



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259264-OLS-25

Nez Perce Tribe

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$149,401

The Nez Perce Tribe will build capacity for its tribal library to better serve both staff and the public, including tribal members who are reconnecting and want to learn about their Nez Perce culture and language. The project will add new bookcases and literature, offer educational programs for all ages, collect and document oral histories, and support cultural practitioners and scholars. The library will host monthly workshops in Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah, where participants can learn traditional art, gain Nez Perce language instruction, and share cultural experiences. Elders and traditional experts will share their knowledge and wisdom, which will provide a multi-generational experience.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Narrative

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.



Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants
Nez Perce Tribe Economic & Community Development, Library Project
PO Box 365, Lapwai, ID. 83540
(208) 843-2253
POC: Harry Slickpoo & Ann McCormack

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

“Enhancing the Hitéemenwees Library”

1) PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The IMLS program goals and objectives that this project will focus on are:

Goal 2: Improve educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users.

Objective 2.1: Support the identification of the needs and interests of learners.

Objective 2.2: Support the development and implementation of classes, events, teaching tools, resources, and other educational services.

Objective 2.3: Support the evaluative assessment of library-based approaches to teaching and facilitation.

NEED:

The Nez Perce Tribe currently lacks a permanent location for its small library, which is presently housed in the Boards and Commissions building and is open for limited hours.

PROBLEM:

Given the high poverty rate on the Nez Perce reservation and the Tribe's prioritization of education, it is essential to build capacity for a tribal library. This library will facilitate the sharing of information on Nez Perce culture, health and wellness, and education. Additionally, several articles highlight the positive impact of rural libraries on socio-economic factors, including health and education.¹

Target group for proposed project and how have they been involved in the planning?

¹ ResearchGate “Rural Library and Its benefit on Socio-Economic Development: Bibliometrics and Systematic Literature Review Analysis Based on SCOPUS database. January 2022

The library will serve the Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah areas, and has the potential to make a meaningful impact on a significant number of Tribal community members across various age groups and roles within the community. There is a tribal community saying, "from the oldest to the youngest," which even applies to the Tribe's longhouse practices and ceremonies.

The community has been involved in the planning by participating in the development of the Tribe's strategic plan. Some community members participated in meetings throughout the reservation in Lapwai, Orofino and Kamiah.

Beneficiaries for this project

The primary beneficiaries of this project are the youth, who represent the future generations of the Nez Perce Tribe. Tribal elders and traditional experts will also be involved, passing down their knowledge and wisdom to the youngest participants. This inter-generational teaching and learning will benefit everyone. Additionally, tribal members who are reconnecting and want to learn about their Nez Perce culture and language will also benefit. The number of beneficiaries is expected to range from 50 to 75 participants annually. In total, these projects could indirectly involve 125 to 200 Tribal members across all activities. The ripple effect of cultural preservation, skill-sharing, and community bonding means that the reach could extend even further, influencing the entire Tribal community over time. This funding has the potential to positively impact non-Tribal community members as well, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. While these projects are primarily focused on the Tribal community, non-Tribal community members might directly or indirectly experience the benefits of these initiatives through workshops, shared spaces, and cultural exchange. While specific numbers can vary, the estimated direct impact could be around 30 to 50 non-Tribal individuals, with broader ripple effects felt across the entire community.

2) PROJECT WORK PLAN

The project focus is collection development of literature that will benefit the Nez Perce Tribal community. The Nez Perce Tribe plans to create a library that will provide literature and resources supporting their core values and beliefs

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

The library has a clear plan to carry out several specific activities in a well-organized sequence. First, the current library space will be expanded with the purchase of new bookcases and literature. Traditional art that will be created during the workshops will be displayed and digital media on the Nez Perce language will be made available at the library. Monthly workshops will be held in each community of Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah. These workshops will include traditional art, language lessons, and cultural sharing. The library will also provide activities such as educational programming for all ages, oral history collection and documentation, support and engagement with cultural practitioners and scholars, research and development of language and cultural material and tools and retrofitting of library spaces for staff and the public.

What are the risks to the project, and how will you mitigate them?

Risk 1: One potential risk is a change in tribal administration and priorities, especially in relation to the current federal government administration. To mitigate this, modifications will be made to ensure the project aligns with any new changes.

Risk 2: Another risk is the possibility of not being able to fill the contractor position for the community outreach specialist. To address this, the current collections specialist will temporarily take on the role until the position can be filled.

Risk 3: The library may be asked to vacate the Boards and Commissions building as their needs increase. In this case, a plan will be developed to relocate the bookcases, books, and supplies to another location in Lapwai and if necessary, the library may be housed in Kamiah or Orofino.

Who will plan, implement, and manage your project?

The Community Outreach Specialist will be responsible for planning, implementing, and managing the project. The Project Core Planning Team will consist of the following individuals:

Name	Title	Responsibilities	Contact Info
Ann McCormack	Economic Development Director	Oversee the IMLS Enhancement Project	208-621-3710 annm@nezperce.org
Harry Slickpoo Jr.	Collections Specialist	Planning and will pick up the slack if needed	harrys@nezperce.org
Catherine Bigman	Executive Direction, Executing Assistant	Planning. Assist with facility usage	208-621-3670 catherineb@nezperce.org

Thomas Gregory	Nez Perce Language Director	Planning, Assist where needed in regards to language and culture	208-843-7402 thomasg@nezperce.org
Community Outreach Specialist	Vacant	Planning, Implementing, and Managing the project	TBD

What time, financial, personnel, and other resources will you need to carry out the activities?

Travel:

Mileage will be for the Community Outreach Specialist to travel to and from Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah. Miles between Lapwai and Orofino is 76 miles round trip and from Lapwai to Kamiah is 124 miles round trip. The Community Outreach Specialist will travel to these areas to provide library services by bringing books and cultural supplies to each community. Proposed mileage is 1000 miles x \$0.67 GSA rate x 2 years, totals \$2010.

The staff will also attend certain trainings and conferences, they are: the Association of Tribal Archives \$3899.50/year x 2 years, totals \$7799, Idaho Library Association \$3899.50/year x 2 years, totals \$7799, NW Archivist training \$1000, American Library Association \$3899.50/year x 2 years, totals \$7799, and IMLS meetings which will include the required \$3000 for the IMLS meetings each year. Total travel cost is \$32,407. GSA rates were used in the calculations of the budget.

Supplies, Materials, and Equipment

The project plans to purchase bookcases, books and literature, book bin organizers, and community cultural supplies to make traditional art for the library. These traditional arts are vital expressions of tribal identity and history. By passing these skills on, the Tribe ensures that our cultural practices remain vibrant and alive. Total cost per year for supplies is \$7000, totaling \$14,000.

Subawards and Contracts

The project includes a part time Community Outreach Specialist. This person will be responsible for the planning, implementation, and grant management of the library project. The proposed budget for this contracted position is \$35,000 per year.

Unmet Needs:

In addition to the current proposed budget, there are other unmet needs that would enhance the library's services. One such need is a van or bookmobile, which would allow the library to move out of the Boards and Commissions building and transport books and supplies to Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah. This mobile library could be scheduled to meet the needs of each community.

If the Tribe could purchase a van or bookmobile in the future, full-time staff would be required to manage the library. Increased hours and additional locations would necessitate full-time personnel. Prior to the writing of this proposal, research indicated that vehicles equipped with shelves and storage range from \$35,000 (used) to \$90,000 (new). This amount may change due to the Presidential tariffs that will go into effect. Other expenses include insurance, maintenance, fuel and upkeep which can become very expensive.

While these are wish list items, the library will continue to look for additional funding to fulfill the unmet needs. Otherwise, the current proposed budget is sufficient to carry out the planned activities.

What existing resources within the tribe, assets within the tribe, assets within the library or community, and/or potential partners will be utilized during this project to aid in its success?

The project will leverage both tangible and intangible resources to ensure its success. Tangible assets include the use of the Boards and Commissions building. Intangible resources encompass the time and effort of the Nez Perce language director, Nez Perce tribal elders, and Native artisans. Potential partners may include other departments within the tribe, area schools, and colleges.

How and with whom will you share your work's general findings and lessons learned?

The general findings of this project will be shared with the tribal community at the bi-annual General Council meetings and the Fall/Spring General Council reports. It will also be shared with any post-award reporting requirements.

3) PROJECT RESULTS

What are your project's intended results and how will they address the need, problem, or challenge you have identified in the Project Justification section?

The intended results of this project are multifaceted and aimed at addressing the identified key needs, problems, and challenges in the Project Justification section. First, the project seeks to increase the capacity of

the library to better serve the tribal community. This includes expanding the book collection to provide a wider range of literature and resources that support the core values and beliefs of the Nez Perce Tribe. By increasing the book collection, the library will become a more valuable resource for community members, fostering greater use of the library as the collection grows.

Additionally, the project intends to enhance the knowledge of traditional arts and culture among community members. This will be achieved through workshops and educational programming that focus on traditional art, language lessons, and cultural sharing. These activities will not only preserve and promote the Nez Perce culture but also provide opportunities for inter-generational teaching and learning, benefiting tribal members from the oldest to the youngest.

Another key result is the increased use of the Nez Perce language. By providing resources and programming that support language learning, the project will help increase the usage of the Nez Perce language, ensuring that it continues to be an integral part of the tribe's heritage, strengthening sovereignty.

Overall, the project is to provide a library that is a hub for cultural preservation, education, and community bonding. By addressing the identified needs, problems, and challenges, the project will have a lasting positive impact on the tribal community, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

How will the knowledge, skills, and/or appreciation of the target group's community values grow as a result of your project?

The project will significantly enhance the community's knowledge, skills, and appreciation of their values by gaining a deeper understanding of their heritage. These activities will help preserve and revitalize the Nez Perce language and create a hub for cultural preservation, education, and community bonding, positively impacting the entire tribal community.

What product(s) will result from your project?

The products resulting from this project is the traditional artwork that will be displayed on the library shelves and cases. These will be rotated out so that all participants can have their art work displayed.

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

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, several strategies can be implemented:

1. **Continuous Funding and Grants:** The library will actively seek additional funding and grants to support ongoing operations and future expansions. This will ensure that the library can continue to grow and serve the community effectively.
2. **Community Engagement:** Maintain strong community engagement through regular workshops, educational programs, and cultural events.
3. **Involvement of Tribal Elders and Traditional Experts:** Ensure that tribal elders and traditional experts are actively involved in the project. Their knowledge and wisdom will be passed down through generations, enriching the community and preserving cultural heritage.
4. **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Establish partnerships with other departments within the tribe. These collaborations will provide ongoing support, resources, and expertise, enhancing the project's success.
5. **Regular Evaluation and Adaptation:** Implement regular evaluations to assess the project's progress and impact. Use the findings to adapt and improve the project, ensuring it remains relevant and effective in meeting the community's needs.

By implementing these strategies, the library will remain a hub for cultural preservation, education, and community bonding, ensuring its long-term sustainability and positive impact on the tribal community.