

## **Tribal Youth Diversion Grant Cohort 2 (July 2020 - December 2023)**

### **Proposal Abstracts (in alphabetical order)**

#### **Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians**

**Project Title & Amount:** Coyote Valley Youth Wellness & Truancy Diversion Program (\$845,629)

**Proposal Abstract:** The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is submitting an application for the Coyote Valley Youth Wellness and Truancy Diversion Program. This Diversion Program will support Coyote Valley Native American students (age 6-18) in decreasing rates of chronic absenteeism, suspension, dropout, and increasing cultural education and academic support in Mendocino County. The project partners and collaborates with the Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD). This project will service approximately 25% of Coyote Valley youth and will address critical challenges faced by the Native American youth in our area.

The goals of the Diversion Program are the following: to increase the wellness of the Coyote Valley youth and give them the necessary tools to live a healthy and substance abuse free life; to change the attitudes of students and parents concerning school attendance and achievements and provide them with the tools for healthy and productive careers; and to empower Coyote Valley youth by increasing cultural awareness and making school an environment where students will feel comfortable and will want to learn and advance.

The Coyote Valley Tribe plans to accomplish these goals through a collaborative partnership with Ukiah Unified Schools combining community and school resources. With grant funding, the tribe plans to hire qualified staff, offer critical services, and provide a curriculum rich with culture that will increase the graduation rates of our tribal youth and gear them towards productive careers as adults.

#### **Fort Mohave Indian Tribe**

**Project Title & Amount:** RISE (Revitalizing Indigenous Self-Efficacy) Youth Diversion Project (\$1,356,106)

**Proposal Abstract:** R.I.S.E. Diversion Program is a culturally relevant, trauma-informed, community-based program for American Indian youth ages 12 - 18. The identified service area is Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (FMIT) located across three states. The program will be operated out of the Department of Social Services, but includes a community-based approach by coordinating with key FMIT Departments such as Probation, Behavioral Health, Education, Culture Departments. The identified goals address the gaps in services Fort Mojave Indian Tribe is facing. Existing service gaps include: A) Limited access to services, resources, and activities for the described population in Tribal, County, and the Tri-State area; and B) Lack of available trauma-informed and culturally-relevant services.

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The proposed interventions include services that provide culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, family-centered and community-oriented approaches for the target population within the FMIT reservation. The need is to provide preventative programming like the Youth Diversion Program to defer youth from long-term care in Non-Justice and Justice Environments and provide programming that will give the youth an opportunity to have stronger ties to their culture, family, and community.

Program activities include Weekend Immersion Retreats, Group Workshops, Individual Coaching Sessions, and Telemedicine Behavioral Health services. This project will collaborate with an Elder Advisory Board and establish a Peer-to-Peer mentoring component to support culturally relevant programming. Ultimately, youth will increase their ability to utilize resilience skills, and increase cultural identity to improve healing.

The goals of the project are to:

- 1) Reduce the Cost of Care by diverting youth from the Justice and Non-Justice System;
- 2) Provide professional treatment needed for youth and families to improve healing; and
- 3) Promote positive behavior and prevent problem behavior in youth ages 12-18 on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation.

### **Hoopa Valley Tribe**

**Project Title & Amount:** Hoopa Valley Tribal Court Tribal Youth Diversion Program (\$1,025,015)

**Proposal Abstract:** This proposal is the result of a joint jurisdictional effort forged by the Hoopa Valley Tribal Court and Humboldt County Superior Court in partnership with local schools and tribally operated education programs – a group called the Truancy Taskforce. Its aim is to prevent and reduce risky behaviors associated with juvenile delinquency, namely truancy and absenteeism, within American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth population ages 12-17. Recognizing the continuum of care extends beyond arrival to and exit from juvenile courts, this project is designed to help AI/AN youth navigate significant barriers that may lead to absenteeism/truancy – and address real reservation bound issues, such as the lack of transportation or distrust for School Attendance Review Boards. Equipped with the area’s only Education Navigator and Advocate, the Hoopa Tribal Court and its resilience support programs will use evidence-based tools, such as the MAYSI-2, to identify underlying family related issues and base referrals on assessment results. Youth and families will gain prioritized access to culturally sensitive, community-based and reservation bound including as needed services from qualified Behavioral Health and Chemical Dependency providers. Similarly, when tribal youth encounter the Hoopa Tribal Truancy Court they will be provided wraparound support using a hub-and-spoke model for referral services. These efforts, coupled with increased tools for the Hoopa Valley Tribal Court’s supervising Probation Services (HUB), are designed to meet youth needs before, during and after youth development intersect with the justice system. This 3 ½-year project will directly serve an estimated 150 AI/AN youth and families as a means to divert children from entering or becoming further involved in the juvenile justice system. Similarly, an additional 150 AI/AN youth will benefit by the

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introduction of prosocial, culturally competent community-based activities – where families will gain an understanding of the community’s resilience support programs to address historical trauma and healing.

### **Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria**

**Project Title & Amount:** Mechoopda Tribal Youth Program (\$1,330,870)

**Proposal Abstract:** Juvenile delinquency disproportionately impacts Native American youth across Butte County. Contributing to this disparity are the continuing effects of generations of historical trauma unique to Native American communities and the lack of culturally appropriate services and resources available to them. The Mechoopda Indian tribe (MIT) proposes to serve Native American youth ages 5 to 17 living in Butte County that are at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system resulting from delinquent and pre-delinquent behaviors, and is uniquely positioned to respond through the Mechoopda Tribal Youth Program (MTYP). The MTYP will provide traditional tutoring and mentoring services through the use of cultural mentors and elders and will continue to offer a yearly Youth-Gathering of Native Americans (Y-GONA). Supporting the MTYP’s tutoring and mentoring services will be the addition of culturally enhanced Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) services provided by a licensed professional with specialized training. Additionally, as a way to strengthen the support systems of Tribal youth, the MTYP will provide parenting workshops for parents/caregivers whose children are enrolled in the program. Lastly, the MTYP will utilize a high-fidelity wraparound approach to ensure that a customized comprehensive system of care is provided to youth and their families. The MTYP will prevent juvenile delinquency by addressing the following goals: a) enhancement of cultural identity, b) improvement of academic and school performance, c) improvement of mental health outcomes, and d) strengthening of formal and informal support systems. The MTYP will use a number of standardized assessment tools to measure clinical, behavioral, and programmatic progress for the initiative’s goals and objectives.

### **Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians**

**Project Title & Amount:** PRCI Tribal Youth Diversion Program (\$873,398)

**Proposal Abstract:** The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California proposes to develop its first ever juvenile justice diversion program to address its great concern for the wellbeing of its youth. Many indicators point to huge unmet needs for tribal youth and their families and minimal resources in the region; however, there is growing momentum on the part of tribal and non-tribal programs to make system changes together. The Tribe proposes a program whereby interventions are made early in a youth's life and with broad care coordination support for youth and their families.

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To achieve the goals of reducing rates of youth involvement in the juvenile justice system, reducing rates of absenteeism and suspensions in schools, increasing social-emotional skills to address stress and trauma, and strengthen youth engagement in healthy cultural beliefs and practices, the Tribe proposes to deliver Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) and Positive Action (PA), both evidence-based programs. Prevention strategies that rest heavily within the cultural wisdom will be implemented for larger groups of children and youth. Programming will be delivered in multiple sites, including schools and homes. It will recruit Tribal youth ages 11 to 18 or Grades 6-12 who experience at least one of the following circumstances: 1) are currently involved with the juvenile justice system or have been in the past 2 years, 2) are a sibling (or cousin) of a youth involved with the legal system now or in the past 2 years, 3) have been suspended from school for behavioral issues in the past academic year, 4) have a record of chronic absenteeism from school in the past academic year, and 5) have behavioral problems in the past calendar year.

### **Pinoleville Pomo Nation**

**Project Title & Amount:** Mendocino Intertribal Youth Diversion Grant (\$1,400,000)

**Proposal Abstract:** Pinoleville Pomo Nation is seeking State assistance through the Board of State and Community Corrections to support Native American students (pre-k to 12th grade) in Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) to implement diversion programs. The project partners with UUSD, Arbor Youth Resource Center & 2 local Tribes and collaborates with other tribes in Mendocino County to implement three major strategies to address critical needs of AI students. Using culturally relevant, trauma informed and health-based intervention, the project aims to engage 33% native students in Ukiah Unified School District in Healthy Lifestyle program, provide 1200 hours per year to 45 students in academic coaching and career exploration counseling to increase graduation rate, hold 3 youth Gathering of Native American (GONA) reaching 60 youth per year and work with 3 local Tribes to deliver 150 hours of cultural education or traditional pro-social activities to 200 youth and their families to prevent substance-abuse and suicide.

Goal 1 - Increase awareness of healthy lifestyle choices and quality social activities among AI k-12 at risk students through culturally appropriate nutritional, brain health, physical fitness and other healthy lifestyle classes.

Objective 1 - By the end of each program year, we will have reached 80 AI youth will have attended at least 3 of the 12 healthy living educational classes, covering nutrition, cooking, gardening, traditional foods, financial literacy, breath work and communication skills with a 10% increase per year.

Objective 2 - By the end of each program year, we will have reached 40 AI youth who will have attended at least 30 of 60 hours of physical fitness classes or group activities, with a 15% increase each year.

Goal 2 - Improve AI student attendance and overall academic outcome through

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Career exploration and one-on-one academic support to increase graduation rate.

Objective 3 - By the end of each program year, we will have established and maintained staff capacity and reduces AI student chronic absenteeism.

Objective 4 - By the end of each program year, we will have reached 60 AI youth through 3 separate GONA inspired summer enrichment programs serving elementary, middle and high school AI students.

Objective 5 - By the end of each program year, we will have improved 45 AI student academic performance by implementing academic one-on-one counseling and career exploration, with 15% increase each year.

Goal 3 - Increase AI students Cultural awareness, sensitivity and hands on Traditional skills within Tribal Communities to reduce substance abuse.

Objective 6 - By the end of each program year, through partnerships with 2 local Tribes to support Cultural education (classes, workshops, outreach) within each Nation, serving 200 AI youth, with a 10% increase each year.

### **San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians**

**Project Title & Amount:** San Pasqual Tribal Youth Diversion Program (\$671,790)

**Proposal Abstract:** *The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians* is submitting a proposal for grant funding in the amount of \$671,790 to support 295 tribal youth (ages 10-18) to decrease juvenile offenses, suspensions, dropout and increase cultural education, academic and job readiness support on the San Pasqual reservation. The project will build the Tribe's capacity to coordinate and partner with Tribal Police, Inter- Tribal Court, Valley Center Unified School District (VCUSD), Indian Health, Kumeyaay College and other local supports to develop and implement trauma-informed systems of care for San Pasqual youth and families. The project will implement three strategic goals to address the ongoing challenges faced by San Pasqual tribal youth and families on the reservation and in schools. The goals of the program are to: 1) Increase tribal capacity to create formal processes for developing mutually beneficial diversion strategies between agencies and SPED to decrease youth offenses, absenteeism, suspensions, and substance abuse; Goal 2) Increase cultural education and awareness among tribal students, their classmates, teachers and school district to build cultural knowledge/ awareness and tribal youth's sense of belonging/acceptance based on tribal culture; Goal 3) Improve tribal youth's school performance, attendance, job readiness, engaging in career/college coaching, vocational learning, and decreasing chronic absenteeism and drop out in school. A wide-ranging set of key objectives will support achieving these program goals, such as, establishing a local task force and planning committee that is trained for trauma-informed, culturally-aware, wellness-based approaches for working with tribal youth and families from point of contact to program exit; developing a working system to deliver new cultural education curricula with 8

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schools and the local community using traditional knowledge, history and community information, providing tutoring, job readiness, career exploration workshops, individual education/employment coaching, vocational learning opportunities to participants. The program aims to have positive impacts with tribal youth who experience chronic absenteeism, suspension, arrest, probation, or are at high risk of dropping out or falling behind in school. Measurable outcomes are expected to show increased intrinsic motivations, academic performance, school attendance and engagement, and decreased school suspensions/expulsions and divert/intervene from justice systems.

### **Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians**

**Project Title & Amount:** Tribal Youth Diversion Program (\$1,399,141)

**Proposal Abstract:** Prior to colonization, Native American/American Indian (NA/AI) Peoples across the North American continent, maintained their health and wellness since time immemorial through culturally based wellness practices. According to Indigenous worldviews, the environment, mind, body, and emotional health are inextricably linked to collective human behavior, practices, wholeness, and, hence, wellness (Brave Heart, Chase, Elkins, & Altschul, 2011; Walters, Beltran, Huh, & Evans-Campbell, 2011). NA/AI Peoples of Mendocino County lived harmoniously with and in partnership with their traditional homelands. Their health and survival were in sync with that of the mountains, the meadows and the ocean. NA/AI in this region have historically kept their physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing in tune with the health of their traditional homelands through their cultural traditional practices. During colonization, as was the case with various NA/AI communities across the United States, policies and direct threats were enforced on the NA/AI people of Mendocino County including violence, forced relocation, and the outlawing of cultural practices. In California, Indian Boarding schools forced the removal of NA/AI children from their families in order to forcefully impose a new way of life by aggressively erasing their tribal value system. In addition to this violence, NA/AI across the U.S. were not declared citizens of this country until 1924 and subsequently were not granted Civil Rights until 1968. Eventually, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1976 stopped the forced removal of Native American Indian Children that was widespread and had taken place through our Child Welfare system. Thankfully, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 legalized and allowed Native American Indian people to practice their ceremonies, and cultural traditions openly, only after their very way of life endured countless violent attacks. The damage that these actions and policies caused to NA/AI communities across the U.S. continues to negatively impact NA/AI families today. In the rural Northern Mendocino County tribal community, NA/AI youth walk in two worlds. Caught between their cultural identity and the challenges of the modern world tied to historical and intergenerational trauma. Amidst adversity, our NA/AI youth are resilient. These are the roots and seeds from which this project is born.

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### **Yurok Tribe**

**Project Title & Amount:** Yurok Youth Diversion Program (\$798,303)

**Proposal Abstract:** The proposed Yurok Youth Diversion Program (YYDP) will be implemented by the Yurok Tribal Court. The Yurok Tribal Court will form a joint Truancy Court with the Del Norte County Court and offer supportive legal and family supportive services by hiring YYDP Tribal attorney and YYDP court case managers. YYDP proposes to increase access to legal and court case management services to Yurok families and youth that are at high risk of entering into the juvenile justice system due to truancy, chronic absenteeism, and due to the inability to obtain or successfully complete an Individual Educational Plan. In addition, YYDP proposes the development of a Yurok ordinance called "Stay in School" that would strengthen the referral process between Del Norte Unified Schools, Del Norte Courts and Yurok Tribal Courts. Yurok children and youth identified by the new referral process who have current or history of truancy will receive early intervention direct services by the proposed case manager.