

TRIBAL COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANTS

\$6.98 million invested



What is this investment?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Office of Indian Education (OIE) responded to the disproportionate academic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students, families, and communities.

ESSER III Allocation Overview

ESSER III funds were strategically allocated to address the distinct recovery needs of AI/AN learners and communities, with a focus on academic recovery, health and wellness, cultural preservation, Tribal language revitalization, and workforce development through Career and Technical Education (CTE).



Goals

The initiative aimed to cultivate a sustainable and culturally vibrant educational future for Native students, educators, Tribal Nations, and Indigenous communities across Oregon.

Key Initiatives

- » **Cultural Resilience:** Supported the nine Tribal Nations in fostering positive youth identity and community well-being through initiatives such as culture camps, early literacy programs, Tribal Elder engagement, land-based learning rooted in ancestral knowledge, and Tribal language revitalization efforts.
- » **Academic and Leadership Development:** Provided direct district funding to Title VI Native Education Programs to enhance academic recovery, cultural connection, and youth leadership opportunities.
- » **Reconnection and Community Building:** Prioritized recovery and multigenerational relationship-building through culturally specific education supports and place-based learning approaches.
- » **Integration of Indigenous Knowledge:** Embedded Indigenous traditions into educational environments, inspiring belonging and pride in cultural identity.



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Focus Areas

- » **Health and Wellness:** Enhanced the social, cultural, and emotional well-being of AI/AN students and families.
- » **Tribal Leadership and Community Engagement:** Strengthened partnerships with Tribal leaders and Title VI Native Parent Committees to elevate their voices and priorities.
- » **Culturally Relevant Instruction:** Expanded professional development and implemented state-mandated curriculum, with a focus on integrating Tribal History/Shared History (THSH) in classrooms statewide.

Benefits

- » **Cultural Connection:** Relief funds connected students with their heritage, fostering academic achievement and a deep appreciation for their cultural inheritance.
- » **Capacity Building:** Temporary increases in staffing and resources significantly improved the support systems for AI/AN students, families, and communities.
- » **Holistic Support:** Reinforced culturally attuned learning environments that emphasized positive identity development, belonging, leadership and community-driven solutions.

Key Outcomes

- » **Grant Allocation:** 65 grants directly supported AI/AN students and Tribal community-specific initiatives.
- » **New Roles:** Four full-time positions were created at ESDs to enhance AI/AN education, with plans to sustain them based on measurable impact.
- » **Curriculum Progress:** Achieved significant advancements in teacher preparation and curriculum adoption aligned with Oregon's education standards and mandates, particularly THSH.
- » **Workforce Development:** Expanded CTE programs to address Tribal workforce needs, offering students leadership opportunities and career pathways.

- » **Educator Training:** Hundreds of educators gained insights into culturally responsive teaching through expanded THSH professional development, enhancing the educational experience for Native and non-Native students alike.
- » **Language Revitalization:** Supported intergenerational learning and the preservation of Tribal languages.
- » **Youth Empowerment:** Strengthened wellness and cultural initiatives to promote academic success, leadership, and community connection.

Impact

This transformative one-time investment has created educational environments and occasions where AI/AN learners can thrive both academically and personally. By fostering stronger connections between educators, students, and communities, these efforts have advanced equity, supported cultural preservation, and helped address long-standing educational gaps, paving the way for a more inclusive and supportive future for AI/AN learners and Tribal Nations across Oregon.

This investment reflects ODE and OIE's steadfast commitment to advancing educational excellence, equity, and a deep sense of belonging for AI/AN students. Through culturally rooted, community-driven solutions developed in partnership with the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon and educational collaborators, this initiative focused on addressing educational disparities, deepened understanding, and enhance support for AI/AN students and communities across Oregon.



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