Division of Juvenile Justice
Youth Development and Culture Camp Grant

2011 - 2015
In 2011, RurAL CAP began a four year project with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice to issue sub-award grants to rural, Alaska Native communities. Two main goals of this project include reducing the disproportionate number of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system and increasing the ability of the Alaska Native communities to better develop and manage grant programs. In 2012, First Alaskans’ Institute joined the collaboration.

Request For Proposals were released in “phases” and successful applicants were provided with technical and programmatic support throughout the term of each grant. Awards funds between $5,000-$12,000 were used to design, develop and implement community based, culturally centered projects that empower youth to make positive life choices. Approximately $80,000 was available each year for communities.
I think I'd recommend flexibility in scheduling our projects, whether a one-shot or continuing type of project. Don't give up! Explore options!

- Project Lead Venetie

“I thought this young man wasn't a good kid, but at camp watching him; I was impressed with his helpfulness and his respect.”

-Tanana Elder

“It was fun picking berries together and learning of whose families these kids are, who is related and their different camp spots

- Family Member in Shishmaref

“Some of the kids, was their first time whale or seal hunting, some had never gone boating, berry picking, fishing etc…”

- Project Lead Bill Moore's Slough
Why Native Youth?

According to the State of Alaska’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Alaska Native youth have some of the highest rates of Disproportionate Minority Contact, commonly known as *DMC*. DMC is when minority youth have a higher rate of contact with the juvenile justice system than non-minority youth. Research suggests one explanation for DMC is that minority youth may have less access to prevention services. According to the DJJ, while Alaska Natives make up approximately 20% of youth ages 12-17 in Alaska, they make up approximately 30% of these youth referred to the DJJ.
Chevak Traditional Council – Youth and chaperones to the 2012 Rural Providers’ Conference, hosting a healing walk and workshop, Tundra fest activities.

Craig Tribal Association – Celebration and Storytelling Youth Culture Camp, beach asparagus harvesting/preservation workshop and cedar basket weaving class.

Hughes Village Council – 2012 Rural Provider’s Conference, hosting a youth and family picnic and canoe adventure.

Organized Village of Kake - Cultural summer school program enhancing summer activities and provide a drug and alcohol free activities for the youth. Ten youth to 2012 Celebration.

Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor - Bear Awakening Celebration, Kayak Program Youth designed and produced a water boating safety manual. Carpentry intensive to improve fish camp.
**Northway Village Council** – Athabascan language class for six weeks prior to their annual Culture Camp.

**Native Village of Port Graham** – Project GRAD, Seldovia, Port Graham and Tyonek youth built a traditional Aleut kayak.

**Hughes Village Council** – Three day spring canoe survival trip, a winter survival camping trip, birch basket weaving, two qualifying Youth to the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention.

**Traditional Council of Togiak** – Three-part culture camp fall (moose hunting, catching and drying fall red salmon, berry picking cultural history lessons), winter (survival camp) and spring (bird hunting, herring, eggs, seal hunting, greens picking)

**Craig Tribal Association** – "Taha'llaa Spring" meaning "To Go After Spring" in Haida. Bukk Kelp harvesting and preservation.

**Native Village of Stebbins** – "Ciutmun Ayagtukut": A cultural exchange between the communities of Shaktoolik and Stebbins.
**Village of Bill Moore's Slough** – Four-day culture camp trip yielding berries, whitefish, seal, beluga and moose.

**Noorvik Native Community** – Youth in made improvements to infrastructure of existing buildings at a culture camp.

**Organized Village of Kasaan** – Digital stories to document the lives and experiences of the Elders of Prince of Wales Island.

**Kasigluk Traditional Council** – Jigger making clinic lead by a local Elder and Johnson River ice fish trip.

**Tanana Tribal Council** – Culture camp including Native language, carving wooden spoons and fish net shuttles to repair nets, silver salmon fishing from catching to processing.

**Venetie Tribal Council** – Community family tree project, making model snowshoes, caribou hair tufting, and making drums.

**Ninilchick Traditional Council** – Youth coalition named “NOISE” (Ninilchik Outreach and Involvement Student Experience) after prom sobriety lock-in, and a garbage clean up/camping trip to Hope, Alaska.
**Chilkoot Indian Association** - (Tsaa in Tlingit) 5 day Spring Seal Hunting Culture Camp, processing harvest, reflecting on the seal hunt and providing a potluck for community members.

**Klawock Cooperative Association** - "Ways of Life Culture Camp" which was based on teaching Youth how to harvest and process Traditional Foods as jams, jellies and honey and halibut.

**Native Village of Shishmaref** – Group boating trip for youth to gather and hunt caribou and berries, sewing classes where youth learned to sew traditional attire for their families.
**Awarded:** $10,830 and $6,800

**Project:** In the spring of 2014, Tribal Youth Coordinator Jake Bell and local AmeriCorps Member Zack James paired up and designed a five-day spring seal hunt camping trip. They also supported the “journey”, a 12-day canoe voyage from Haines to Juneau for the 2014 Celebration. In the spring of 2015 with their second award, they re-ignited their Ge'i'saan Tlingit dancing group.

Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines)
Accomplishments:

**Resiliency:** Initially, youth from both Haines and neighboring Klukwa’an were invited to travel by skiff and dugout canoe 12 miles to the hunting site, set up camp, processing stations and hunt, process and render seal oil. However, Mother Nature had other plans! Rather than call the trip off after five cancellations due to weather, the team decided to hike into camp, while experienced hunters boated supplies in along the shore line. The trip was a success, and three seals were harvested from shore.

**Youth Leadership Development:** With a second round of funding the Chilkoot Indian Association held bi-weekly dance sessions for youth to attend and learn Tlingit songs and dance. Some of the funding was spent on felt and material’s for making regalia. The Gei’saan dancers would then perform around the community including elementary classrooms and community centers.
Awarded: $9400

Project: From April to June 2012, Elders instructed youth on how to hunt seal and bird eggs, fish, gather tundra greens available during these months. Elders also provided instruction on drying, storage and cooking of these traditional subsistence foods. They held weekly Elder Men's and Women's “Talks” in Yupik as a forum for Elders to share stories of past compared to contemporary times in Toksook Bay.
Accomplishments:

**Elder Talk Topics:** The importance of being attentive, listening, setting the nets, not being playful with food and not being wasteful with catch. The difference between fresh and salt water fish and getting tools ready ahead of time. Elder women talked about the importance of taking care to preserve the catch as soon as possible to avoid spoiling. “There are hardships, but there is good in the end.” - Yup’ik Elder

**Gathered Wild Edibles:** Seal, herring, salmon, bird eggs, fiddleheads, pond greens, geese and clams

**Youth Leadership Development:** Gun safety course presented by Village Public Safety Officers and tribal court administrators. Topics also included snow-machine, four-wheeler and boating safety along with survival skills.
Nanwalek IRA Council

Awarded: $9400

Project: Youth interviewed a series of Elders. With the information gathered during interviews created and published a traditional storybook and a recipe book with 45 separate recipes using traditional subsistence ingredients.

“My daughter enjoyed visiting with Elders, she was never really social and this project helped bring her out to talk with people.”

- Tara Swenning - Nanwalek Parent
Akutag

Kathy Brewster

3 heaping tablespoons of fermented fish eggs
2 tablespoons Wesson oil
8 cups mashed potatoes (salt to your taste)

Stir eggs until the texture is a little firm
Add a tsp. of Wesson oil and stir until firm
Repeat until all eggs and oil are used Add cooled mashed potatoes slowly until all the potatoes are in the bowl
If potato mix is not fluffy you may add a little bit of water to mix until it is smooth in appearance

Bear Roast

Irene Tanape

Bears are best to eat in the fall when they are eating berries

Leg and arm - after it’s soaked overnight or either aged couple days in the smoke house
Rinse the bear meat
Bear had its own fat to bake with
1 whole onion or chives
1 garlic clove
Sprinkle Lea & Perrins sauce and soy sauce
Garlic powder
Salt
Pepper
3 cups of water

Bake at 350 degrees for two hours or more (depends on the size of the bear meat)
Nunakauyak Traditional Council (Toksook Bay)

Awarded: $7000

Project: Elder volunteers instructed a jibber making clinic including harvesting willow and guided youth in making their own traditional fishing tools. The Tribal Council partnered with the school and lead two ice fishing trips where youth were able to try out their own jibbers. Language learning and cultural knowledge was incorporated into the project.

Noorvik Native Community

Awarded: $7000

Project: Elder volunteers instructed a jibber making clinic including harvesting willow and guided youth in making their own traditional fishing tools. The Tribal Council partnered with the school and lead two ice fishing trips where youth were able to try out their own jibbers. Language learning and cultural knowledge was incorporated into the project.
Capacity Building

Project Leads joined other sub-awardee Leads in Anchorage for a mandatory grant management intensive training heavily concentrated on federal grant financial compliance, gathering data (survey distribution and collection), as well as youth leadership development and engagement. During training Noorvik Project Leads totally revamped their project focus to the seasonally appropriate ice-fishing project rather than their original idea of gardening. During training they developed a timeline, working budget and budget narrative which were able to be reviewed and approved before returning to their community.

What’s training all about?

- Interpreting allowable costs with federal funds according to the OMB circulars
- Monthly reporting narratives and how to write detailed accounts of activities
- Developing a descriptive timeline for each specific activities as they should occur throughout the grant term and who is responsible for each task.
- Youth engagement “ice-breakers”
- Appropriate documentation for expenditures using federal funds
- Writing a budget and budget narrative and understanding line items, prior and current expenditures, and balances
- The importance of collecting target group data
- Understanding the language of their grant agreement
Awarded: $13,000 and $10,111

**Project:** With two rounds of funding, the Huslia Tribal Council partnered with the Frank Attla Youth and Sled Dog Care Mushing Program using a portion of the DJJ funding to continue to run this program. Huslia youth in this healthy activity. Other portions of funding supported traditional activities led by local Elders such as snowshoe making, skin sewing, sinew string making, goose hunting, story telling, and trapping.
Accomplishments:

Lessons from the dog yard
“In the yard, youth have to learn to communicate and cooperate with other people. They learn respect for themselves and others. They learn to cook, collect dry wood and grass, make a fire, clean and make dog houses, put up fences, train dogs, plan strategies for dog mushing. They learn the science of what a dog needs to thrive as well as the difference between pets, sprint race dogs, long distance race dogs and working dogs. They must work hard as a team, just like the dogs.”
– Cesa Sam

Capturing Elder Wisdom
“Not very many people know how to build snowshoes. I can do the stringing/filling in part of it. There are lots of steps involved. Go out in the woods and get the right kind of birch and cut it up. It have to be split just right and you have to use the right tools. The snowshoes curve up and then inward. The wood has to be bent and sometimes it’s hard to bend depending on the birch you get. You dry the wood and in the mean time find mooseskin to make romaine to fill in the snowshoes. Complete the footing part and finally get to the finish. We use a red rock pounded down to make a powder of it and coat the wood. It’s really hard to make snowshoes and there are very few people that do the whole process.”
– Al Yatlin Sr.

Gifting it to the Youth
“When I think about how that skin got to the where we cut it (the moose kill/ process, cutting the hair off the skin and the whole process of preparing the skin) that’s pretty hard.”
– John Vent
Native Village of Fort Yukon

Awarded: $7,500 and $10,000

Project: The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government used the Youth Leadership Development and Culture grant to reactivate their Youth Council and provide Youth leadership and professional development focused experiences.

“As youth, learning from our tribal leaders is important to us so that we may carry on our traditional ways and strong beliefs in our culture.”

– Mariah Peters 1st Chief Fort Yukon Youth Council
Accomplishments:

Getting it together
Youth in Fort Yukon were provided training to familiarize them with a meeting environment in preparation for their involvement in the Tribal Council once they become eligible to run for office in adulthood. This allowed community youth to learn how to be involved in the planning and implementation of youth-oriented projects and activities while developing their leadership abilities. Project included a two day leadership training session that focused on development of skills necessary to lead meetings using Roberts Rules to research issues and identify possible resources and hone decision-making skills. They learned how to lead activities, organize, and even teach what they’ve learned to other youth. This type of experiential learning has prepared our youth for future involvement in community affairs.

Leading the Group
With the knowledge gained the youth council used a portion of their funding to attend the 2014 Elders and Youth Conference and the 2015 Tanana Chiefs Conference. The new Youth Council First Chief, Mariah Peter, who was selected as the First Alaskans Institute Youth Representative for the Interior Region addressed the TCC Tribal Leaders and Elders about important government affairs affecting their region.
Unduplicated Youth served so far

$273,700 in funding

728

Of youth families who said they were satisfied with grant activities 97%

99%

Of program Youth reported they were satisfied with grant activities

Currently, the communities of Haines, Lower Kalskag, Nulato, Port Lions, Tanana and Old Harbor are in the midst of running their projects through the end of June 2015. RurAL CAP’s application for funding for this program’s continuation throughout 2020 is pending approval.
For more information about the Youth Development and Culture Camp Grant Program and other funding opportunities, contact:

Rural Alaskan Community Action Program, Inc.
731 East 8th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99520
907-279-2511 • toll free: 800-478-7227
www.ruralcap.com