



## Ohkay Owingeh P'oe Tsawa Community Library

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Ohkay Owingeh is a federally recognized Tribe Located in Rio Arriba County in Northern New Mexico. Ohkay Owingeh is the largest of six Tewa speaking pueblos in the state, with approximately 3092 enrolled members. There are approximately 12,000 Non-Native community members that live within the boundaries of the reservation that utilize the library.

- 80% Native American
- 2% African American
- 3% Caucasian
- 15% Hispanic

Ohkay Owingeh has a traditional system of government consisting of A Tribal Governor, Two Lieutenant Governors, and a Sheriff, who are overseen by the Tribal Council. The library falls under The Pueblo's Education Division.

Ohkay Owingeh is 12,236 acres (or 19.11 square miles) this is inclusive of the surrounding communities of Alcalde, El Llano, Ranchitos, Chamita, El Guique, Velarde, Espanola, Hernandez, and El Duende. P'oe Tsawa Community Library opened its door in 2005. The library has acquired "Public

Library Status" from a "Developing Library" with the New Mexico State Library. The Library is staffing one full time Assistant and a Head Librarian. We are open 49 hours a week. Our computer lab is equipped with 16 public computers and 5 laptops.

The library is also equipped with a children's room, appropriate with early literacy materials for toddler use and two children's educational software. The library holds 10 reading and activity sessions a week for students of the Ohkay Owingeh Community School and Headstart. The sessions are on a set schedule with a total of 147 students. We serve students from the Espanola Public School, Santa Fe Indian School, Northern New Mexico College, and home school students, during after school hours and the general public from Monday — Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Library also hosts a Summer Reading Program each summer for reading enrichment. The incorporation of the Tewa language and culture in several library projects is vital to the struggle in preserving our way of life in Ohkay Owingeh. Traditional Ohkay Owingeh Regalia and Craft Classes have become highly requested and valued by patrons of all ages in the library. These Programs are very popular in the community with an ever-growing attendance. The library is a very unique learning hub of the community that we intend to continue and expand going forward.

# **Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant FY24**

## **Narrative**

### **Project Justification**

The P'oe Tsawa Community Library will utilize the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant Program for several projects that will address these program goals:

Goal 1, Objective 1.2 Support preservation and access to information and resources through digitization.

Goal 2, Objective 2.1 Support the identification of the needs and interests of learners.

Objective 2.2 Support the development and implementation of classes, events, teaching tools, resources, and other educational services.

Goal 3, Objective 3.2 Support the preservation of content of unique and specific value to Native Communities.

Objective 3.3 Support the sharing of content within and/or beyond Native communities.

In FY 2024, the library staff plans to enhance the program and services by incorporating the Ohkay Owingeh Tewa language, culture, and history of the tribe through library services. We will achieve this through community engagement, bringing together the knowledge and skills of our community members to share with our patrons.

The Head Librarian and Assistant librarian at the P'oe Tsawa Community Library identified the need for Traditional regalia and Tewa language programs in Ohkay Owingeh due to the increased number of Tribal patrons' requests for local regalia artisans and Tewa Classes. The P'oe Tsawa Community Library is an information hub for our community which our community members utilize for more than basic library needs. This need of the community resulted in the Library to undertake more Traditional programs to assist its patrons of all ages. An increase in Traditional programs also lead to more interest and participation in cultural activities by Tribal patrons, Ohkay Owingeh Headstart and Ohkay Owingeh Community School Students as well as other Tribal Students from the surrounding schools.

Two full-time Assistant Librarian positions will be subsidized for one year. These positions will be essential for carrying out the proposed programs. In FY24 the Head Librarian and/or staff will be attending IMLS-designated meetings.

During the past year, our library offered many extended programs to our patrons and their families. With these programs we have been able to promote the library, and the many resources that we offer. We have seen and documented an increase in the number of patrons served.

The P'oe Tsawa Community Library is introducing an internship program to local high school and college students. The internship will teach students about the daily operation of the library as well as programs that we will be conducting, providing them with experience for future employment opportunities.

As our participation rates grow in the extended programs, we have plans to extend even more. Our plans include providing Traditional Regalia and craft teachers to conduct more classes, Traditional story tellers and speakers for Tewa language, culture and history talk series, and a Tewa Language Instructor to complete story translations, editing and to prepare Tewa language digital materials and activities that the library staff can utilize to reinforce the language being taught at school and at home. Also, for the Tribal staff to further their oral and written understanding of the Tewa language.

### **Project Work Plan**

Salaries and fringe benefits for two Librarian Assistants will be subsidized for the duration of one year from September 1, 2024 until August 31, 2025 to ensure strong initial planning and implementation for projects. Salaries after this date will be subsidized by other grants and Tribal subsidy.

Traditional Craft Classes will occur between October 2024 and July 2026 (days to be determined), there will be a total of 15 classes (3 classes each). If an instructor is unavailable to complete all 3 classes, another instructor and/or traditional craft will be substituted for that class or classes. Traditional Regalia/Dress Making Classes will take place in the months of November 2024, March 2025, and March 2026. The P'oe Tsawa Community Library Head Librarian and Librarian Assistants will plan classes and arrange instructors (for all Traditional craft classes) from the Community to share their knowledge of their craft as well as the stories of how they acquired their knowledge. Traditional Pottery Making will be in the months of April 2025, April 2026, and May 2026. Traditional Moccasin Making will be in October 2024, July 2025, and July 2026. Skunk Skin Making in the months of January 2025, August 2025, and June 2026. Beading classes will be held in the months of December 2024, September 2025, February 2026.

Tewa Language Projects which includes story translation, editing, language materials and activities will be conducted between October 2024 through May 2026 (20 months). The Story translations/editing will be conducted by a certified Tewa Language Instructor with experience with the written Tewa language. The instructor will be responsible for translating stories, books and relevant material. Also, editing and existing written stories in order to make them reader friendly for the Tribal library staff and other Tribal employees of Education to utilize as Tewa

teaching material. The instructor will also be responsible for creating Tewa Language materials/activities that is aligned with activities within the P'oe Tsawa Community Library each month. All material must also be digitized for future use by Library and Education staff. The Tewa language Projects will be planned in part by the Head Librarian and the Librarian Assistants and will include the Tewa Language Instructor to brainstorm and innovate ideas. The P'oe Tsawa Library will utilize its partnership with the Ohkay Owingeh Headstart, Ohkay Owingeh Community School, and Ohkay Owingeh Education Department to include multiple age groups, families, and Tribal staff in the Tewa Language Projects. The IMLS Enhancement Grant will be key to maintaining staff involvement and to compensate the Tewa language instructor for the valuable work that will be done to preserve the Tewa language and revitalize it among Tribal members of all ages.

The Tewa Language history talk series and language/culture sessions will be conducted from September 2024 through August 2026 with a total of 30 sessions. Session will be scheduled once a month with some months having two sessions due to cultural activities when availability of speakers is limited. P'oe Tsawa Community Library staff will organize Tribal and Non-Tribal community members for the History Talk Series. It will be one speaker per session with 10 sessions on different Topics on history of Ohkay Owingeh and surrounding areas as well as connections to other Tribal communities. This is an important part of Tewa culture, the passing down of stories and experiences to various generations. The History of Ohkay Owingeh includes Tewa place names and forgotten words or phrases for past everyday items or activities. The Tewa Language /culture sessions will consist of 20 sessions with a Tewa Instructor and will be available to Tribal members only due to the sensitive cultural teachings that are restricted to Ohkay Owingeh Tribal members. This will ensure a safe place for Tribal members to immerse themselves in the language and culture with opportunity to further their understanding thus preserving the Tewa way of life which is heavily dependent on language.

Internships will be served in increments of four months from October 1, 2024 to April 30, 2026. Two interns will serve during each increment and students must complete 80 hours within the four-month period. The first increment will commence on October 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025, second will begin March 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025, next will be September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, and final increment will be January 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026. The High School and/or College student must be in good standing with their school and Tribal Education Department to be considered for internship. If at any time a student falls out of good standing they will be suspended until they return to good standing status and must continue to complete 80 hours. The Interns will potentially serve 2 hours per day, two days a week as to not be disruptive to their school work, however hours can be flexible to a student's schedule. The P'oe Tsawa Community Library staff will be responsible for training and instructing the interns on the Library operations, functions and special projects. Staff will also instruct on work place ethics, communication, and other work skills that will be essential to their employment goals.

To ensure Project success the P'oe Tsawa Community Library will utilize various knowledgeable community members to instruct patrons on Tewa Tradition Regalia/art skills and history. Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Tewa Instructors from the Ohkay Owingeh Community School will be conducting our proposed Tewa Language Projects. The P'oe Tsawa Library will maintain its partnership with Ohkay Owingeh Headstart and Ohkay Owingeh Community School increasing Tewa Language teachings to reinforce current teachings. All the proposed projects will be planned, supervised and supported by P'oe Tsawa Community Library Staff.

Project findings will be shared with Ohkay Owingeh Board of Education and Education Department. These finding will also be recorded for library staff and the lessons learned so that we may improve our services. In order to measure performance in achieving desired results, The P'oe Tsawa Community Library staff will record attendance of all proposed programs. Patron surveys and testimonials will be collected and documented. Also, pictures of the program classes/sessions, as well as completed Traditional regalia will be collected and displayed. Staff will keep schedule of projects, oversee and assist with projects, work with the head librarian to ensure paperwork is completed, ensuring projects are done in a timely matter and are of high quality. For Language Projects, the Tewa Language Instructor will digitize story translations, editing and prepare Tewa language digital materials and activities that other Tewa instructors and library staff can utilize.

## **Project Results**

The P'oe Tsawa Community Library is a hub for our community which offers more than basic library needs. Increasing Native American Traditional Programs and Language Projects to achieve more usage and understanding of the Tewa language and culture among Library staff and Tribal community members. The strengthening of interest and participation in cultural activities and language by Tribal patrons, Ohkay Owingeh Headstart and Ohkay Owingeh Community School Students as well as other Tribal Students from the surrounding schools is a very important result we intend to have through Increasing and improving the proposed Traditional Programs and Language/Culture sessions. The Traditional Programs we have proposed will promote the library, and the many resources that we offer. We hope to observe and document an increase in the number of patrons served.

Introducing an internship program at The P'oe Tsawa Community Library for local high school and college students will strive to teach students about the daily operations of the library as well as programs that we will be conducting, providing them with experience for the future.

In FY2024, the library staff plans to enhance the program and services by incorporating the Ohkay Owingeh Tewa language, culture, and history of the tribe through library services. We will achieve this through community engagement, bringing together the knowledge and skills of our community members to share with our patrons.

Through providing Traditional Regalia and craft teachers to conduct more classes, Traditional story tellers and speakers for Tewa language, culture and history talk series, and a Tewa Language Instructor to complete story translations, editing and to prepare Tewa language digital materials and activities that the library staff and community members can learn and grow their knowledge through hands-on classes and social interactions. Also, the Instructors can benefit from developing specific language-based materials to aide in other school and community classes and can be shared among Ohkay Owingeh Programs. By introducing an internship program, The P'oe Tsawa Community Library will provide high school and college students with experience on library functions, Biblionix library system, book care and cataloging. The students will also be exposed to our community classes and the preparation necessary to providing special programs to patrons.

## Schedule of Completion – Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant FY24

	September 2024	October	November	December	January 2025	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Traditional Dress/Regalia Making Class												
Traditional Pottery Making Class												
Traditional Moccasin Making Class												
Traditional Skunk Skin Regalia Class												
Traditional Beading Class												
Story Translations/Editing												
Tewa Language Materials												
History Talk Series												
Language/Culture Sessions												
Internships												



## Schedule of Completion – Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant FY24

	September 2025	October	November	December	January 2026	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
<b>Traditional Dress/Regalia Making Class</b>												
<b>Traditional Pottery Making Class</b>												
<b>Traditional Moccasin Making Class</b>												
<b>Traditional Skunk Skin Regalia Class</b>												
<b>Traditional Beading Class</b>												
<b>Story Translations/ Editing</b>												
<b>Tewa Language Materials</b>												
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