

10. Community and Faith-based Organizations

The Administration for Children and Families through the Administration for Native Americans supports and fosters strong families and healthy communities under four initiatives. ANA encourages applications from eligible community and faith-based organizations that (1) provide services directly to Native American people; (2) organizations that support rural communities; (3) provide prevention and intervention programs for youth and families; and (4) promote healthy relationships to strengthen families.

11. Community-Based Projects

ANA's program announcements will emphasize partnerships and community-based projects. The intent of this change is to increase the number of grants to local community organizations, to encourage new partnerships with public and private community-based organizations. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

12. Funding Thresholds

The ANA will increase funding ceilings under the Native Language program for Category I Planning and Category II Design and Implementation grants. The minimum grant amount for Native Language grants will be \$25,000. The ceiling amount for Category I grants will increase from \$60,000 to \$100,000. The ceiling amount for Category II grants will increase from \$150,000 to \$175,000. The increase in funding amounts for Native Language grants will support the effective assessment of native languages. It will also provide applicants the opportunity to incorporate new technologies necessary to design, implement, and preserve Native language and culture. Grants awarded under the Native Language program that produce audio or print media will now include a stipulation that a copy of the product be provided to ANA for the Language Repository. Federally-recognized Tribes have the option to not submit project products. The funding ceiling for Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) will be reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000. The minimum grant award amount will be \$25,000. This adjustment of the minimum and maximum funding levels is due to the demand for SEDS project funding. These changes will result in additional community-based social and economic development project grant awards under

the SEDS program. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

13. Availability of Multi-Year Funding

Applicants may apply for projects of up to 36 months in duration. A multi-year project, one extending more than 12 months or 17 months, affords grantees the opportunity to undertake more complex and in-depth projects. Applicants are encouraged to develop multi-year projects. However, applicants should note that a multi-year project is a project on a single theme that requires more than 12 or 17 months to complete. It is not a series of unrelated projects presented in chronological order over a three-year period. Funding after the first budget period of a multi-year project will be non-competitive. However, multi-year funding will be contingent upon: (1) The availability of Federal funds; (2) the grantee's progress to achieve the objectives and activities outlined in the Objective Work Plan; (3) ANA's continued belief that the project is in the public interest; and (4) the grantee is in compliance with applicable statutory and grant reporting requirements. Multi-year grant awards are subject to the availability of funds and a determination by ANA that the grantee has successfully completed its prior year objectives. Exception: Native Language Category I: Planning Grants will remain 12 or 17 month projects. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

14. Applications from Multiple Organizations in the Same Geographic Area

ANA will accept applications for funding and award grants to multiple organizations located in the same geographic area, provided the activities are not duplicative of previously funded ANA projects in the same geographic area or to the same grantee. Previously, under each competitive program area, ANA accepted one application that served or impacted a reservation, Tribe or Native American community. The reason for this change is to expand and support large Native American rural and urban communities that provide a variety of services in the same geographic area. Although Tribes are limited to three simultaneous ANA grants (one each under SEDS, Native Language and Environmental programs) at any one time, this clarification allows other community based organizations to apply for ANA funding to support on-

going community-based efforts, provided the activities do not duplicate currently funded projects serving the same geographic area. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

15. Program Specific Program Announcements

ANA's FY 2004 Program Announcements will now be program specific. ANA will release separate program announcements for funding opportunities under SEDS, for Language Preservation and Maintenance, Environmental Regulatory Enhancement, and for special initiatives. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

16. Policy on Training and Technical Assistance

To reduce geographic disparities, ANA's training and technical assistance curriculum and all associated handouts will be standardized. ANA's contracted training and technical assistance providers may provide training in pre-application and project development. Training will be advertised in advance, to ensure prospective applicants have the opportunity to attend. All potential ANA applicants are eligible to receive free training and technical assistance in the SEDS, Language or Environmental program areas. (*Legal authority: Sections 804 of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991c*)

17. Application Review Criteria

ANA has improved the competitive review process and will now use six criteria that will evenly distribute evaluation points. The use of six criteria will standardize the review of each application and distribute the number of points more equitably. ANA's criteria categories are: Project Introduction; Objectives and Need for Assistance; Project Approach; Organizational Capacity; Results and Benefits Expected; and Budget and Budget Justification. (*Legal authority: Sections 803(a) and (d) and 803C of the Native Americans Programs Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3*)

18. Definitions

The following definitions will be used in all ANA program announcements. In the FY 2004 Program Announcement, ANA clarifies many areas that have previously prompted numerous