

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[Program Announcement No. 93587–2003]

Administration for Native Americans: Availability of Financial Assistance

AGENCY: Administration for Native Americans, ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of competitive financial assistance to promote the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number: 93.587 Promoting the Survival and Continuing Vitality of Native American languages.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) announces the availability of Fiscal Year 2003 funds for Native American Language projects. Financial assistance provided by ANA is designed to assist applicants in designing projects which will promote the survival and continuing vitality of Native American Language.

The printed **Federal Register** notice is the only official program announcement. Although reasonable efforts are taken to assure that the files on the ANA World Wide Web Page containing electronic copies of this Program Announcement are accurate and complete; they are provided for information only. The applicant bears sole responsibility to assure that the copy download and/or printed from any other source is accurate and complete. Copies of this program announcement and many of the required forms may be obtained by calling the toll-free ANA applicant help desk or electronically at the ANA World Wide Web address <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>.

Closing Date: The closing date for submission of applications is March 28, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact the ANA Applicant Help Desk at 202–690–7776 or toll free at 1–877–922–9262 for assistance.

Part I: Supplementary Information

A. Purpose and Availability of Funds

The purpose of this notice is to announce the availability for fiscal year 2003 financial assistance to eligible applicants for the purposes of assisting Native Americans in ensuring the survival and continuing vitality of their languages. Financial assistance awards made under this program announcement will be on a competitive basis and the proposals will be reviewed

against the evaluation criteria in this announcement.

Approximately \$2,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2003 has been allocated for category I and II grants.

For Category I, Planning Grants (projects length: 12 months), the funding level for a budget period of 12 months will be up to \$60,000.

For Category II, Design and/or Implementation Grants (project length: up to 36 months), the funding level for a budget period of 12 months will be up to \$150,000.

In accordance with current agency policies, ANA may fund additional highly ranked applications if additional funds become available prior to the next competition.

ANA continues a variety of requirements directed towards enforcing its policy that an eligible grant recipient may only have one active ANA grant awarded from a competitive area at any time. Therefore, while eligible applicants may compete for a Native American language grant in either of the two categories, an applicant may only submit one application and no applicant may receive more than one Native American language grant.

Ongoing for fiscal year 2003, are two White House Initiatives relating to Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and People with Disabilities. In accordance with the Executive Order on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, ANA encourages greater participation from Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. The Executive Order on People with Disabilities encourages all communities to address the needs of people with disabilities in all programs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ANA encourages all Native communities to address the needs of people with disabilities in all aspects of their programs. ANA also encourages greater participation from Native organizations serving people with disabilities.

Note: Organizations from Palau are no longer eligible for assistance under ANA programs.

B. Background

The Congress has recognized that the history of past policies of the United States toward Indian and other Native American languages has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of Native American languages that have survived over the past 500 years. Consequently, the Native American Languages Act (Title 1, Pub. L. 101–477) was enacted to address this decline. This legislation vested the United States government with the responsibility to

work together with Native Americans to ensure the survival of cultures and languages unique to Native America. This law declared that it is the policy of the United States to “preserve, protect and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice and develop Native American languages”. While the Congress made a significant first step in passing this legislation in 1990, it served only as a declaration of policy. No program initiatives were proposed, nor any funds authorized to enact any significant programs in furtherance of this policy. In 1992, Congressional testimony provided estimates that of the several hundred languages that once existed, only about 150 are still spoken or remembered today. Furthermore, only 20 are spoken by persons of all ages, 30 are spoken by adults of all ages, about 60 are spoken by middle-aged adults, and 45 are spoken by the most elderly. In response to this testimony, the Congress passed the Native American Languages Act of 1992 (the Act), Public Law 102–524, to assist Native Americans in assuring the survival and continuing vitality of their languages. Passage of the Act was an important second step in an attempt to ensure the survival and continuation of Native languages. It provided the basic foundation upon which tribal nations can rebuild their economic strength and enhance the rich cultural diversity. The Federal government recognizes the substantial loss of Native American languages over the past several hundred years, and acknowledges the nature and magnitude of the status of Native American languages will be better defined when eligible applicants under the Act have completed language assessments. The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) believes that the responsibility for achieving self-sufficiency rests with the governing bodies of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages, and in the leadership of Native American groups. This belief supports the ANA principle that the local community and its leadership are responsible for determining goals, setting priorities, and planning and implementing programs that support the community’s long-range goals.

Therefore, since preserving a language and ensuring its continuation is generally one of the first steps taken toward strengthening a group’s identity, activities proposed under this program announcement will contribute to the social development of Native communities and significantly contribute to their efforts toward self-sufficiency.

The Administration for Native Americans recognizes that eligible