



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-259274-OLS-25

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$150,000

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma will enhance the Kickapoo Tribal Library's services with an aim of improving digital access, strengthening educational programming, and supporting cultural preservation initiatives to better serve the community. The library will upgrade technology infrastructure, including public-use computers, tablets, and high-speed internet. It will expand Kickapoo language and cultural collections, integrating books, digital media, and traditional storytelling to strengthen language revitalization efforts. It will implement preservation initiatives, including workshops on archival best practices, digitization efforts, and community engagement programs to sustain cultural knowledge. By investing in the preservation and accessibility of cultural information, the Kickapoo Tribal Library will serve as a lasting resource for the community, supporting both present and future generations in maintaining their heritage.

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: Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized tribal nation with a strong commitment to self-governance, cultural preservation, and community development. The tribe is governed by a Business Committee, which oversees all tribal programs and services, ensuring they align with the needs of tribal citizens. The Kickapoo Tribal Library operates under the Education Department and collaborates with tribal leadership, local schools, and cultural programs to enhance educational opportunities for the community.

The library plays a crucial role in expanding access to information, fostering literacy, and preserving the Kickapoo language, culture, and heritage. Through this funding opportunity, the library will strengthen its capacity to serve as a central hub for education, digital inclusion, and cultural revitalization.

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma is headquartered in McCloud, Oklahoma, and serves a population of approximately 2,600 enrolled tribal members, with additional community members residing in surrounding areas. The tribal community consists of youth, elders, and families who rely on access to educational resources, digital technology, and cultural programming.

The rural setting presents challenges in connectivity and resource availability, making the library a vital asset in bridging these gaps. With limited access to public libraries and educational institutions nearby, the Kickapoo Tribal Library serves as a primary resource for literacy programs, public technology access, and community-based learning initiatives. It is a place for all community members to connect and continue their path of lifelong learning.

Through this proposed project, the Kickapoo Tribal Library aims to enhance its technological infrastructure, expand its collection of cultural and language resources, and implement programs that support lifelong learning. These efforts align with the tribe's broader mission to preserve its heritage, empower its citizens, and ensure continued access to knowledge for future generations.

Kickapoo Tribal Library Enhancement Project

Project Justification

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma seeks funding through the IMLS Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant to support the development of the Kickapoo Tribal Library as a central learning hub for the community. The new library provides an opportunity to expand services that align with IMLS Objective 1: to serve the learning needs and interests of the community. However, to fully realize its potential, the library requires essential resources, including books, technology, and dedicated spaces for literacy, cultural preservation, and community engagement. This proposal seeks funding from the grantor in the amount of \$150,000.

Access to educational materials and technology is critical for lifelong learning, yet the Kickapoo community faces challenges such as limited public library access, digital inequity, and the need for culturally relevant resources. The Kickapoo Tribal Library will address these challenges by filling the new space with a diverse collection of books, modern technology, and interactive learning environments tailored to the needs of tribal members. Additionally, the library will serve as a gathering place where elders can share the Kickapoo language and cultural values with younger generations, ensuring the continuation of traditions.

This funding will also allow the library to host structured literacy programs, such as story time sessions for children from the Kickapoo Tribal Child Care Center and Head Start program, introducing them to reading and exploration at an early age. Furthermore, the space will accommodate meetings and training sessions for tribal programs, supporting workforce

development and interdepartmental collaboration. This holistic approach to library services will empower community members of all ages by fostering literacy, digital skills, cultural preservation, and lifelong learning.

Project Work Plan: Period of Performance: 12 Months

The project will be implemented over a 12-month period, ensuring timely development and execution of key activities to achieve the proposed outcomes.

Month 1-3: Establishing Core Library Resources and Services

- **Procure Books and Technology:** Purchase new books, including children's literature, reference materials, and Kickapoo language resources. Acquire computers, tablets, and internet infrastructure to ensure digital access for library patrons.
- **Set Up Storytime Area:** Design and furnish a dedicated space for the Kickapoo Tribal Child Care Center and Head Start program to conduct regular story time sessions, encouraging early literacy skills.
- **Develop Cultural Preservation Programs:** Work with Kickapoo elders to schedule language-sharing sessions and storytelling events, fostering intergenerational knowledge transfer.
- **Library Staff Training:** Train library staff on new digital tools and literacy program implementation.
- **Community Outreach and Promotion:** Develop promotional materials and host an opening event to inform the community about the library's expanded resources and services.

Month 4-6: Expanding Community Engagement and Sustainability

- Launch Storytime Program: Begin weekly library story time sessions for tribal children, integrating cultural themes and language exposure.
- Host Tribal Cultural and Language Workshops: Organize monthly gatherings where elders can share traditional stories, language lessons, and historical teachings.
- Facilitate Tribal Program Meetings and Trainings: Make the library available as a meeting space for tribal departments, supporting workforce training and program collaboration.
- Enhance Digital Literacy Programs: Offer workshops to teach community members basic and advanced computer skills, improving digital access and workforce readiness.
- Establish a Library Volunteer Program: Engage community members to support library activities, encouraging long-term sustainability and local involvement.

Month 7-9: Enhancing Library Services and Evaluating Progress

- Assess Program Effectiveness: Conduct surveys and collect feedback from participants to assess literacy improvements and community engagement.
- Expand Book and Technology Collections: Continue acquiring materials based on community feedback and emerging needs.
- Increase Collaboration with Tribal Programs: Strengthen partnerships with tribal education and social service programs to enhance the library's role in community support.
- Offer Additional Cultural Programming: Expand language preservation initiatives and historical documentation efforts.

Month 10-12: Ensuring Sustainability and Future Growth

- **Evaluate Project Outcomes:** Conduct a formal assessment of project impact, including program participation rates, literacy improvements, and technology usage.
- **Plan for Future Funding:** Identify additional funding sources and grant opportunities to sustain and expand library services beyond the grant period.
- **Develop Long-Term Library Policies:** Establish policies for maintaining and expanding book collections, technology infrastructure, and cultural programming.
- **Host a Community Celebration:** Organize an event to showcase project successes, highlight community contributions, and reinforce the library's role as an educational and cultural hub.

Project Results

The success of this project will be measured by its impact on literacy development, cultural preservation, and community engagement. By the end of the 12-month period, the Kickapoo Tribal Library will have:

- **Expanded Access to Learning Materials:** The library will house a robust collection of books and digital resources, benefiting children, students, and adults seeking knowledge.
- **Strengthened Early Literacy Programs:** Regular story time sessions will instill a love of reading in young children, improving early literacy rates and school readiness.
- **Enhanced Cultural Preservation Efforts:** Kickapoo elders will have a dedicated space to teach the language and share cultural knowledge, fostering tribal identity and continuity.

- Improved Digital and Workforce Skills: Access to technology and digital literacy programs will empower community members with essential skills for education and employment.
- Increased Community Engagement: The library will serve as a hub for learning, collaboration, and intergenerational exchange, reinforcing its role as a valued community resource.

Evaluation Plan

To ensure the effectiveness of the project, the following evaluation methods will be implemented:

- Attendance and Participation Metrics: Tracking the number of library visitors, story time participants, and cultural workshop attendees.
- Survey Feedback: Conducting surveys with community members to assess satisfaction, needs, and areas for improvement.
- Technology Utilization Reports: Monitoring the usage of computers, tablets, and internet access to determine digital literacy impact.
- Partnership and Program Development: Evaluating the success of partnerships with tribal departments, schools, and external organizations.
- Long-Term Impact Assessments: Assessing changes in literacy rates, cultural preservation engagement, and workforce preparedness over time.

Conclusion

The Kickapoo Tribal Library Enhancement Project represents a transformative opportunity to create a thriving center for education, culture, and community engagement. By providing access to a diverse collection of books, modern technology, and dedicated spaces for literacy and cultural preservation, this initiative will address significant gaps in access to educational resources. The library will serve as a cornerstone for early childhood literacy, digital learning, and intergenerational knowledge exchange. Through strategic planning, strong community partnerships, and a commitment to sustainability, this project will ensure that the Kickapoo people have a dynamic space to learn, connect, and preserve their rich cultural heritage for generations to come. We respectfully request this funding to bring this vision to life and support the continued growth and success of the Kickapoo Tribal Library.

Kickapoo Tribal Library Enhancement Project

Schedule of Completion

Activity	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Procure books, shelving, and technology	X	X										
Set up storytime area	X	X										
Develop cultural preservation programs	X	X	X									
Library staff training		X	X									
Community outreach and promotion		X	X									
Launch story time program				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Host tribal cultural and language workshops				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Facilitate tribal program meetings and trainings				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Enhance digital literacy programs				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Establish a library volunteer program					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Assess program effectiveness						X	X	X				
Expand book and technology collections						X	X	X				
Increase collaboration with tribal programs						X	X	X				
Offer additional cultural programming						X	X	X	X			