



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

STRENGTHENING TRIBAL PROGRAMS

For New Mexico Tribes, Pueblos and Nation - Governments only

RFA Issue Date: April 06, 2016
Last Date to Submit RFA: May 09, 2016

This is a Request for Application (RFA) and does not constitute an award. If this RFA results in an award, then the Tribal Governors, and/or Tribal Presidents will be notified by an official award letter.

Upon issuance of an award letter signed by Hanna Skandera, Secretary of Education, the Tribe, Pueblo, and/or Nation will officially enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with PED – Indian Education Division.

Information Checklist

Please take the time to complete the checklist below to ensure that all required information and actions have been completed before submission of the completed application to De Alva Calabaza, Indian Education Division–New Mexico Public Education Department at dealva.calabaza@state.nm.us.

Submission of the FY 17 RFA for Strengthening Tribal Programs Initiative is as follows:

- _____ Cover page and attachments (see below)
- _____ Submit hard and electronic copies of the Strengthening Tribal Programs application to dealva.calabaza@state.nm.us no later than **May 09, 2016**.
- _____ Tribal Assurances page signed and **original hard copy mailed** to De Alva Calabaza, 300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501 no later than 5:00 pm, **May 09, 2016**.

PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

The New Mexico Public Education Department Indian Education Division is requesting applications from the New Mexico pueblo and tribal governments to continue the support of revitalization, maintenance and sustainability of native languages and to support the strengthening of tribal education programs.

The New Mexico Indian Education Act, NMSA 1978 Section 22-23A-1 through 22-23A-8, in the effort to ensure maintenance of native languages, requires coordination with tribal and pueblo leaders, elders, parents, and students. Public Law 101-477 enacted as Title I, Native American Languages Act of 1990 (Section 102), defines the role of government by stating the need to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedoms of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages. The New Mexico State Tribal Collaboration Act, NMSA 1978 Section 11-18-1 through 11-18-5, promotes positive government-to-government relations and effective communication and collaboration between the state agency and Indian nations, tribes or pueblos. The Public Education Department's Strategic Plan includes various strategies that facilitate academic achievement, including the importance of teaching native languages as critical to the learning process for native students.

The New Mexico Bilingualism-Biliteracy State Seal statute and rule (6.32.3 NMAC) supports not only an important piece of New Mexico history but the state seal of bilingualism-biliteracy on a New Mexico diploma of excellence certifies that the recipient is proficient for meaningful use in college, a career or to meet a local community language need in a world language other than English. The graduate's high school transcript shall also indicate that the graduate received the state seal on the graduate's New Mexico diploma of excellence. In order for students to acquire the seal, the State seal statute requires the student to meet the graduation requirements as specified in Subsection J of 6.29.1.9 NMAC and demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English, through several methods including the state's consultation with Indian Nations, tribes and pueblos and certification by an individual tribe. Tribes may develop the methods and processes for determining proficiency in their respective tribal languages.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Indian Education Act was passed and signed into law in 2003, and amended in 2007 to implement the following purposes:

- A. Ensure equitable and culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials for American Indian students enrolled in public schools.
- B. Ensure maintenance of native languages.
- C. Provide for the study, development and implementation of educational systems that positively affect the educational success of American Indian students.
- D. Ensure that the department of education partners with tribes to increase tribal involvement and control over schools and the education of students located in tribal communities.
- E. Encourage cooperation among the educational leadership of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and the Navajo Nation to address the unique issues of educating students in Navajo communities that arise due to the location of the Navajo Nation in those states.
- F. Provide the means for a formal government-to-government relationship between the state and New Mexico tribes and the development of relationships with the education division of the bureau of Indian affairs and other entities that serve American Indian students.

- G. Provide the means for a relationship between the state and urban American Indian community members to participate in initiatives and educational decisions related to American Indian students residing in urban areas.
- H. Ensure that parents; tribal departments of education; community-based organizations; the department of education; universities; and tribal, state and local policymakers work together to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students.
- I. Ensure that tribes are notified of all curricula development for their approval and support.
- J. Encourage an agreement regarding the alignment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and state assessment programs so that comparable information is provided to parents and tribes.
- K. Encourage and foster parental involvement in the education of Indian students.

DEFINITIONS

Native American Language: means any of the recognized eight (8) Native American languages spoken by NM tribes and pueblos: Jicarilla Apache, Mescalero Apache, Navajo (Dine), Keres, Tewa, Tiwa, Towa, and Zuni.

Native Language Maintenance Program: means the continuation, preservation, and further development of all aspects of a native language.

Native Language Revitalization Program: means a program that encourages the use and continuation, instruction and further development of all aspects of the native language to ensure its survival.

Tribe, Nation or Pueblo: means an Indian tribe, pueblo or nation which is federally recognized by the U.S. Government and the State of New Mexico and consisting of: Acoma Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Nambe Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Picuris Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Zuni Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, Mescalero Apache, and Navajo Nation.

Tribal Department of Education: means a department or division within the tribal organizational structure delegated with the function of planning and coordinating all educational programs of the tribe, nation or pueblo.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must be a New Mexico tribe, nation or pueblo. Grants will be awarded during the **2017 fiscal year and programs may be funded July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017**. Awards will be made up to **\$30,000**. Funds may be utilized for costs related to personnel, professional development, resource materials, supplies, transportation, lodging, and stipends.

In addition, if a tribe, nation or pueblo has a proposal which will take more than one year for complete implementation, such proposals may be considered a priority. The work plan must outline what is proposed to be accomplished in each year of the program and specify objectives and outcomes for each year which will be productive and provide a justifiable deliverable even if no additional years are funded. Additional years of funding, not to exceed a total of 4 years, will be considered each year utilizing the Tribal Language

Grant Application process. The additional year funding application will be reviewed and assessed as a proposal within the regular application process. If the tribe, nation or pueblo program proposal is accepted for an additional year of funding, an Interagency Agreement will be completed and processed for that year. Upon award of funds, the Indian Education Division will work with tribe, nation, or pueblo to develop an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) which must be signed prior to issuance of any grant funds.

The funding for this Request for Application (RFA) will be awarded to New Mexico tribes, nations or pueblos for supporting the maintenance and/or revitalization of native languages and tribal departments of education.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process allows for a New Mexico tribe, nation or pueblo to submit an application that will fund a native language program or tribal department of education. Eligible applicants are asked to select a focus area(s) (*no more than two focus areas*) from Category A or B to ensure sustainable quality deliverables at the end of the grant period.

Category A: Native Language and Culture Program

Focus Areas:

1. Community

- Native language programs focused on the maintenance and revitalization of the native language for all tribal members
 - Language and cultural classes
 - Community cultural activities that support language retention
 - Engaging elders and traditional leaders

2. Program Administration

- Data management and administrative support
- Supporting resources for the native language program
 - Personnel
 - Fiscal
 - Facilities and equipment
 - Technology support

3. Policy Development

- Long range native language infrastructure plans for community adults and children with input from all stakeholders
- Local native language council/committee for policy development
- Collaborating with the local public or BIE school to implement a native language program in accordance with tribal practices, customs or laws
 - Language policies and procedures for schools with native language programs (usage, instruction and evaluation)
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with school districts to allow for the Tribal heritage language to be taught in schools with a 520 certified teacher and acquire eligible bilingual credits
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NMPED to allow for the certification of tribal community members to apply for the Native American Language and Culture teacher certificate K-12
- Procedural guidelines and criteria for certifying native language teachers

- Procedural development of guidelines to meet the requirement of the state bilingual seal
- Plan and develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NMPED to allow for the certification of Tribal community members to receive the Bilingual State Seal

4. Curriculum Development

- Native language materials, including native language assessments to be used by native language teachers
- Tribal approval of native language curricula to be used in schools serving tribal students
- Engaging community members and elders in the development of curricula materials
- Utilizing technology to enhance native language programs and curricula materials

5. Professional Development

- Training for native language teachers on delivery of instruction, classroom management curriculum development, assessment, etc.
 - Native language conferences, symposiums, seminars, institutes and courses
- Training for community members, language councils/committees, tribal officials and employees on native language revitalization
- Training on proper native language usage by elders and traditional leaders

Category B: Tribal Department of Education

Focus Areas:

1. Interagency Partnerships

- Developing processes (e.g. MOAs) to ensure equitable educational opportunities for tribal students in public, charter or Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools
- Developing processes for data and programmatic sharing of tribal students attending public, charter and BIE schools

2. Program Administration

- Data management and administrative support
- Facilitate educational support programs for tribal students and members
- Supporting resources for education department/program
 - Personnel
 - Fiscal
 - Facilities and equipment
- Technology support

3. Policy Development

- Develop or revise tribal educational policies and procedures to ensure equitable educational opportunities for students, adults and community members
- Plan and develop Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with NMPED or school districts related to students and student demographics

4. Student Centered

- Supporting programs and interventions for tribal students
 - Community based activities
 - Mentoring and counseling
 - Engaging elders with students

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

The Indian Education Division will adhere to the following schedule:

Issuance of Application	April 06, 2016
Pre-Application Conference(s)	April 13 and April 19, 2016
Application Due Date	May 09, 2016
Application Evaluation	May 10 through June 1, 2016
Award Notifications	May 20, 2016
Begin IGA Process	May 23, 2016

APPLICATION DUE DATE

The original application and email copy must be submitted to the address indicated on Page 5 no later than **5:00 P.M. on May 09, 2016**. **Facsimile copies are no longer accepted. Requests for an extension of submission of this date will no longer be granted after Close of Business May 09, 2016.** Additional copies of this Request for Application are available online: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us>

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Indian Education Division will conduct a pre-application conference. The pre-application conference is scheduled as follows:

- April 13, 2016 – 2016 Indian Education Summit. Please refer to the summit agenda for further details and room location; to be held in Dulce, NM
- April 19, 2016– 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at Mabry Hall, NMPED 300 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501

The pre-application conference is required for all prospective applicants and/or designated staff from the Tribal governments. There will be discussion regarding different procedural methods for next year involving intergovernmental agreements between tribes/pueblos and NMPED.

The contact person for this Request for Application is De Alva Calabaza, Program Manager for the Indian Education Division. The original application with signatures and email copies should be mailed to the following address:

Mailing Address:

De Alva Calabaza, Program Manager
NMPED Indian Education Division
Jerry Apodaca Education Building, Room 303
300 Don Gaspar Avenue Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone: (505) 827-6464
Email: dealva.calabaza@state.nm.us

REQUIRED FORMAT

1. Applications must be typed utilizing provided templates (see Appendix A thru C). Original application must have the original signature of the authorizing Tribal Representative.
2. Applicants shall deliver the original application and email identical copies of their application before the closing date and time for receipt of applications.
3. All applications shall use word processing on standard 8½" x 11" paper, double spaced, 1" margins and use Arial 12 Font.
4. Attachments will be accepted for letters of endorsement and commitment only. **Attachments do not need to be copied.**

Optional: Letters of Endorsement and Commitment from Community Agencies and Organizations; Tribal Governments and/or Tribal Departments of Education and Navajo Chapter Houses.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
Program Summary: The summary is clear and details current status of program or department with supporting qualitative and quantitative data.	10 Points
Work Plan: The work plan aligns with the focus area(s) and provides a detailed description of the plan of operation with project objectives or activities- e.g. specific strategies, timelines, and responsible staff. Address how the work plan will support the focus area(s).	40 Points
Results Expected: The results expected are detailed and the deliverables align with the specific focus area(s).	20 Points
Evaluation: The evaluation provides a clear process on how the project has achieved its stated objectives and the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project.	20 Points
Budget Justification: Applicant must provide a summary for fiscal justification and detailed budget line items which align with the project activities.	10 Points
Total Points:	100 Points