

Addressing an urgent need

The 10 ancestral languages of the Doyon region, including nine Athabascan languages plus Iñupiaq, represent half of the 20 Native languages in the state of Alaska.

Due to the rapidly decreasing health of creative and fluent Native language speakers, the Native languages within the Doyon region are not being passed on quickly enough to ensure their survival. All of the Doyon region languages are severely to critically endangered, and will be lost within the span of a few generations if no action is taken. There is an urgent need to promote and foster language opportunities for non-speakers.

To respond to this need, Doyon Foundation began laying the groundwork for a region-wide language revitalization program in 2009. In 2012, Doyon, Limited generously awarded start-up funding to establish the program. The program has continued to grow since then.



Sign up

Sign up to access our online language-learning lessons for free at doyonfoundation.com.

Online courses now available for:

- Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana)
- Denaakk'e (Koyukon)
- Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in)
- Hän (Isaac Juneby memorial course)
- Holikachuk

Courses in development for expected release in 2021:

- Deg Xinag
- Dihthaad Xt'een lin Aandëeg' (Tanacross)
- Dinak'i (Upper Kuskokwim)
- Hän
- Nee'aanëegn' (Upper Tanana)

Get involved!

Whether you are a language speaker, teacher or are interested in learning your language, we encourage you to get involved.

- Visit the Foundation website, doyonfoundation.com
- Sign up for the Foundation email list
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
- Contact us at 907.459.2048 or foundation@doyon.com

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languages online

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courses now
available for **free!**

Sign up today!
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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication, and all others associated with the Doyon Languages Online project, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Administration for Children and Families, or the Administration for Native Americans.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES Administration for Native Americans
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Updated Mar 2025

**Dihthaad Xt'een
lin Aandëeg'**

Holikachuk

Denaakk'e
KOYUKON

**BENHTI KOKHUT'ANA
KENAGA'** LOWER TANANA

Inupiaq
Deg Xinag

Hän **Dinak'i**
UPPER KUSKOKWIM

Nee'aanëegn'
UPPER TANANA

Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa
GWICH'IN



DOYON
FOUNDATION

Language Revitalization Program

Working together to
revitalize our languages



Providing the opportunity to learn



We believe that every Doyon shareholder and descendant should have the opportunity to learn their language and culture. With that in mind, our immediate program goals are to:

- Expand the organizational capacity of Doyon Foundation to effectively and efficiently develop, implement and sustain a Native language revitalization program.
- Develop a language revitalization program that will ensure the cultures and languages of the Doyon region are taught, documented and easily accessible.

This program is not intended to replace any other current efforts, but rather to collaborate and partner with like-minded organizations, and align efforts, goals and resources.

our Language Grants

As part of the effort to revitalize the endangered Native languages of the Doyon region, we award Our Language grants of up to \$5,000 each year. Doyon region tribal governments/tribal councils/communities; nonprofit Alaska Native organizations, societies and community groups; and Alaska Native cultural, educational and recreational organizations/centers are eligible to apply. Watch our website for details on the next application period.

Adapted map used with permission. Krauss, Michael, Gary Holton, Jim Kerr, and Colin T. West. 2011. Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska. Fairbanks and Anchorage: Alaska Native Language Center and UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research. Online: <http://www.uaf.edu/anla/map>
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DOYON languages online

The Doyon Languages Online project is a partnership with 7000 Languages, a nonprofit that supports endangered language learning partially through software donated by Transparent Language. In 2016, we received a three-year, \$900,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans to help fund the project. In fall 2017, we received a three-year, \$977,423 grant from the U.S. Department of Education – Alaska Native Educational Program to expand the project efforts.

With these two grants, we are producing online learning opportunities for nine of the 10 Indigenous languages of the Doyon region. The first set of online courses were made available in summer 2019, and are now available for free to all interested learners at doyonfoundation.com.



Online
language-learning
courses now
available to
all interested
learners for *free!*



PROJECT GOALS

Increase the number of people who speak Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana), Deg Xinag, Denaakk'e (Koyukon), Dithaad X't'een lín Aandëeg' (Tanacross), Dinak'i (Upper Kuskokwim), Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in), Hän, Holikachuk, and Nee'aanëegn' (Upper Tanana) by:

- Creating introductory online language-learning lessons for each of the languages
- Training teachers in the use of the technology through partnerships with school districts, and field testing lessons with students
- Creating a template document that helps other language communities in the Doyon area to complete similar online language lesson projects

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Doyon Languages Online project is blessed with a diverse group of experts that make up our development team:

- Elders from the language community
- Educators with 10+ years of experience
- Linguists that specialize in Athabascan languages
- Doyon Foundation staff
- Software partners at Transparent Online and 7000 Languages