



# 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: Rhea Mora, Way of the Spiritual Warrior Training Program Director

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

City, State, and Zip Code: Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Phone: 605 867 1177, 605-441-3858

Fax: 605 867 1177

E-mail: "Rhea D. Mora" <rmora@gwtc.net>

Web Address: (none)

Total Organizational Budget: \$200,000

Total Project Budget: \$70,000

NYCF funding request: \$20,000

Other sources: \$ 40,000

Project Duration: 1 year

Start Date: Upon funding

Tax Status: Native 501(c)(3)  X \_\_\_\_\_ 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:** Personnel with traditional skills, extensive martial arts background, horsemanship skills, etc.

**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).

## Way of the Spiritual Warrior Training Program

### Overall Objectives

1. To re-orient and re-introduce Lakota youth to the awareness, ways and values of their grandfathers through an intense program of training involving:
  - Physical conditioning
  - Spiritual observation & awareness; Lakota spiritual traditions
  - Martial arts
  - Horsemanship (traditional & contemporary)
  - First aid
  - Tool & Weapons-making (tanning & leather work, bow & arrow, lance, etc.)
  - Lakota language
  - Traditional group riding & encampment procedures
  - Animal tracking
  - Lakota Virtues
  - Hunting & traditional trap-making
  - Wilderness survival training
  - Animal health
  - Flint knapping
  - Use of traditional "Winter Count" pictographs to document individual progress
  - Care-taking the Earth
2. To provide a means for Lakota youth to learn self-confidence, self-discipline, self-appreciation and self-respect.
3. To provide youth with a strong point of focus; one that will provide them with a reference point of how capable they actually can become.

This program pulls together and transmits to youth a wide diversity of essential traditional skills and disciplines. It is a very physical and spiritually intense program open to young men and women alike that takes advantage of the vast knowledge of several of our local adults and elders.

The Way of the Spiritual Warrior program divides into 2 primary components:

1. The Map – which provides training in the skills they will need to find and follow their personal path
2. The Path – which provides personal guidance to help them find and travel on the path.

The program will be under the direction of Rhea Mora, a Lakota martial arts practitioner and instructor for over 20 years (4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, Wun Hop Kuen Do).

Training space is being provided by OLCERI together with a considerable amount of other equipment and horses.

By the end of the first year, the program will accomplish the following:

1. Introduce 10 to 20 selected youth to the spiritual and physically rigorous world of the Lakota warrior. They will learn the basics in all the areas listed above.
2. Obtain permanent funding from OLCERI for program continuation.

**Basic Project Budget**

Salaries	\$15,000
Training materials, tools	\$ 5,000

(Detailed budget to follow with full application)

<b>NYCF Requirements</b>	<b>How the Way of the Spiritual Warrior Training Program responds</b>
Preserving, strengthening or renewing cultural and/or spiritual practices, beliefs and values.	This is the very core of what they will learn.
Increasing youth leadership and their capacity to lead through integrated educational or mentoring programs	Leadership is always an essential part of the warriors life, in all respect including the horse riding and encampment evolutions.
Increasing access to and sharing of cultural customs and beliefs through the use of appropriate technologies (traditional and/or modern),	This is a core activity.
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.	Wilderness survival training together with traditional spiritual practices have always proven their value in rescuing youth from the talons of the commercial culture.
Demonstrate the ability and/or experience necessary to accomplish the project.	Other Lakota instructors include: Mike Lawrence – 30+ years experience as a hunter-tracker Tony LaDeau – handcrafts, bows, wooden weaponry Rob Lawrence – Horseman & rancher for 35 years, carrier of Lakota spiritual traditions Bryan Deans -- Horseman & rancher for 35 years

	Wilmer Mesteth -- teacher of Lakota language, culture and spirituality at Oglala College, spiritual aspects, herbs
Have a clear plan of action, specific goals and objectives, and a process to periodically assess, document, and disseminate progress and lessons learned.	The plan is generally listed above and will be detailed in the full proposal. Success assessment will be gauged by student competence in the basics of each discipline offered.
Is feasible, cost-effective, and sustainable.	It is feasible because of available skill personnel, OLCERI facilities, horses and existing ranch. This program is cost-effective because it anticipates being able to obtain internal funding from OLCERI.
Forms partnerships and engage broad community participation	Youth participants will be drawn from a broad base of Pine Ridge families, thus automatically forming alliances with these families.
Have potential for application in other Native communities.	Yes, very much so.

## 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.