



NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Sample Application NAE-260871-OLS-26

Tangirnaq Native Village

Amount awarded by IMLS: \$149,571

Tangirnaq Native Village will support the development and expansion of a community-centered library and cultural knowledge program serving Tribal citizens in Kodiak and in the Pacific Northwest. Project funds will provide an infusion of new books and educational materials focused on cultural and historical resources, and cultural workshops led by Elders and cultural practitioners. Staff will invest in new shelving and reading spaces to improve the library learning environment. Funds will also support the purchase of digital recording equipment, storage, and portable recording devices, which will help preserve traditional knowledge while expanding access to cultural learning resources. The project will provide direct benefit to the more than 660 Tribal citizens living throughout the Kodiak region and beyond.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Tribal profile
- Proposal 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

Tangirnaq Native Village

Tangirnaq Native Village (TNV) is a federally recognized Alaska Native Tribe representing the Tanginarmiut people, whose ancestral homelands include Woody Island (Tangirnaq) and the surrounding lands and waters of the Kodiak Archipelago in southern Alaska. The Tribe works to promote and protect the cultural, social, and educational well-being of its Tribal citizens while exercising sovereign governance on behalf of the community.

Tangirnaq Native Village is governed by a Tribal Council responsible for guiding Tribal policy, programs, and long-term community priorities. The Tribe's work is grounded in core Sugpiaq values that emphasize culture and connection, sustainability, and advocacy. Through these principles, TNV seeks to strengthen cultural identity, preserve traditional knowledge, and support community resilience.

TNV currently serves more than 660 enrolled Tribal citizens, including Elders, youth, and families living in the Kodiak region and throughout Alaska and the United States. Many Tribal citizens maintain strong cultural and family ties to Kodiak and the surrounding villages even when residing outside the immediate region. The Tribe works actively to support these connections through cultural programming, community engagement, and educational initiatives. Tangirnaq Native Village also operates a Tribal Library that provides access to culturally relevant literature, educational materials, and community learning opportunities for Tribal citizens and the broader Kodiak community.

The proposed project will be implemented through the Tangirnaq Native Village administration with leadership from the Tribal Council and program coordination by Tribal staff. Lillie Smith, Tribal Operations Coordinator, will serve as Project Manager and oversee day-to-day implementation of the project, including coordination of library programming, tracking project outcomes, and communicating with community participants. Administrative staff will assist with program logistics and community outreach.

The project will also engage Elders, cultural practitioners, and community partners who will contribute to cultural workshops and educational programming. These collaborations support the intergenerational sharing of knowledge and strengthen connections between Tribal citizens and their cultural heritage.

Tangirnaq Native Village serves Tribal citizens and community members throughout the Kodiak Archipelago, a region characterized by a geographically dispersed population and limited access to community learning resources outside of schools and public institutions. The Tribal Library plays an important role in providing access to educational materials, cultural resources, and community learning opportunities.

Through expanded Tribal facilities and community spaces, including the Katurgwik Multi-Use Tribal Center, Tangirnaq Native Village is increasing its capacity to provide cultural programming, educational activities, and community gathering space for Tribal citizens. The Tribal Library will play an important role in supporting literacy, cultural education, and community engagement. Through its governance structure, partnerships, and community programs, Tangirnaq Native Village continues to strengthen cultural preservation and educational opportunities while supporting the long-term well-being of its citizens and the broader community.

Project Narrative

Prepared by Tangirnaq Native Village

1. Project Justification

Tangirnaq Native Village (TNV) is a federally recognized Alaska Native Tribe whose ancestral homelands encompass Woody Island (Tangirnaq) and the surrounding lands and waters of the Kodiak Archipelago. As the modern successor to the Tanginarmiut people, the Tribe works to promote and ensure the social, cultural, and educational well-being of its Tribal citizens while exercising sovereignty on behalf of the community. The Tribal Council guides TNV's work through three interrelated values rooted in Sugpiaq worldview and language: Culture and Connection (Luumaciq, Angayukulluta), Sustainability (Qumlugciluta), and Advocacy (Ayaprulluta). Together, these values strengthen cultural identity, support community resilience, and ensure that future generations remain connected to their heritage.

TNV serves more than 660 enrolled Tribal citizens, including Elders, youth, and families living throughout the Kodiak region and beyond. Cultural preservation and education are central priorities for the Tribe. Through partnerships, community programs, and educational initiatives, TNV works to strengthen connections between Tribal citizens and the cultural traditions, subsistence practices, and knowledge systems that have shaped the Sugpiaq people for generations.

Like many rural Alaska communities, Kodiak residents face limited access to community-based learning resources outside of formal school environments. Opportunities for youth engagement, literacy support, and intergenerational cultural learning are particularly important for Tribal communities seeking to preserve language, cultural practices, and traditional knowledge. For Tangirnaq Native Village, strengthening community learning spaces that support these activities is an important priority.

The Tribal Library plays a key role in advancing these goals. The library currently operates within Tangirnaq Native Village's administrative office and provides access to books, DVDs, educational materials, and public computer and printer resources. Tribal citizens and community members use the library to borrow materials, access digital resources, and find information for school and personal learning. The library is maintained by Tribal staff and serves as an informal gathering space where community members can access information and educational resources.

While the library provides valuable services, its current space significantly limits its ability to support broader programming and community engagement. The small size of the existing library restricts opportunities for group learning activities, youth programs, and cultural workshops. In addition, limited space makes it difficult to expand the library's collection or create comfortable areas where community members can gather, read, and study.

Tangirnaq Native Village is now entering a transformative phase with the development of the Katurgwik Multi-Use Tribal Center. Located on ancestral lands near Chiniak, Katurgwik –

meaning “a place to gather” – it is designed to serve as a central hub for Tribal governance, cultural programming, and community activities. The new facility will provide dedicated space for educational programs, cultural workshops, and community gatherings.

The development of the Tribal Center represents a pivotal opportunity to expand the role of the Tribal Library. For the first time, Tangirnaq Native Village will have a space designed to support community learning activities and cultural programming. Expanding the Tribal Library within this new facility will allow the library to grow into a welcoming community learning hub that supports literacy, cultural education, and digital access for Tribal citizens.

Community priorities for this project have been identified through recent strategic planning and community engagement efforts conducted by Tangirnaq Native Village. Participants emphasized the importance of creating spaces where youth and families can gather for educational activities and where Elders can share traditional knowledge with younger generations. Expanding the Tribal Library and strengthening its programming were identified as key strategies for supporting these goals.

The primary audiences for this project include Tangirnaq Native Village Tribal citizens, particularly youth, families, and Elders living in the Kodiak region. Youth and young adults will benefit from expanded literacy resources and educational programming, while Elders and cultural practitioners will play an important role in sharing traditional knowledge through cultural workshops and activities.

The proposed project will address these needs by expanding library resources, improving the learning environment within the Tribal Library, and establishing regular educational and cultural programming. The project will also support the development of digital cultural resources that document and preserve traditional knowledge while expanding access to educational materials for Tribal citizens. The following table summarizes key community needs identified by Tangirnaq Native Village and the ways in which the proposed project will address those needs.

Table 1. Community Needs and Project Responses

Community Need	Project Response
Limited space for library programming	Expansion of the Tribal Library within the Katurgwik Tribal Center
Limited access to culturally relevant learning materials	Expanded library collection including books and cultural resources
Need for youth engagement and literacy support	Children’s reading programs, teen learning activities, and study groups
Need for cultural knowledge transmission	Cultural workshops led by Elders and cultural practitioners
Need to preserve traditional knowledge	Creation of digital cultural learning resources

Through these efforts, Tangirnaq Native Village seeks to strengthen the Tribal Library as a vibrant community learning center that supports education, cultural preservation, and community engagement. By expanding access to resources and creating new opportunities for intergenerational learning, the project will help ensure that Tribal citizens remain connected to their culture, language, and shared history.

2. Project Work Plan

The proposed project will strengthen the Tangirnaq Native Village Tribal Library by expanding library resources, improving the learning environment, and establishing regular educational and cultural programming that supports community learning and cultural knowledge transmission. These activities will enable the library to serve as a welcoming gathering place where Tribal citizens can access information, participate in programs, and connect with cultural traditions.

Project Management

Project implementation will be overseen by Project Manager Lillie Smith, who serves as Program Support Specialist for Tangirnaq Native Village. In this role, she supports Tribal programs and coordinates administrative and programmatic activities across multiple initiatives. As Project Manager for this project, Ms. Smith will oversee the implementation of library improvements, coordinate educational and cultural programming, track participation and project outcomes, and ensure compliance with grant requirements.

Tangirnaq Native Village maintains established administrative and financial management systems and has experience administering grant-funded programs and community initiatives. Tribal leadership will provide oversight throughout the project period to ensure that activities align with community priorities and that project goals are successfully achieved. The roles and responsibilities of key personnel and partners involved in implementing the project are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Project Management Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Project Manager – Lillie Smith, Program Support Specialist, TNV	Oversees project implementation, coordinates programming, manages reporting and grant compliance
Administrative Assistant	Provides logistical support, assists with scheduling, and tracks participation data
Tribal Council	Provides oversight and guidance for project implementation
Elders and Cultural Practitioners	Lead cultural workshops and share traditional knowledge

The first phase of the project will focus on strengthening the Tribal Library's collection and improving the learning environment within the library space. Tangirnaq Native Village will

acquire additional books, educational materials, and culturally relevant learning resources that support youth literacy, family learning, and cultural education. Particular attention will be given to expanding youth reading materials and educational resources that support community learning.

In addition to expanding the library's collection, the project will improve the physical environment within the library. Reading furniture, study tables, and comfortable seating will be installed to create welcoming areas where community members can read, study, and participate in programs. Dedicated spaces for youth activities and informal learning will also be developed to encourage participation by children and families. These improvements will make the library more accessible and functional for community members and will support the expansion of library programming.

Educational Programming

The project will establish regular educational programming designed to support literacy, creativity, and community learning. Programs will be organized throughout the year and may include children's reading time, teen learning nights, study groups, craft activities, and community movie nights. These activities will provide opportunities for youth and families to gather, learn, and participate in educational programs in a supportive community environment.

Tangirnaq Native Village staff will coordinate program scheduling and outreach to ensure that Tribal citizens are aware of new opportunities for learning and engagement. Library programs will be promoted through community announcements and Tribal communications to encourage participation by youth and families.

Cultural Programming

Cultural programming will be an important component of the project and will support the transmission of traditional knowledge between generations. Tangirnaq Native Village will organize workshops and cultural activities that allow Elders and cultural practitioners to share traditional practices and knowledge with community members.

Cultural activities may include sewing workshops, carving demonstrations, gathering walks, and subsistence education sessions. These programs will provide meaningful opportunities for intergenerational learning and will strengthen connections between youth and Elders within the community. Through these activities, the Tribal Library will function not only as a place for accessing information but also as a space where cultural traditions and knowledge are actively shared.

Digital Cultural Materials Development

The project will also support the development of digital cultural learning materials that document and preserve traditional knowledge. Cultural demonstrations and educational activities may be recorded and organized as digital resources that can be accessed by community members

through the Tribal Library. These digital materials will help preserve traditional knowledge while expanding access to cultural learning resources. Recorded materials may also be incorporated into library programs and educational activities, allowing community members to revisit demonstrations and cultural teachings.

Project Goals and Key Activities

The activities described above support the overall goals of the project, which focus on expanding access to library resources, strengthening educational programming, and supporting cultural learning. Table 3 summarizes the project's primary goals and the key activities that will be implemented to achieve them.

Table 3. Project Goals and Key Activities

Project Goal	Key Activities
Expand access to library resources	Expand library collection, improve library space, install reading and study areas
Expand educational programming	Children's reading programs, teen learning nights, study groups, craft activities
Support cultural knowledge transmission	Cultural workshops, carving demonstrations, gathering walks
Preserve cultural knowledge	Develop digital recordings and educational resources

Project activities will be implemented over a two-year period. During the first year, Tangirnaq Native Village will focus on expanding library resources, improving the library environment, and launching educational and cultural programming. During the second year, the Tribe will expand programming activities, continue developing digital cultural resources, and monitor participation and project outcomes. Through these coordinated activities, the Tribal Library will grow into a vibrant community learning center that supports literacy, cultural education, and community engagement for Tangirnaq Native Village citizens.

3. Project Results

The proposed project will strengthen the Tangirnaq Native Village Tribal Library as a center for community learning, cultural preservation, and educational engagement. Through expanded resources, new programming, and the creation of digital cultural materials, the project will increase opportunities for Tribal citizens to access information, participate in learning activities, and connect with cultural traditions.

First, the project will expand access to library resources and learning materials for Tribal citizens. By increasing the number of books, educational materials, and culturally relevant resources available through the Tribal Library, the project will improve access to information and strengthen literacy and learning opportunities for youth and families.

Second, the project will expand educational programming and community learning opportunities. Regular library-based programs will provide youth and families with opportunities to participate in reading activities, creative workshops, and informal learning programs that support academic development and community engagement.

Third, the project will support cultural learning and knowledge transmission. Cultural workshops and demonstrations led by Elders and cultural practitioners will create opportunities for intergenerational learning and strengthen connections between younger and older members of the community. These programs will help ensure that traditional knowledge and practices continue to be shared with future generations.

Finally, the project will contribute to the preservation of cultural knowledge through the creation of digital cultural resources. By documenting cultural demonstrations and educational activities, the project will produce a collection of digital learning materials that can be accessed through the Tribal Library and incorporated into future programming. Table 4 outlines the expected project outcomes and the indicators that will be used to measure progress toward those outcomes.

Table 4. Project Outcomes and Indicators

Expected Outcome	Indicator	Measurement Method
Increased access to library resources	Growth in library use and circulation of materials	Library sign-in records and circulation logs
Expanded educational programming	Number of educational programs offered	Program calendar and attendance records
Increased participation in cultural learning activities	Participation in cultural workshops and events	Workshop registration and attendance tracking
Preservation and sharing of cultural knowledge	Number of digital cultural resources created	Digital archive records and program documentation

Tangirnaq Native Village staff will track participation and project outcomes throughout the grant period. Library usage will be documented through sign-in records and circulation logs. Program attendance will be recorded for educational and cultural activities, and the creation of digital cultural resources will be documented through internal project records. This information will allow TNV staff to assess progress toward project goals and identify opportunities to strengthen programming and community engagement.

The benefits of this project will extend well beyond the grant period. Once established, expanded library resources and programming will continue to serve the community as part of Tangirnaq Native Village's ongoing cultural and educational initiatives. Because the Tribal Library will operate within the Katurgwik Multi-Use Tribal Center and be supported by Tribal staff, library services and programs developed through this project will continue to benefit Tribal citizens in the years ahead.

Schedule of Completion

Year 1: October 2026 – September 2027

[illegible]

Year 2: October 2027 – September 2028

[illegible]