



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259235-OLS-25

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$118,545

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians will address educational and communal needs through youth and adult reading and writing clubs as well as family cultural activities. The goal is to provide safe, family-centered events to members of the Bad River community, centered on education. The project's book clubs and writing clubs will serve youth and adults, and the project will also feature a youth summer reading challenge. Through community surveys, discussions, and observations, project leads will evaluate and rework aspects of the project to better serve the community.

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.

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Bad River) is located on a 125,000+ acre reservation in rural northern Wisconsin along 36 miles of the Lake Superior Shoreline, which was officially ceded by the Treaty of 1842. The Chippewa Indians of present-day Wisconsin are descendants of northern Algonquian people who originally lived north of lakes Superior and Huron. Today, the reservation sits in both Ashland and Iron Counties – but primarily Ashland County. Ashland County has a population of 15,500, of which, 11.6% are American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN). Bad River has 8,236 enrolled tribal members and the reservation is home to approximately 2,356 people. Even though the tribe is remote, Bad River is considered the largest employer in Ashland County with approximately 473 employees.

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians operates as a governmental entity that serves tribal members through the Tribal Council, a governing body of elected tribally enrolled members. The Tribal Council is composed of seven officers, a Tribal Chairman, a Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, two Senior Council Members, and one Junior Council member. The elections are staggered two-year terms, and each officer serves a two-year term. As members of the Tribal Council, the Chairman and Treasurer are full-time employees to ensure day-to-day management of the tribal government, tribal enterprises, and tribal programs. They are guided by the following mission statement enacted in 1996.

Tribal Mission Statement

“To work toward a more progressive, financially stable government, to maintain tribal sovereignty, and enable members to progress individually, toward a more fulfilling life culturally, spiritually, and economically.”

The Tribal Mission Statement is listed in the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians Strategic Plan, approved by the Bad River Tribal Council 5/24/18.

The Bad River Tribal Library closed in 2016 and has since been reopened. In December of 2022, the Library Coordinator position was filled, and business hours were established solely for checking out books. The Library Coordinator has since reorganized and rebuilt the library in a new, updated space. With the funds from the previous NAG IMLS grant, the Library Coordinator was able to provide programming to youth and adults in the Bad River community, as well as achieve full-time hours and salary. The Library Coordinator is responsible for the creation and upkeep of the library collection and all programming, while working in conjunction with the Education Director, Stephanie Julian.

Project Justification

The goal of the Bad River Tribal Library Programming Project falls in line with the second IMLS goal: To “improve community well-being.” Specifically, the project will be focused on identifying educational and communal needs and addressing them through youth and adult reading and writing clubs, and family cultural activities.

Information was gathered through the Education Director of the Bad River Tribe, Stephanie Julian. K-5 test scores in reading, writing, and math as well as behavioral data points were retrieved from the School District of Ashland. The need for positive educational programming in the Bad River community is high to both address educational and behavioral deficits. The Bad River community also has a higher level of socio-economic disadvantages than neighboring communities. The Bad River Tribe declared with the United States Federal Government a state of emergency due to the opioid crisis in 2020. Offering safe opportunities for children, adults, and families to interact with their community is a top priority in the project.

The primary audiences for the project are two-fold. The first audience is Bad River elementary students, grades K-5. The number of children in this group is roughly 500. The second audience is adult members of the Bad River community. The number of people in this group is roughly 800. The ultimate beneficiaries for this project are the youth (grades K-5) and adults in the Bad River community. The total number of individuals within the beneficiary group is roughly 1,300. The characteristics of the K-5 group are students who will benefit from added exposure to literature and reading, and who may need assistance with reading and writing skills. The characteristics of the adult group are those who would benefit from assistance with literacy and employment preparation.

Project Work Plan

The activities in the project include part-time hours for the Library Coordinator for two years, a K-5 summer reading challenge, and adult book and writing clubs. The Library Coordinator hours will be part-time, Monday-Friday from September 1st, 2025 - August 31st, 2027. Each June, the summer reading challenge will begin, and it will conclude on August 31st of the same year, for two years. Book and writing clubs for adults will be held monthly starting

in September of 2025 through August 2027, at which point the project will continue with future funding. These book and writing clubs have been running since the previous NAG Enhancement grant started on September 1st, 2023. They have been extremely successful in both participation and community interest and will continue.

The risks to the project are primarily engagement related. If members of the community are not engaged in the project like it is anticipated they will be, the library coordinator will work to alter programming to better suit the community's needs.

The library coordinator will be the primary person to plan, implement, and manage the project. The Bad River Tribal Library is under the umbrella of the Bad River Education Department. The Education Director, Stephanie Julian, will continue to work in conjunction with the Library Coordinator to implement and manage the project. As the project continues, volunteer opportunities will become available to members of the Bad River community and surrounding communities.

The library coordinator is currently part-time (20 hours/week). IMLS funding is crucial for the creation of programs and sustaining the level of programming desired. The library coordinator currently acts as the library director, head (and only) librarian, the children, teen, and adult programming director, social media manager, and library page, among other duties.

To retain the library coordinator in this position, grant funding is imperative. The Bad River Tribal Council will be made aware of the project's findings and what is learned about the community. This information will be shared with the Education Director, Stephanie Julian. General data will also be shared with the Bad River community. As well as sharing the projects findings, the Bad River Accounting Department will monitor and manage the IMLS grant funding.

Project Results

The project's intended results will be the continued interest, engagement, and education for members in the Bad River community. The project will address educational needs for K-5 children, as well as adults. The project will provide educational opportunities for both target groups that are enriching and ongoing.

The knowledge, skills, and behaviors of the target groups in the Bad River community will grow and improve. For the K-5 group, children will receive continued exposure to fun, educational programming and continued library operating hours. They will receive opportunities to engage with their families and community in positive, enriching ways. The adult audience will also receive continued exposure to growth opportunities through different facets of the project. This will aid them in their pursuit of employment and exposure to creative outlets and literature.

Tangible products that will result from this project include the writing generated in the various writing clubs, new books, a safe and welcoming community space, and prizes for the summer reading challenge. While there are tangible products, it is in the intangible that the greatest benefit will come. The love of reading, educational opportunities, and cultural, community growth are what will define this project above all else.

The future of the project will require further grant funding. The Library Coordinator position is a fully grant-funded position and will likely remain that way for the next 2-5 years. All library programming is also grant-funded. Continued applications to various grants including the IMLS Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums grants, and the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians Schedule of Completion

2025-2026

Adult Writing Club September 1st 2025 – August 31st 2026

Adult Reading Club September 1st 2025 – August 31st 2026

Summer Reading Challenge September 1st 2025 – August 31st 2026

Monthly Family Nights September 1st 2025 – August 31st 2026

2026-2027

Adult Writing Club September 1st 2026 – August 31st 2027

Adult Reading Club September 1st 2026 – August 31st 2027

Summer Reading Challenge September 1st 2026 – August 31st 2027

Monthly Family Nights September 1st 2026 – August 31st 2027