



MONTANA INDIAN LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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Putting Montana Students First 

OVERVIEW

As required by [20-9-537, MCA](#), this report includes current program guidelines and a summary of each participating tribal government's activities.

The Montana Indian Language Preservation Program ([20-9-537, MCA](#)) is to support efforts of Montana tribes and partnering school districts to preserve native languages and to meet the state's educational goal of preserving the cultural integrity of American Indians under Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana constitution. During the current biennium, eight tribal nations produced preservation products that help memorialize their languages while at the same time help to perpetuate language usage. Each tribe had a schedule and priority goals and activities for the year. The activities include digitizing language products, recordings of stories and book publishing, online classes, development of interactive language dictionaries and other language learning activities and summer language immersion classes among other priorities. Office of Public Instruction's (OPI) Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit works with local tribal communities for updates on deliverables, budgetary reporting, and activities.

Budget: The Montana Indian Language Preservation program grant has a biennial budget of \$1,500,000 for all eight federally recognized tribal communities.

2022-23: Each of the grantees received an award of \$168,750. 15% was allocated for administrative costs.

2023-24: Each of the grantees received an award of \$187,500. The law was amended for 2023, and the administrative fee was removed.

Program: OPI's published rule, 10.75.103 ARM, on the program's guidelines can be found [here](#). The rule details the contract that tribal nations or community entities may enter into with OPI, the role these entities play, eligible use of funds, and the distribution of funds.

Language Fluency: OPI's rule, 10.75.102 ARM, on defining Indian language fluency can be found [here](#). The rule defines fluency, establishes a scale for fluency, and a scale for Indian language fluency progress.

Reporting: OPI's rule, 10.75.105 ARM, on required reporting for the program can be found [here](#). The rule details the reports required to be submitted by the tribal government or entity to the OPI.

PROGRAMS

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Little Shell Language Program

2023: Award \$168,750

Locate and obtain one Chippewa/Ojibwe Native American Linguists to work with the Little Shell Language Program.

Develop a Chippewa/Ojibwe Language and Culture Curriculum.

Purchase 1 Chippewa/Ojibwe language teaching materials.

2024 Award \$187,500

Adopt and use a sound and pronunciation chart of the Chippewa-Ojibwe Language that will be used in language classes that are offered throughout the year.

Develop, produce, share, and field test high school Chippewa-Ojibwe language lesson plans.

BLACKFEET TRIBE

Blackfeet Early Childhood Center

2023 Award \$168,750

Record film and create books to incorporate Blackfeet language and sign language into the classrooms.

Travel to historical sites with elders to film and record the history of the Blackfeet Tribe.

Incorporate deliverables into prenatal, 0-5 Head Start, k-12 and community college classroom

2024 Award \$187,500

Capture contact information of fluent Blackfeet Language speakers to include them in activities.

Purchase supplies and services as needed to continue to create books, films and materials to incorporate both Languages into the classrooms.

Revisit historical sites in Montana to record stories and interviews with elders.

CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE

2023 Award \$168,750

Stone Child College will update the Cree Language Nest curriculum. They will print and distribute 300 curriculum books to the local schools and community members.

Stone Child College will partner with local schools to host the 2nd Annual Anishiaabe-Neiyo Education Conference. The 3-day conference will immerse local teachers and community members on Chippewa and Cree language, culture, and history.

Provide professional development activities including, but not limited to, training, education, and partnership building to increase the Ojibwe/Neyio Language on the reservation.

2024 Award \$187,500

Build and maintain partnerships with, but not limited to, the Chippewa Cree Tribe (CCT), CCT Department of Indian Education, Box Elder School District, CCT TANF Department, and the SAMSON NATION/MASKWACISE Education Commission.

Provide professional development activities such as training, education, and partnership building to increase the Ojibwe/Neyio Language on the Reservation.

CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES

Selis Qlispe Culture Committee

2023 Award \$168,750

Develop a prototype/concept of a bilingual placename sign for the South Fork of the Jocko primitive area entrance. The sign will be in both Salish and English and will have historical information of the area.

Create three Salish Language games. The first two games will be a Go Fish Game and a Go Cook game. The third game will be a Salish Language board game. We will work with Native Teaching Aids to help in the development of these games.

Develop three new activities for the Online Salish Language Kids Zone with the help of Native Teaching Aids. The program works on smartboards, computers and Mobile Devices. Provide the Kid Zone a Preschool Package (Alphabet, Numbers and Colors activities), which will bring language activities and games to a younger age group.

Print materials to distribute to our schools and communities for free.

2024 Award \$187,500

Educational Posters will be developed to help teachers stay immersed and explain topics while teaching. These posters will serve as resources that can be used in early learning all the way to adult education opportunities.

Digital Stories will record first language speakers, speaking in Salish reading a series of children's stories. Books will be digitized while also adding audio of first language speakers.

Equipment and technology will be updated to keep apprentices and teachers connected online. It will also allow for and creating recordings of fluent speakers.

CROW TRIBE

Little Big Horn College

2023 Award \$168,750

The Project Director will identify and invite 10 fluent Crow speakers to gather for two weeks with two linguists to record longer and more complex phrases in Crow for a new Crow Phrase Dictionary.

The Linguist, Linguistic Assistant, and Database Technician will work together to create a clear and robust audio and linguistic database to be added to the Crow Online Dictionary website.

A Layout Design Artist and Graphic Artist will collaborate to format and organize the dictionary entries in a print format. This book will be printed and distributed to community members, including the speakers who assisted with the project and students and teachers at Little Big Horn College and throughout Montana.

2024 Award \$187,500

Gather plants used in Apsaalooke culture and prepare them by pressing them for preservation. Prepare slides with plants, Apsaalooke name, use of the plants in culture educational purposes.

Provide deliverables to local schools.

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY

Fort Belknap Language Preservation Program

2023 Award \$168,750

Take the existing Kids Zone developed for the Salish Community and work with the Fort Belknap Language Preservation Program to transfer this into the Aaniiih and Nakota.

Develop roadway signage for historical areas of the Aaniiih and Nakoda people of landmarks and battle sites.

Provide language curricula for media and preservation of audio, visual, and technical projects including language, culture, history of Aaniiih and Nakoda Tribes.

2024 Award \$187,500

Create a book and digitize it using verbs and its modes, using transitive and intransitive orders broken down with prefixes and suffixes.

Develop lessons of Tribes Kinship, songs and the roles that our Tribes (Gros Ventre "Whiteclay and Assiniboine "Nakoda") had and what importance it held.

Native Games and how math and geometry, social studies, and physical education are all involved (4 Units). Taught in schools and culture camps.

FORT PECK ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES

Fort Peck Language & Culture Department

2023 Award \$168,750

Expand K-12 Educational Posters

Develop lesson plans for an Ethnobotany Guide

Host 2023 Summer Youth (Dakota and Nakoda) Language & Culture Program

Develop language curriculum for local school classrooms

2024 Award \$187,500

Provide Dakota and Nakoda weekly language classes and language and culture services as requested by the schools on the Fort Peck Reservation.

Hold a community event once a month.

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Chief Dull Knife College-

2023 Award \$168,750

Record 30 first language speakers. Only a small fraction of Cheyenne first language speakers remain and their stories and history are very important for preservation efforts.

Establish a Clearing House for access to language materials that will be available for community use.

Continue to encourage and invite tribal members to an informal Cheyenne Language Discussion with first language speakers at the Chief Dull Knife Language and Culture Department.

Finance and host an annual Cheyenne Language Camp at the Chief Dull Knife College.

2024 Award \$187,500

Collaborate to help teach the Cheyenne language and cultural activities with the Northern Cheyenne Head Start community and parents.

Offer a variety and series of Cheyenne Language Classes to the adult community learners with the goal of establishing a continuation of language effort to create intergenerational transmission of the Cheyenne Language.

Host an annual Cheyenne Language Camp