



OUR LANGUAGES

Grant Handbook

Learning ~ Sharing ~ Documenting





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This guide helps applicants align proposals with our newly redesigned grant model.

This structure introduces smaller, more targeted awards with flexible timelines and improved accountability mechanisms.



MISSION & VISION

Mission

Provide educational, career, and cultural opportunities to enhance the identity and quality of life for Doyon shareholders and descendants.

Vision

To empower current and future generations by supporting education and career pathways, and to honor culture and language.

Values

- **Community**

Working together to support, mentor, and develop the next generation of leaders

- **Culture & Language**

Honoring who we are, where we come from, and our traditional ways of life.

- **Integrity**

Acting with honesty, transparency, and accountability.

- **Quality**

Striving for excellence through focus, innovation, and measurable results.

KEY GRANT RULES



- **Eligibility**

- Doyon region tribes; Alaska Native-led nonprofits, societies and community groups; Doyon Shareholders or Decendants; Individuals working with Doyon communities.
- Projects must work with one or more of the ancestral languages of the Doyon region; Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana), Middle Tanana, Deg Xinag, Denaakk'e (Koyukon), Dihthaad Xt'een lin Aandëeg' (Tanacross), Dinak'i (Upper Kuskokwim), Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in), Hän, Holikachuk, Inupiaq and Nee'aanëegn' (Upper Tanana).

- **Award Range**

- \$500 to \$5,000

- **Timeframe**

- Complete all projects within 6 months
- Awards are distributed in two cycles: July - December and January - June.

- **Selection**

- Applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee.
- Award consideration will focus on the project's long-term impact and budget. Strong preference for projects being done within the Region.

- **Eligible Costs**

- Funds only pay for language-specific items

Example: pay a language teacher at a larger cultural camp, not for general operating costs.

- **Reporting**

- All grantees are required to submit a reporting form and relevant supplemental materials at the end of the project.

GOALS OF GRANTMAKING



Learning

Building the knowledge and fluency of individual speakers and teachers.



Sharing

Disseminating knowledge across communities and generations.



Documenting

Recording and preserving linguistic data for future generations.

FOUR CORE FUNDING STREAMS



Your project must fit one of these areas:

Capacity Building

Activities that focus on developing individual or group capacity; including teaching, travel to conferences, workshop attendance, or language class tuition.

Example: Paying for a native speaker to train local teachers in your school.

Community Projects

Localized projects designed to bring together community members for language learning such as camps, classes, or regular immersion sessions.

Example: Renting space to host a weekly adult language class.

Immersive Learning

One-on-one or small group mentorship models that promote intergenerational learning, often pairing fluent speakers with learners.

Example: Paying for a native speaker to mentor a small group of learners using immersion.

Language Documentation

Efforts to preserve linguistic knowledge such as creation of books, place name research, songs, and audio or video recordings.

Example: Buying audio equipment to record Elders.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE



Be clear and make sure your goals are SMART: Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound:

- Projects need to be realistically completed within six months. If appropriate, breaking a project into phases may be best.
- Explain why the chosen project is a good match for the community or organization's goals.
- When counting people who benefit directly, consider breaking it down across Elders, adults, and youth.

Letter of support:

- **Anyone applying for a grant as an individual is required to submit a letter of support from an appropriate source.** This may come from the tribe or an Elder named in the project. The letter must come from someone with the authority to support the language work.

We do not fund:

- All projects or products as a concern for data sovereignty.
- Creation of products ultimately made to be sold for profit. While we support economic development initiatives, these funds are meant to eliminate financial barriers to access language and language materials.
- General operating costs, including indirect funds.

Example Budget

- Provide a clear, line-by-line list of exactly what you will buy with awarded funds.
- When doing the budget, only input the funds you are requesting from Doyon Foundation. If you have other funds or in-kind donations, you can list those in the next question.

	Line Items	Total Category Cost	Description
People/Staff	Elder honorarium	\$900	1 Elder teaching for 12 hours, at \$75 per hour.
Travel	N/A	\$0	
Supplies	Audio Recorder Digital SD cards Student workbooks	\$485	1 Audio recorder to document Elder telling stories in the language, \$120. 5 SD cards at \$22 each, needed to store audio and back ups. 17 student workbooks, \$15 per book.
Other	Room rental	\$200	Renting space to record and document for 8 days, at \$25 per day.
	Total	\$1,585	

FAQ SHEET



When can I apply for an Our Language grant?

- There are now two cycles annually:
 - Applications open in May for the **July to December** cycle.
 - Applications open in November for the **January to June** cycle.

How will applicants be chosen?

- Applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee, and evaluated on the appropriateness of the funding request relative to project scope and encouraging cost-efficiency.

How much is the award amount?

- The award amount has changed from a fixed \$5,000 award to a range of **\$500 - \$5,000**, depending on actual needs.
- Funds will be distributed according to each applicants' budget plan to ensure accountability and alignment with grant objectives.

Which communities are in the Doyon Region?

- **Yukon River Area:** Galena, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Ruby.
- **Upper & Middle Yukon/Porcupine Rivers:** Beaver, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Fort Yukon, and Stevens Village.
- **Tanana River Area:** Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Northway, Tanacross, Tok, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Rampart, and Tanana.
- **Koyukuk River Area:** Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville, Hughes, and Huslia.
- **Lower Yukon/Innoko Rivers:** Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, and Shageluk.
- **Kuskokwim River Area:** McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Telida.

What can I spend the funds on?

- Funds must be spent on language revitalization efforts that contribute directly to the development of **language proficiency, resources, or teaching capacity**.

- Allowable expenses must meet the criteria for language revitalization efforts within the four core funding streams of **Capacity Building, Community Projects, Immersive Learning, or Language Documentation** with focus on language-specific components of projects. *General operating costs will be deprioritized, including Indirect cost requests.*
- Travel awards will be paid directly to the vendor by Doyon Foundation. *For example, an airline ticket will be purchased by Doyon Foundation.*
- If applying for a Language course at a UAA institution, **only the class tuition** is eligible for coverage. Additional school fees and books cannot be paid.

When is my report due?

- Reporting will be based on individual projects, with a final report due at the end of the project. Larger projects may require periodic check-ins to provide status updates or share immediate challenges.

If I've applied before, can I apply again?

- **Yes**, if you previously received funding and are in compliance (submitted your reporting), you may apply multiple times.

Can I apply for two projects in one cycle?

- **No**, you cannot have multiple projects in one cycle. For example, the same person cannot apply for a language project in one community and for language course tuition in the same cycle.

Tax Implications

- Please be aware that if awarded, **grantees are responsible for any possible taxes due on the grant amount.** Individuals who are awarded are encouraged to file a Schedule C when preparing taxes, which may reduce the possible self-employment tax burden. Please always consult a tax specialist, who may be available free of charge through your tribe, nonprofits, or your local library.

GETTING STARTED

If you are interested in doing a language project but don't know where to start, here are some guiding questions to help ensure your project is impactful and meets community needs and resources. Answer the questions in the spaces below or on a separate piece of paper.

Who in your community is able to provide language teaching or support?

What are the community's views or attitudes toward the language?

If the language is still spoken, where is it spoken? At home, school, church, etc...

What are the primary barriers to language learning or access in your community?

Who would your target audience be?

What language resources or programs currently exist?

Who has the time and capacity to lead and support a project?
