

Nambe Pueblo Library: Providing Literacy to Our Community

Project Justification:

Which program goal and associated objective(s) of the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants program will your project address?

The Nambe Pueblo Library is seeking a grant of \$126,514.00 to enhance the mobility of our free library locations for all ages over a one-year period. Being a newly established library, we will use the funding to cover the salaries/benefits of the employees in the library to ensure that our goal of improving educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users. Our programs include family literacy nights, book club meetings, reading to our after-school program, providing library time to our pueblo day-school, hosting special events, like our eclipse event in October 2023, and collaborating/participating with other departments events within our tribe. We are also starting to offer basics on computer classes. Funding our staff allows us to continue with these programs which encourage the expansion of minds of our preschoolers, adolescents, young adults, adults, and our elders. Our staff also allow our library to be an active participant within our community of Nambe Pueblo, and addressing the needs and requests that come up during these times. This will help the library staff to ensure that the community has a better understanding and knowledge of literacy skills. To further generate interest in the services and programs we offer, we will also use funding to establish free libraries in community approved locations, supporting the library program on the outreach to our community and its members, and IMLS's Goal 2: Improve educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users and objective 2:1 to support the identification of the needs and interests of learners.

What need, problem, or challenge will your project address and how was it identified? Who is the target group for your project and how have they been involved in the planning?

In 2023 the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFFS) conducted a survey in the Pueblo of Nambe with 50% of the tribal population completing the survey. One of the suggestions received of what the community would like to see, was to increase access to library services/reading materials. Not everyone has the opportunity to come into the library during our open hours, so we plan on providing two free libraries in addition to the one that is already set up outside of our library, one at the office of our Governor and the other at the Nambe Falls Travel Center which is located in Pojoaque, NM. Each location was approved by the governor of our tribe. Our tribal administration is where the governor of our pueblo is and that is visited by all members within our community as well as by those who are coming to explore our pueblo's beautiful culture and scenery. At our second location, Nambe Falls Travel Center, we gained the commitment to have it there by the General Manager and President of the Nambe Pueblo Development Corporation. This particular location will give access to not only our community members, but the passerby's that are interested in having access to free books. By having these built and set up at the said locations, we will be able to target all age groups even outside of our community. The library staff will work efficiently to make sure that books are always readily available within these locations, giving library users access to books even when they are not able to come into the library.

Who are the ultimate beneficiaries for this project?

The Pueblo of Nambe will ultimately benefit from having these extra resources available for them, as well as the community of Pojoaque Pueblo and all those who surround the area of Pojoaque.

Project Work Plan:

What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence?

If approved for this grant, I can start to look for someone who is able to build the free libraries and set them up at the locations where they belong. I will then be able to purchase the materials needed to complete the projects in mind. Once built, we can have them placed at the locations chosen and patrons will be able to enjoy the services from our library. Nambe Pueblo Library Staff will continue to plan, organize and implement the following services:

-Main library services: Hours of Operation Monday-Thursday 8am to 6pm, Fridays 8am to 5pm and closed on the weekends and holidays.

-Family Literacy Nights on the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

-Book Club Meetings every other week (sometimes having a movie to collaborate with the book).

-Pueblo Day School programming where we do multiple activities every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

-Afterschool program where we read every Friday and assist on field trips or any other activities as needed.

-Computer Classes are currently in the process to be held in the library as soon as receive more feedback from the community on what they are interested in taking.

If at any time another department needs help the library staff does help as much as they can.

What are the risks to the project, and how will you mitigate them?

With all projects, there can sometimes be bumps in the road to completing these projects. The good thing about doing collaborations with other departments is that we back each other with what we can. If issues arose in setting up the free libraries, I can seek help from another department in what is needed. In addition, our library has a strong group of supporters across the community that I can lean into for assistance.

Who will plan, implement, and manage your project? What time, financial, personnel, and other resources will you need to carry out the activities??

The librarian will serve as the Project Director/Manager and will first look for someone who can provide their services to build the project. I will need at least \$5000.00 to be used for this project, including the cost of materials and labor. If I need more money to fund this project, I will check to see if different materials can be used or possibly donated for the difference. Since we have

received book donations prior to being open to the public, we are able to provide books to be placed in the free libraries along with any extra books left from our book club meetings.

What existing resources within the tribe, assets, within the library or community, and/or potential partners will be utilized during this project to aid in its success

In the community currently, we have multiple systems that communicate different events, social activities, emergency notifications, and any other form of news needed to be shared in our pueblo. These systems include: our nixel, which is a text message that a tribal member/community member can sign up for to receive updates within the tribe. There's the marquee that is located by our housing office just as you get on the main road through Nambe Pueblo, and that will disclose any info that is requested to be on there. We have our tribal Facebook page where any member the tribe/household of a tribal member can communicate to those that are on Facebook with info that they wish to share. We also have our bi-weekly newsletter (memo) that is delivered to all houses that are on pueblo property and this is also emailed for those that are not located on the pueblo, and of course there is always word of mouth. By continuing to utilize all of these resources, it will enable the library to get word out of the project and its success.

How and with who, will you share your work's general findings and lessons learned?

All projects and activities that are conducted from the library are shared with our Governor, Lt. Governor and Tribal Council. We are required to do a monthly report to show exactly what projects, meetings or activities we are working on/with.

Project Results:

What are your project's intended results and how will they address the need, problem, or challenge you have identified in the Project Justification section?

By having this project completed, we will be able to provide library services to patrons of all ages even when we are closed. To have a full library staff we will be able to make sure that all programs that are currently running will continue to do so without recourse. We plan out our monthly events like our Family Literacy Night, (in the past we had the Eclipse event), and we are able to keep the bi-weekly book club meetings going. Making sure that our Day School is getting the requested time of twice a week for library time and of course our After-School Program receiving its reading time on Fridays and exploring the library any other day of the week if they get free time. These are just a few of the requests from within our community that we have going on currently and would really like to keep all this going so that our youth and families will continue to benefit through the library services.

How will the knowledge, skills, and/or appreciation of the target group's community values grow as a result of your project?

Being able to provide books outside of the library will help more than one community expand their knowledge of books and literacy skills. This will be a forever library with no hours of operation and be accessed at any time.

What product(s) will result from you project?

At the end of everything, the library will have completed 2 new free libraries that will help to continue the growth of literacy and capture the minds of those who aren't always available the pleasure of going into the library. Be able to offer computer classes to the community for which they have requested. We will also be able to keep the library staff on hand and able to continue to work with the programs currently offered (6 programs) and programs we hope to start in the coming months. Ensuring a fully staffed library will benefit the community full time and sometimes more when needed. Being able to complete this will help the community/tribe to become more efficient with the knowledge and understanding of literacy skills.

How will you sustain the benefit(s) of your project beyond the conclusion of the period of performance?

Upon completing these projects, this will show the significance and importance of keeping the library funded to continue with more projects like this one. Continuing to look at all avenues of funding for expansion projects and keeping the employees around to make sure that these projects are succeeding. Unfortunately, we are not a tribe that has the money to keep all employees on the payroll without the help of grant funding, but by being able to show that the library staff is helping to improve the knowledge and understanding of literacy skills will help show our Governor, Lt. Governor and Tribal Council that libraries and their staff are important to our community at large.

Schedule of Completion

Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Project 1 -----

Project 2 -----