

Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization and Guiding Principles of Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Active Engagement: People of all ages will be actively engaged in learning Dakota and Ojibwe in a wide variety of settings and methods, including classroom education, long-distance learning, mentorships and the use of clearinghouses of language materials. A larger audience will learn about the languages through signage, media placement, and activities offered by Native and non-Native partners.

Collaboration and Connection: Language revitalization requires the involvement and coordination of efforts by a wide range of partners: local activists, tribal governments, state agencies, cultural institutions, universities and local school districts, etc.

Preservation and Access: The entire focus of languages revitalization is the preservation of a fundamental component of Minnesota's cultural heritage. In addition, the Strategic Plan calls for improving clearinghouse functions that provide statewide access to language materials, and the recording of Native speakers.

Healthy, Sustainable Organizations: ACHF funds in the next biennium will be focused on improving crucial activities that have already begun to make an impact in communities throughout the State, enhancing the capacity of immersion schools, and laying the foundation for an organization to sustain language revitalization through public/private partnerships.

Diversity: Language revitalization requires true partnership in effectively improving the community cohesion of cultural communities that are actively addressing crises on many fronts

Lifelong Learning: From preschoolers to elders, every community member of Dakota and Ojibwe cultures has a role to play in language revitalization.

Not-For-Profit, Open to the Public, for Minnesotans: Activities funded by ACHF will be undertaken exclusively in Minnesota, for the benefits of Native and non-Native populations, through cooperation among non-profit private and public agencies.

Statewide Impact and Universal Access: Reservations throughout the State and neighboring communities, as well as American Indian populations in urban areas, will be engaged in language revitalization. This project will also (without any trace of irony) address the ACHF goal to "acknowledge the ... language ... limitations of potential audiences."

Innovation and Technology: The Strategic Plan calls for full use of the exciting possibilities of contemporary technology to contribute to language revitalization.

Transparency: The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (recipient of ACHF funds for language revitalization) has established rigorous protocols for grant-making, reporting and financial management that meet all standards for State support.

Supplementing Existing Funding Sources: Far from being "a substitute for traditional sources of funding," ACHF support will enable the leverage of significant new resources to the cause of language revitalization.