



FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Educating Grassroots Practitioners – Advocating Systemic Change – Capitalizing Indian Communities

"We believe that, when armed with appropriate resources, Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual, and cultural well being of their communities."

Native Youth and Culture Fund Letter of Intent Cover Sheet Submission Deadline: March 31, 2006

Tribe/Organization name: Oglala Lakota Cultural and Economic Revitalization Initiative (OLCERI)

Tribe/Reservation/Native Community served: Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Organizational Contact/Title: Bryan Deans, Executive Director

Project Contact/Title: Bryan Deans, Youth Small Business Training Program Director

Mailing Address: OLCERI, POB 7029, Pine Ridge, SD 57770

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Web Address: (work in progress)

Total Organizational Budget: \$ 200,000

Total Project Budget: \$40,000

NYCF funding request: \$20,000

Other sources: \$ 20,000

Project Duration: 1 year

Start Date: March 24, 2006

Tax Status: Native 501(c)(3) Tribe or Tribal entity _____ Other: _____

An integral component of First Nations' work is our research into best practices that increase Native communities' capacity to control their own resources and craft their own development strategies within the values of their cultures. First Nations has identified six strategies that control, create, build management of, leverage, or retain Native assets. Your project may involve more than one asset and more than one asset development strategy. If you want to identify more than one, please rank them first, second, third, etc., in the order of their importance. As an example, every project will involve youth, but if this is an art project, the primary asset might be traditional knowledge, a program or business enterprise, or suppliers of art materials. In this section, please identify the PRIMARY asset and LEAD strategy.

Primary Asset: Self-sustaining, internally-generated business that will in turn seed and fund other youth education and business development activities

Lead Strategy:

- _____ Increase participation and decision-making in the political process (control).
- _____ Build management capacity to make better use of the asset, or use the asset more effectively (utilize).
- _____ Develop regulatory or legal infrastructure or systems of controls to better protect or keep the asset (retain).
- _____ 2 Use the asset to leverage other assets (leverage).
- _____ Achieve a higher return, or adding value to the asset (increase).
- _____ 1 Create or originating a new asset (create).

Youth Small Business Training Program

Overall Objectives

1. Craft native youth into socially conscious people capable of making real-world decisions regarding personal responsibility by involving them in the disciplines of raising livestock.
2. Promote use of traditional Lakota practices within the activities of animal husbandry, land stewardship.
3. Serve as a funding mechanism for other youth development programs including the Youth Ranching program which will provide successful youth participants with heifers to seed their own herds

OLCERI seeks funding to seed a youth ranching program designed to accomplish the above purposes. By founding this self-sustaining herd of approximately 14 cows, OLCERI will be able to guarantee yearly funding to the Youth Ranching Program and other related youth development projects.

Approximately \$15,000 of the requested funds would be put toward herd startup, the remainder being used for training and event that will serve several functions including attracting potential participants.

All candidates will go through a rigorous selection process to identify those with the highest aptitude and personal ethics. Program will admit both male and female students.

The seed herd will be managed by OLCERI using already existing facilities and seasoned ranch personnel. By the end of the first year, the program will accomplish the following:

1. Create a financial base for OLCERI to continue this program indefinitely without addition outside funding (be fully self-supporting by the end of the first year)
2. 10-20 youth will be well on their way to understanding all aspects of the livestock business
3. Provide about \$10,000 cash return to fund other Lakota youth programs.

Basic Project Budget

Livestock purchases & maintenance	\$15,000
Training materials, tools, instructors	\$ 5,000

(Detailed budget to follow with full application)

NYCF Requirements	How Youth Small Business Training Program will satisfy
Preserving, strengthening or renewing cultural and/or spiritual practices, beliefs and values.	By sponsoring range riding programs, teaches them awareness of other sentient non-human beings and developing responsibility and respect for their lives
Increasing youth leadership and their capacity to lead through integrated educational or mentoring programs	Teaches them herd management, a skill which directly translates into leadership in their day to day lives
Increasing access to and sharing of cultural customs and beliefs through the use of appropriate technologies (traditional and/or modern),	In all activities, we will be teaching the 4 Lakota virtues (Courage, Wisdom, Generosity, Humility)
Focus on youth, and incorporate culture and tradition to address social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, mental health or other social issues.	The program will provide valuable alternatives hanging out in the streets, etc. for (in the first year) 10-20 selected youth.
Demonstrate the ability and/or experience necessary to accomplish the project.	Program Director Bryan Deans has been a successful Lakota rancher for 30+ years.
Have a clear plan of action, specific goals and objectives, and a process to periodically assess, document, and disseminate progress and lessons learned.	Full details shall be provided in the full application, however, OLCERI fully equipped with the necessary experience staff and consultants to answer all these question
Is feasible, cost-effective, and sustainable.	Absolutely so. In the current world, the most feasible way to fund non-profit activities is to creating a business to support it. The rate of return and cost-effectiveness of ranching will be demonstrated by the cashflow projections to be supplied with the full application.
Forms partnerships and engage broad community participation	We form partnerships with various Pine Ridge ride organization; by financially sponsoring various other youth development activities; by helping other Lakota rancher do their ranch duties.
Have potential for application in other Native communities.	There are many impoverished, rural Indian reservation on which this exact model could be replicated. (We specifically design our activities to be replicable elsewhere.)

About OLCERI

The Oglala Lakota Cultural and Economic Revitalization Initiative was begun at Pine Ridge in 2005 by Bryan Deans with help from the Los Angeles-based Community Self-Sufficiency Initiative organization.

The primary objectives and purposes of this organization is to design, develop, establish, maintain, and instruct in the operation of small self-sustaining, self-replicating communities that bring stable economic development, cultural and environmental prosperity, and the creation of a distributed community safety net to small, self-identifying groups (Tiospaye – family clans) of the Lakota people at Pine Ridge.

Its primary programmatic focus is to develop on a small-scale the key infrastructure so badly lacking at Pine Ridge. Key infra-structure includes 12 month greenhouse food production combined with high-efficiency, robust, low-cost tiospaye housing, wells, solar/wind electricity production, tool and machine shops, etc.

As a means of attaining this end, OLCERI is obtaining the funding necessary to create its own internal sources of funding (bio-diesel, cattle). Since OLCERI's purpose is to demonstrate self-sufficiency on one local site and then replicate the pattern elsewhere, it is necessary to involve the youth from the get-go and so they can see how they can get there themselves.

The OLCERI bio-fuels plant is currently halfway to completion and has recently received a financial commitment from the Lakota Fund for \$200,000; sufficient to complete phase 1 construction and begin operations.

