

Yerington Paiute Tribe Education Department
Preservation and Revitalization Project

Narrative

Statement of Need

The Yerington Paiute Tribe is requesting funding through the IMLS Enhancement Grant to continue our project called “Enlightening Culture and Traditional Plants through Literacy”, which is our vision to preserve and promote our cultural truths to better serve the community members of the YPT. The traditional language of the tribe has few fluent speakers within the community. There are less than a dozen tribal members within the community who partially speak and understand the language. Language loss has impacted the community over time and many tribal members are longing to learn more about their history, culture, and language. With continued available access to government documents, books, music and other resources it helps tribal members of all ages to gather knowledge that is passed down from elders. A variety of language resources available to patrons are past language class materials, CDs and cassettes. The YPT are Numu whose Paiute name is Taboosi Tukadu and was established on July 1934 through the Indian Reorganization Act.

Tribal lands total 1,671 acres and are divided into two parcels in Lyon County. The larger tract of approximately 1,655 acres known as Campbell Ranch with a population totaling 438 according to the Tribal census and 16 acres located within the city of Yerington, NV known as the Colony with a population of 252 according to the Tribal census. Total tribal membership as of March 30, 2022 is 1,321. Today, the YPT is governed by a 7-member Tribal Council, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 5 members. The Tribe provides many services through the Education Center/Tribal Library, Elders Program, Tribal Health Clinic, Tribal Enterprises, Commodities, Environmental, and Wellness Center.

Educational levels are low among many tribal members living on the reservation. Children and teens currently experience some reinforcement about the importance of reading. Literacy activities would be a value to help increase the opportunities for children to read out of school with the help of the Enhancement grant. With the continuance of this program it would fulfill areas of needs to be met by our families. Staff would be able to continue working as well as identify more formal literacy programs to adapt to the Taboosi Tukadu community and have families reading and learning together.

The YPT proposes to continue to address three primary needs: 1) Better support and enhance the community, after school program and summer youth language and cultural program to strengthen literacy skills within the community; 2) continue to the increase number of language and cultural classes held in the library to promote and preserve Taboosi Tukadu culture, language, and knowledge; 3) continue educational and literacy workshops on cultural plants and vegetation for the community members.

Within the department is the Tribal Library which provides tribal members with access to library services, computer/internet services and educational/cultural opportunities that would otherwise not be available to community members. The department supports tribal members with academic achievement and social success while maintaining a positive identity as a Native American. The department is staffed by the Education Director, Tutor/Librarian, and ACE Project Assistant. Our center is open to the community from Mon-Friday 8:00AM-5PM. Current programming includes cultural workshops at the library open to all community members, elementary-high school classroom visits, and literacy activities, after school program and a summer program for the youth. Total volumes owned by the Tribal Library are

approximately 1500 books and 80 DVD's relating to or created by Native Americans, including fiction, nonfiction, biographies, and poetry covering historical, tribal, environmental, food/nutrition, and "DIY" topics. There is a mounted flat screen TV, a cd/cassette player and 2 computers with internet access. The Tribal Library offers literacy-based activities utilizing many of the books and media in the library. Such programs are cultural awareness workshops, reading challenges with the youth and prevention presentations. The library has 150 documented current patrons and equipped with two computer workstations and one printer with basic software for the educational needs of community members. We serve an average of 46 community members per month.

The purpose of this program will be to continue to build up our community members in literacy, culture, language and knowledge. Address the issues of literacy and educational levels that exist for most of the low-income population of the YPT. Activities and services will be implemented following the seasonal chart, with emphasis on family members teaching other relatives. Continue to help overcome barriers for our community members to access traditional foods and increase local knowledge of the importance of traditional plants thru reading activities and hands on interaction as there is no local farmers market within the county.

Needs assessment

Under the funding of the Basic IMLS Grant a library assessment was conducted in 2016. As a result of the assessment, suggestions were made on how we can better serve our community. Suggestions include:

1. Improve and expand Tribal Library services and educational resources to community members.
2. Support, educate, and guide the tribal members and library users.
3. Continuously seek additional resources through grants.
4. Increase the Tribal Library's holding and collections of specialized materials addressing local tribal history, cultural affairs and stories.
5. Begin work toward the bar-coding and cataloging of the collections including the media and reference materials in In-Line Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and Library system software.

Until March 2017, there had not been any Library sponsored services or programs since 2011. In February 2017, a survey was conducted to identify the interests of the community. 95% indicated that they believe preserving and learning the culture; 70% indicated it was hard to find cultural information specific to the Taboosi Tukadu Numu. The top three literature subjects identified were in order of preference; Paiute/ Great Basin Culture, How-to/Self Help, Native American nonfictional. Topics of high importance were: improved literacy and educational attainment, more activities for youth and parents, and cultural preservation. Another interest the Library identified was subjects of programs and classes. We found that the community is more interested in contemporary arts, like bead working and basketry, rather than traditional arts, like flint knapping and primitive tools and weapons. After conducting this survey, interested/concerned adults have reached out expressing dire need for cultural classes and programs. The library needs to educate the youth and instill a positive sense of cultural identity while sharing the YPT's heritage. Tribal members also deliberated that they need a place where they can read and learn about the culture and history of the tribe. There is no place within the community where these activities continue on a regular basis throughout the

year. With transportation being a significant barrier to most community members our center is within walking distance of the Campbell Ranch residents. School age students shared the importance of being able to access the material for their school work when it comes to doing researches. As education is a great value of the YPT because of the self-sufficiency and strengthening of our youth, review was done within the local Lyon County School District and many of our youth living on the reservation are at risk of facing the same social conditions of low high school graduation rates, high unemployment and poverty as the adults. With literacy activities we raise academic excellence. The Tribal library will use these assessments as a baseline to compare final results of the project's success. Since the 2016 assessment and the 2017 community survey we have moved forward to fulfill the needs and wants of the community. Since receiving our first Library Enhancement Grant in 2019 we began restructuring the library, its content and opened a Hoop House. When the pandemic hit it created many changes as it did around the whole country. Everything came to a halt. Attempts were made to do virtual trainings, meetings and activities but our people were not used to this method. The traditional way is to meet in person and share food and stories while sharing knowledge. Another roadblock was limited internet access by the community members.

Project Design

Our vision is to continue to provide a welcoming library supporting an energetic learning community. As determined from the assessments of community needs, the project intends to continue to achieve the following outcome and goals:

- 1) To better support and enhance the community, after school program and summer youth program with language, and culture programs.
- 2) Continue to increase number of language and culture classes held in the library in a structured seasonal pattern with emphasize on the Paiute people, preserving culture and raise self-esteem and self-identity among community members;
- 3) continuation of the Cultural plants and vegetation, through hands on teaching and interactions within the hoop house, to instill the importance of healthy eating habits among our youth, adults and support from the elders to share their knowledge of traditional plants. This will help tribal members overcome barriers with access to traditional foods.

Goal 1: Continue to *better support and enhance the community, after school program and summer youth program with language, and culture programs.*

Action Plan: Will promote lifelong learning; servicing all ages of community members/tribal members: (a) identify and catalog cultural resources and materials such as tribal publications and educational materials produced by the YPT to continue community use; (b) continue to identify new resources and provide a wider range of programs and library resources to the community; (c) Library staff will provide field trips to local public and museums at least twice per year; (d) Coordinate with other tribal programs and departments for community outreach to obtain tribal resource materials; (e) Provide formal multi-generational reading programs that are culturally relevant to help literacy skill development to all ages (f) Attend IMLS trainings; (g) Partner with tribal programs, such as the Head Start Program, Summer Youth Program, After School Program and community to provide weekly literacy activities; (h) Establish a monthly calendar of activities.

Productivities: number of new cultural resources learned, number of literacy activities, number of participants in formal literacy programs, number of dispersed items and calendar of activities.

Timeline and Resources: The activities defined above will be carried out primarily by the Tutor/Librarian. Will partner with local Head Start September 2022 and Summer Youth Program June 2022 to identify and provide formal multi-generational reading programs that are culturally relevant to help support individuals needs for education development to all ages to focus on literacy skills. Staff will coordinate with partners to provide community member field trips to local public museums twice per year January 2023 and June 2023. In addition this project will continue to provide weekly literacy activities, such as story time to our youth grades K-12th that will be provided at the library and continue other services that provide tribal education programs; Monthly calendar of activities will be advertised in the tribal newsletter, online via social media, and distributed to tribal programs to share with their clients by October 2022; Ongoing throughout the two project years.

Goal 2: Continue to increase number of language and culture classes held in the library in a structured seasonal pattern with emphasize on the Paiute people, preserving culture and raise self-esteem and self-identity among tribal members:

Action Plan: Enhancement of cultural skills and language of Taboosi Tukadu members: (a) continue to offer cultural activities in an organized seasonal outline, according with the traditional life-ways of the Paiute people, therefore recalling and conserving a living culture. (b) continue cultural activities and workshops that integrate library resources; (c) Collaborate with the Taboosi Tukadu Elder Center to engage elders in giving cultural presentations, share traditional stories as suitable, and lead story time; (d) cultural activities for the after school program and summer youth program; (e) Language classes to the youth during After School Program and Summer Youth Program; (f) continue to raise self-esteem and self-identity by linking life-way teachings with already exiting literacy activities and educational programs.

Timeline and Resources: Classes will continue to be designed for community members of all ages and serve an outreach effort to entice community members who are interested in learning more about the culture whom may not be likely to visit the library beginning in October 2022; Stories will be based on elders availability starting in September 2022 to integrate with literacy activities with local Head Start and After School Program; Paiute language beginning in September 2022 will continue throughout summer 2022; afterschool

cultural activities will begin September 2022 thru May 2023 and will continue throughout the two year project; Ongoing throughout the two project years.

Goal 3: Cultural plants and vegetation, through hands on teaching and interactions within a hoop house, to instill the importance of healthy eating habits among our youth, adults and support from the elders to share their knowledge of traditional plants. This will help tribal members overcome barriers to access traditional foods.

Action Plan: (a) continue to maintain hoop house for year round planting and harvesting; (b) ethnobotany class to all ages; (c) gain cultural resources and materials; (c) provide historical presentations adequate for specific plants; (e) revitalization of traditional plants and vegetation; (d) Annual Pinenut Blessing and field trips to gathering locations. (e) Tours and outreach activities to greenhouse and garden and learn about traditional plant use, nutrition to all ages during the summer time. (f) Traditional knowledge and real-life experience thru our Elders to share with the youth and their families with workshops

Timeline and Resources: planting of traditional plants and vegetation in winter to early Spring January 2022; Annual Pinenut Blessing in April 2023; classes will begin in March 2023; staff will coordinate field trips at least twice per year when in season; age appropriate workshops will be provided at the library; focus of strengthening parenting and literacy skills of parents by providing family engagement classes and engaging their learning thru resource material and hands on activities; ongoing throughout the two project years and by the end of the grant funding, we expect it to be ongoing with the library.

Impact

This project will continue to build capacity, promote lifelong learning and increase the publics' access to information relating to the Taboosi Tukadu culture and language as well as improve and enhance literacy skills within our community amongst our members.

With a cultural breach due to lack of knowledge to pass to children this project will continue to bring some of the lost knowledge to parents and as well as our youth during the different programs. The goal of YPT is to offer all community members educational, historical and resources on the Taboosi Tukadu and Paiute culture while implanting literacy and educational skills into the participants. The theory of using season-based is to help with direction of literacy and cultural activities to show the way of life of our ancestors during specific periods and to also intermingle the Paiute language into the programs. Outcomes expected from this project are:

Goal 1: *Better support and enhance the community, summer youth program with language, and culture programs.*

- 50% increase of Tribal Publications and materials available to the community (i.e. reprinting of tribal publications, updating library resources)
- 75% library patrons will report that the Tribal Library effectively meets their educational needs. Annual satisfaction surveys will be distributed amongst patrons and participants to determine overall success of materials and resources.
- 15 families will participate in library/literacy based cultural programs that are designed around the seasonal activities calendar. Staff will track all participants.

- 20% of adults will show a growth in literacy skills through the use of a literacy assessment
- 40 participants will have completed the library's cultural appropriate multi-generational reading program. Staff will track the number of individuals who participate in literacy program.
- Increase the number of unduplicated children and youth who visit the library from 46 to 80 per year. A visitor's log will be kept.

Goal 2: *Increase number of language and culture classes held in the library in a structured seasonal pattern with emphasize on the Paiute people, preserving culture and raise self-esteem and self-identity among tribal members.*

- 100 community members will have participated in a workshop annually. Library staff will track the number of participants who attend workshops.
- 60% of all workshop participants will report that they gained new knowledge and skills yearly. Workshop and training participants will complete an evaluation at the end of each workshop to evaluate the effectiveness, knowledge of skills and also to help identify topics for future workshops within season. Staff will collect and analyze data from such evaluations annually in September as a pre and post.
- Increase the number of participants and participant hours attending language and culture classes hosted by the library, to 20 unduplicated participants and 400 participant hours per year. Class schedules and sign-in sheets will be maintained.
- Increase the number of language and culture classes that are held in the Tribal library to 30 per year. Class schedules and sign-in sheets will be maintained.

Goal 3: *Cultural plants and vegetation, through hands on teaching and interactions within a hoop house, to instill the importance of healthy eating habits among our youth, adults and support from the elders to share their knowledge of traditional plants. This will help tribal members overcome barriers to access to traditional foods.*

- 60% Students will be able to identify key ways Native American's utilized plants for food and medicine.
- Students will understand the benefits of native plants.
- Students will analyze their own use of plants.
- Increase the number of ethnobotany classes that are held in the Tribal library from 6 to 10 per year. Class schedules and sign-in sheets will be maintained.
- Eliminate barriers to traditional plants.

By the end of this project period, we anticipate the ability to continue to provide a more experienced approach to community engagement, continue to increase membership and community involvement of services to the community. To define our success, we will provide influence and customer satisfaction surveys to library patrons post-funding to determine our areas of improvement, our strengths and weaknesses.

Communication Plan

The target group identified for this Tribal library enhancement project includes residents and Tribal members of all ages who live in Campbell Ranch and Colony area of Lyon County as well as visitors to the community. Family and community activities will be held in the library that focuses on Taboosi Tukadu language, culture and history. Communication of library events, activities, and hours of operation in a small environment like Campbell Ranch and the Colony is easy. Word of mouth activities and events travel quickly, and local residents are always eager to learn their culture. The Tutor/Librarian will be responsible for using posted flyers, announcements within the community and tribal newsletter to engage the target audience.

Data will be collected by documenting the number of participants in each activity and the number of activities that the library holds. Each class will have a pre and post survey to allow for evaluation of participant satisfaction and knowledge gained post-class or program. The library reports monthly to the tribal council on services that the library produces.

Throughout the program year staff will conduct surveys and collaborate with agencies and families to help develop recommendations of literature and specific approaches for cultural methods for season activities to ensure that the implementation is a success. The long term goal is to increase the knowledge of Taboosi Tukadu culture and language, educational achievement, literacy enhancement, provide self-esteem and raise self-awareness amongst the tribal members within our community. The partners will be used to help with the literacy skills programs and involve parent and children interactions.

Brief description of key partners:

- ITCN (Inter Tribal Council of Nevada) Head Start (Yerington NV)- Yerington NV Head Start serves 18 children ages 3-5 and their families, in all aspects of pre-school educational activities. Head Start has aged appropriate activities but does not implement the Taboosi Tukadu culture to the children.
- Taboosi Tukadu Nobe (Elder Center)- The Elder Center is of such valuable resource, the facility is where the YPT elders meet and receive services to stay active within the community and share culture. The YPT Elders are of great respect and involving them in many cultural activities would be of great value.
- Tribal Library- The YPT Education Dept currently has a Tribal Library with the IMLS Basic Grant and offers the community with resources of Native American literature and children's books.

Sustainability:

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This project will establish partnerships and an outline for collaborating that we plan to continue thriving into the future. The Tribal Library can use the structure created by this project to continue to plan accommodatingly using existing budgets and future grant funding. Materials in the library collection will continue to be used by patrons as part of the regular procedures and will remain available and be updated as needed during the course of the Tribal Librarian's regular work. The YPT community will have access to updated materials as needed to increase the participation in literacy enhancement. This project provided by the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant will fill the negated of this dominant need.

Yerington Paiute Tribe

Timeline- Two Year 2022-2024

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug
Monthly Cultural Activities	█											
Literacy Programs with HS/ASP/SYP	█											
Native American Cultural Field Trips					█					█		
Multi-generational reading			█									
Library and literacy skills trainings						█			█			
Distribute calendars to programs	█											
Story Telling				█							█	
Traditional Plant classes					█		█	█	█	█	█	█
Annual Pinenut Blessing Trip								█				
Conduct evaluations	█	█										█
Annual satisfaction survey											█	█
Data collection from workshops	█											