

Tribal Youth Diversion Grant
Abstracts of Projects Recommended for Funding

Tribe: Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Project Title: Mendocino Regional Tribal Diversion Project

Proposal Abstract: Pinoleville Pomo Nation is submitting a regional application to support 352 American Indian (AI) students (age 12-18) in decreasing rates of juvenile probation, suspension, dropout and increasing cultural education and academic support in Mendocino County. The project partners and collaborates with Mendocino County Probation Department, Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) and two Tribes. The project will implement three major strategies to address critical challenges faced by the Native American youth in our area.

1. Increase cultural awareness & education among AI students, their classmates and school district staff to integrate native culture into school curriculum, create a trauma-informed educational environment and build AI students' strength based on their cultural heritage.

- Objective A: By the end of the 1st project year, develop a database with at least 20 local tribal cultural educators and establish a system to work with 10 local schools to bring local native history, culture and tradition to the classrooms with 15% increase of service in the 2nd and 3rd project years.
- Objective B: By the end of each project year, deliver 120 hrs. of local native cultural education in Ukiah Unified School District and Mendocino County Office of Education classrooms serving a total of 40 teachers, 320 native & 500 non-native students for the first year, with 15% growth in year 2 and year 3.

2. Improve AI students' academic performance, engage the whole families in AI student's vocational and college counseling and decrease dropout.

- Objective C: By the end of each program year, offer 1000 hours individual tutoring sessions to 25-30 AI students who experience arrest or probation, suspension, chronic absenteeism, or are at high risk for dropping out of school or falling severely behind in their grade level.

- Objective D: By the end of each project year, deliver 10 College and Career Group Workshops reaching 100 AI students and their families and 60 individual counseling sessions to 20-25 at risk AI youth.

3. Increase American Indian youth-adult partnership and parent-family involvement to prevent juvenile arrests, suicide and substance abuse.

- Objective E: Increase existing mentoring program to serve 15 additional high risk AI youth (age 12-18) through adult mentorship totaling 720 hours in order to prevent and intervene in youth entering into the juvenile justice system by the end of each program year.
- Objective F: Produce (4) half-day prevention/early intervention community events and (2) full-day cultural classes to serve 100 AI youth and 75 family members utilizing the GONA (Gathering of Native Americans) framework to increase cultural knowledge, community engagement and program recruitment by the end of each year.

Tribe: Karuk Tribe

Project Title: Youth Wellness Truancy Court

Proposal Abstract: The Karuk Youth Wellness Truancy Court (KYWTC) is a pre-court diversion program designed to provide an alternative way to intervene and provide services to AI/NA truant students grades 7th – 12th. It is a four phase process involving progressive interventions to improve student's attendance and academic performance. The four phases include parent/guardian and child meeting with youth Truancy Court personnel on a regular basis and petition is filed in the youth truancy wellness court. A specially assigned student support student services specialist and other team members work collaboratively with schools, parents/guardians, community organizations, human services and correction personnel to improve the student's attendance, academic performance and cultural connectivity/awareness.

The Karuk Youth Wellness Court annually works with approximately 10-15 at-risk Karuk youth ages grades 7th thru 12th residing within the Karuk's service area. In 2018/2019 the youth Wellness Court has seen a drastic increase in youth being referred to the program for Truancy, academic failure and or SARB actions. Out of the ten most recent youth entering the program, three actually had SARB actions with four at risk of academic failure with all seven (7) having no substance abuse issues. The court in 2019 had to turn away approximately five (5) youth due to insufficient court program service capacity.