection to our Elders is core to the identity of the Alutiiq People of Afognak. The book, *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* book, a vital cultural resource with an accompanying STEM curriculum, is a resource that achieves this goal. The book and curriculum need a second edition publication to revise Alutiiq word spelling, be made available and archived digitally, and add audio for pronunciation guides to digital resources.

The Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library lacks staffing to efficiently carry out daily operations, develop effective programs and services, and monitor program success. The existing NVA website offers access to some library resources but lacks descriptions of the resources and

makes finding them challenging. The Nadia Mullan Alutiiq Heritage Library holds decades of photographs that visually document the village of Afognak and more than twenty years of our culture camp, Dig Afognak. In our collection, many resources remain to be digitized. In addition to those listed above, we have church records of our genealogy of our Tribal Members, historical documentation of the Afognak Village and Alutiiq history. Our collection of vital genealogy records is used to determine Tribal Membership eligibility and document the rich heritage and connections within our tribal community. These records represent more than data, they are threads of our collective history, cultural identity, and ancestral legacy making the preservation of these documents of the utmost importance.

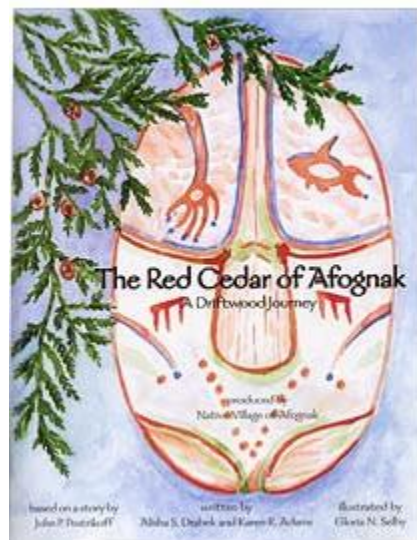
To address this critical need to preserve our culture, it is imperative to staff our library and to promote, increase access and preserve our existing collections that document, share and celebrate our Alutiiq language, cultural and Afognak history. Additionally, our library is in our primary conference room of the Tribal Office, making the library inaccessible to our target audience during meetings of staff and council. Moving the Library to a more open space is vital to increasing access and visibility. By increasing access to our archive, we foster intergenerational connections and ensure that the wisdom of our Ancestors continues to guide and inspire future generations.

Project Purpose: The purpose of this project is to improve collection stewardship and digital access while prioritizing the preservation of existing historical, linguistic, cultural and Tribal documents. The Library Manager will also revitalize the library in its physical location by repositioning the library within the tribal office to create a welcoming space for community members to access the library. The project primarily seeks to bridge the digital gap and promote equitable access to cultural information in a space that reflects and serves the identity of the Alutiiq people. This initiative will empower individuals within the Tribal community to successfully navigate, utilize, and benefit from access to digital resources.

The Native Village of Afognak is committed to safeguarding historical cultural documents, oral histories, Alutiiq language, and educational materials through digital archiving methods. This initiative ensures that the stories, traditions, and knowledge recorded in these materials are preserved for our future generations. By merging digital efforts with cultural preservation, this project aims to honor our Alutiiq heritage while equipping the Tribe and community to thrive in the digital world. To ensure their safekeeping and accessibility we will archive these valuable resources in multiple formats and locations.

In 2004, the Native Village of Afognak published and developed a science and culture curriculum based on the book *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* written by Tribal

Member Alisha Drabek and dendrologist Karen Adams. This book is beautifully illustrated with original watercolors by Tribal Member, Gloria Selby. This children's book is about a grandfather and his grandsons who try to solve a mystery of a giant cedar log that has come to rest on their Island, where red cedar trees do not grow and is based on a story that was often told by an Alutiiq Elder, J.P. Pestrikoff who has since passed. The original project was funded through the Administration for Native Americans grant and teaches about Alutiiq history and language and introduces children to the role of the environment in the Native culture. The curriculum includes science lessons about earthquakes, tsunamis, tides and currents, as well as lessons about the Alutiiq culture.



Recently, NVA has been receiving requests for copies of *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* as it is a required text for teacher education courses at the University of Alaska. When the book was published over 20 years ago, there were limited copies to go around, and the curriculum was made available digitally, but not in a printable format. With NVA having first print copyrights to the book, we recently met with the author to discuss potential edits to improve the quality, the curriculum, create an eBook version, and purchase additional copies for free Second Edition distribution.

Target Audience & Primary Beneficiaries: The Alutiiq of the Koniag region are our primary beneficiaries. This includes all Tribal Members who belong to one of the ten federally recognized Tribes or local Regional or Village corporations. By focusing on this group, we acknowledge the vital role each plays as stewards of our shared history and culture. We also recognize the importance of educating our non-native community members and remain open to all who want to learn from our library. Our digitization of materials will make our resources available to the public, accessible from anywhere in the world.

Project Workplan

Goals & Objectives:

Goal 1 – Recruit and hire a Library Manager to oversee the development and implementation of library services.

Objective 1: Hire a dedicated individual to oversee project development and implementation of goals and objectives.

Objective 2: Develop and implement systems to monitor and assess project outcomes.

Objective 3: Attend mandatory IMLS-designated meeting.

Objective 4: Attend 2025 ATALM Conference to learn about collection care and management.

Objective 5: Evaluate project effectiveness by developing, administering, and analyzing results of pre and post surveys for performance measurement, and tracking library use.

Objective 6: Review progress and compliance at monthly meetings with TA and quarterly program meetings with our Grants Manager, and Finance Director.

Goal 2 – Tribal and Community members will have access to resources to engage with the history, identity and culture of the Alutiiq people and memory of the Afognak Village experience.

Objective 1: Reconfigure existing library space to make it more user friendly.

Objective 2: Purchase furnishings that support a comfortable and inviting experience.

Objective 3: Purchase tangible art and décor that reflect the Alutiiq culture.

Objective 4: Contract with the Alutiiq Museum to republish *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* book and accompanying STEM curriculum.

Objective 5: Produce a Second Edition and republish *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* and accompanying STEM curriculum.

Objective 6: Create eBook of *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey*.

Objective 7: Contract with Tech Dispatch to redesign existing website www.afognak.org to be more user-friendly, integrate accessibility to our resources, and increase site security.

Objective 8: Populate the new website with digitized documents and appropriate metadata for digital resources.

Objective 9: Create and share messaging about website updates and new resources through social media and post cards.

Goal 3 – Enhance physical and digital collections stewardship to ensure access to Alutiiq language and cultural resources for future generations through digital preservation and accessibility.

Objective 1: Ensure all library materials are recorded in Digital Library Inventory.

Objective 2: Scan materials to be archived and made available online.

Objective 3: Add digitized materials to inventory with appropriate metadata.

Objective 4: Purchase archival materials and transfer original documents and tapes to long term, safe storage.

Objective 5: Outreach to Tribal Members and community partners for assistance in collecting metadata on recordings and other materials.

Objective 6: Conduct research on the resources in the library's inventory by collaborating with the Alutiiq Museum, and listening to recordings to document language, topics of discussion, participants, and other relevant notes.

Objective 7: Create an archive of files created under this award, to include all digital media produced by the grant, and original copies of materials to archive at the Alutiiq Museum.

Strategies & Implementation: The Native Village of Afognak will collaborate closely with the Library Manager, administrative staff, the Alutiiq Museum, and Tech Dispatch to effectively achieve the goals and objectives of this project.

To begin, our focus will be on recruiting and hiring a Library Manager and clearly communicating the project's intended goals and objectives. Both the Library Manager and Tribal Administrator will attend the 2025 ATALM Conference in Cherokee, NC, to expand their knowledge in archive development, program creation, collections care, and to establish valuable professional connections.

In implementing these strategies, the Library Manager will create a welcoming space and ensure the acquisition of essential equipment, including scanners, computers, laptops or tablets, digitization software, and database development tools to enhance user experiences. The Native Village of Afognak will secure two professional service contracts, one with the Alutiiq Museum and another with Tech Dispatch. The Alutiiq Museum will support efforts to develop the Second Edition of *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* and curriculum. Their services will include creating an eBook version, adding pronunciation guides in the form of soundbites to Alutiiq words, and establishing a project archive within the museum. Tech Dispatch will provide

expertise in updating and enhancing our website, helping with any technology-related issues we come across.

The Library Manager will oversee daily operations, establish systems to monitor and evaluate project outcomes, and organize inventory. Simultaneously, the Library Manager will develop a digital library inventory to include print and digital resources. Additional activities will include digital archiving, procuring educational artwork, and assisting with website redesign by uploading resources and data, ensuring effective promotion of the library and its resources.

The contract with the Alutiiq Museum will leverage their extensive expertise in publishing cultural materials as described in their Letter of Commitment. A summary of their contracted services will include revising the original presentation of *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey*, incorporating author-suggested content, correcting minor errors, and formatting and publishing the existing curriculum material for educators, and producing an eBook version of the publication with enhanced accessibility features.

Meanwhile, the Native Village of Afognak will continue its partnership with Tech Dispatch, a trusted collaborator with years of successful IT experience. Their role will be to redesign and optimize the website with improved navigation, clean webpage design, integrated audio features, mailing list management tools, event registration functionalities for events, and an increase accessibility of digital library resources.

This structured approach ensures the project will achieve its goals while enriching the community's access to cultural resources.

Resources Needed: This project will require a Library Manager to execute project goals and objectives. The Native Village of Afognak will provide administrative support to include NVA's Finance Director, Grants Manager, and Tribal Administrator to monitor grant activities and spending throughout the performance period. Additionally, the project will require contract labor to include professional services from the Alutiiq Museum for republishing *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* book and IT services from Tech Dispatch to improve our existing website.

Leveraged Resources: The Native Village of Afognak is the recipient of U.S. Treasury Capital Funds Project funding that supports access to broadband and technology, purchasing devices for public use, facilities improvements to support education and employment, and expanding program space for the Tribal Library, after-school programs, and cultural activities. Moreover, having an existing library and established collection of cultural materials within the Tribe is a strong foundation for building our capacity to expand our services and ensure stability and continuity in preserving and sharing cultural knowledge and resources. Additionally, the existing Tribal staff's knowledge and experience can support the project's implementation. Should the Tribe be successful in an award for the FY25-26 IMLS Basic Grant, the Native Village of Afognak will supplement 4 hours per week of the Library Manager's time with this budget, resulting in a total of 40 hours per week for this position. The cost of maintaining the Afognak.org website and necessary plugins for library materials will be covered by other NVA grants and operating funds and reported as in-kind costs.

Risks & Mitigation: This project is well-established, benefiting from existing space for library enhancement and a robust collection of cultural materials. The primary challenge lies in recruiting a Library Manager, considering the limited workforce within our community. However, this potential risk can be mitigated by hiring a contractor to assist with tasks, and delegating some responsibilities to existing staff, ensuring that all project objectives are achieved within the performance period. We would onboard a contractor to lead the goal three objectives and to assist with populating the new website. The initial layout and setup can be completed by our Facilities Manager and the procurement of furnishings, equipment, and cultural art can be accomplished by our Office Coordinator.

Project Results

Sharing Work Results: 200 copies of the Second Edition of *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* and supporting curriculum will be printed to distribute to our respective Tribes, corporations, schools in the Alutiiq region, and the Alutiiq Museum. Additional copies of the book will be purchased by the Tribe to offer for sale at the Alutiiq Boutique and various bookstores across the state. The newly created eBook will allow for widespread distribution reaching beyond the region while the downloadable version will allow for easy and quick access to anyone.

Promotion of the website updates will include videos, social media posts, and postcards to our members to encourage use of the resources.

Success Indicators:

Collections care and management

- Full-time staffing of the library
- Archival storage for physical and digital resources
- Inventory completion
- Digitization of collections

Access to museum and library collections

- Increased visitors and patrons from effective promotion
- Positive verbal, written and survey feedback on ease of use and satisfaction with services
- Effective promotion of services and cultural resources
- Enhanced facility to include user-friendly space and educational environment
- Increased capacity for website management by Tribal staff

Access to and preservation of information and collections

- Increased searches and downloads from the website
- Completed digitization of fragile documents and backups in place
- Archived materials for safekeeping
- Active participation from elders, youth, Tribal Members, shareholders, and descendants
- Increased requests for *The Red Cedar of Afognak: A Driftwood Journey* from students and teachers
- Locatable digital collections of original resources available worldwide on our website

Sustainability Plan:

Our sustainability plan ensures long-term access to cultural materials, maintaining enhanced library services, and continuing digital literacy and equitable access to Tribal archives for the community.

The Native Village of Afognak will prioritize gathering regular feedback from those participating in and utilizing our services and collections. We will conduct regular program reviews to evaluate our services and confirm that they address the needs of our patrons and the Tribal community. Providing continuous training opportunities for library and Tribal staff to build knowledge in collections care, management, and programming will be of top priority. Including Tribal staff in training opportunities in these areas is critical to maintaining operations and ensure succession.

The Native Village of Afognak will continue to seek and apply for funding opportunities from local, state, federal, and private foundations that will aid in the advancement of our goals. We will continue to build partnerships with organizations doing similar work. We are committed to maintaining part-time staffing for the library beyond the duration of this grant, drawing on various unrestricted Tribal funds to ensure continuity and support for this program.

The digital database will be regularly monitored and maintained to incorporate new materials and educational artwork, ensuring it remains relevant. All digital resources and original resources under the scope of this grant will be archived at the Alutiiq Museum through their long-term loan program, saved in archival quality storage, and backed up on our server for safekeeping. To further advance our program, cultural activities and language curricula will be integrated into our services, using our preserved collections as a foundation for future workshops, events, and community activities.

SCHEDULE OF COMPLETION – Year 1: 2005-2026

Activity	Staff	Month
Recruit & hire a dedicated individual to oversee project development & implementation of goals & objectives	TA	Sept
Contract with the Alutiiq Museum to republish The Red Cedar of Afognak book and accompanying curriculum	TA	Sept
Develop & implement systems to monitor and assess project outcomes	TA & LM	Sept-Oct
Reconfigure existing library space to make it more user friendly	LM	Sept-Oct
Purchase furnishings that support a comfortable and inviting experience	LM	Sept-Oct
Purchase tangible art and décor that reflect the Alutiiq culture	LM	Sept-Oct
Purchase archival materials and transfer original documents and tapes to long-term safe storage	LM	Sept-Oct
Contract with Tech Dispatch to redesign existing website www.afognak.org, with regular check-ins throughout the process	TA & TD	Sept-Mar
Monitor grant activity to ensure we are meeting the goals & objectives of the project	TA & GM	Sept-Aug
Scan materials to be archived and made available online	LM	Sept-Aug
Library materials & resources recorded in Digital Library Inventory	LM	Sept-Aug
Create & promote messaging about available resources	LM	Sept-Aug
Add digitized materials to inventory with appropriate metadata	LM	Sept-Aug
Attend 2025 ATALM Conference to learn about collections care & management	TA & LM	Oct
Produce a Second Edition and republish The Red Cedar of Afognak and accompany curriculum	AM	Oct-Jan
Outreach to Tribal members and community partners for assistance in collecting metadata on recordings & other materials	LM	Nov-Aug
Conduct research on the resources in the library's inventory by collaborating with the Alutiiq Museum, and listening to recordings to document language, topics of discussion, participants, and other relevant notes	LM	Nov-Aug
Populate the new website with digitized documents and appropriate metadata for digital resources	LM	Dec-Aug
Create eBook of The Red Cedar of Afognak	AM	Feb-April
Create and share advertising and messaging about <i>Red Cedar of Afognak</i> digital publishing	LM	May-June
Create an archive of files created under this award to include all digital media produced by the grant, and some original copies of materials to archive at the Alutiiq Museum	LM	May-Aug
Print and distribute <i>Red Cedar of Afognak</i> books and curriculum	LM	June-Aug
Prepare Performance Narratives	GM	As required
Perform payroll functions, accounts payable & receivable, and prepare grant financial reports	FM	Bi-weekly
Prepare grant reimbursement requests	FM	Monthly
Conduct drawdowns	TA	Monthly
Attend mandatory IMLS-designated meeting	LM	TBD

Key Staff: TA=Tribal Administrator, GM=Grants Manager, LM=Library Manager, FM=Finance Manager, TD=Tech Dispatch, AM=Alutiiq Museum Staff