Support for Teaching Native American Content in Minnesota Schools: Mini-Grants for K-12 Educators

2024-2025 Grant Guidelines and Application Preview Worksheet

Grant Guidelines

Purpose

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), in partnership with the Minneapolis Foundation, is pleased to announce the second and final grant round of a program that provides educators with small grants to assist them in teaching Native subject matter accurately. This funding opportunity is part of the SMSC's [Understand Native Minnesota](#) campaign, which is focused on improving the narrative about Native peoples, their history and culture, and tribal governments in Minnesota K-12 schools.

The program has approximately $150,000 available for mini-grants for the 2024-2025 school year, with awards of up to $2,000 per educator. Educators at public, private, charter, and tribal schools are all welcome to apply.

Program Goals

This mini-grant program aims to:

1. Promote the acquisition and use of Native-specific resources for classrooms and libraries.
2. Develop new standards-aligned curriculum resources.
3. Support educators in attending high-quality, Native-specific professional development.
4. Support experiential learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.
5. Implement best practices for Native students.

What We Will Fund

Proposals should align with one or more of these five key funding categories:

1. Resources and/or materials for the classroom that address current or upcoming Minnesota state academic standards.
2. Professional development that specifically focuses on Native content or best practices for working with Native students.
3. Classroom projects or experiential learning opportunities that expand classroom learning about Native content.
4. Curriculum and resource development that meets current or upcoming Minnesota state academic standards.
5. Other activities that are consistent with the goal of teaching Native content more accurately and comprehensively.

Grant dollars must be fully expended by June 30, 2025.

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is open to educators in Minnesota K-12 schools statewide. This includes educators at public, tribal, charter, and private schools. Individual educators and groups of educators collaborating on a single project are all welcome to apply. Applicants who have already received funding through this opportunity are not eligible to apply a second time.

Application Process

We will begin accepting applications on Monday, August 26, 2024. All applications must be submitted by 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024. We do not accept late applications or submissions via email.

All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by December 1, 2024.

All applications must be submitted online through the Minneapolis Foundation's portal, GranteeView. If you are applying for a grant from the Minneapolis Foundation for the first time, you will need to set up an account in our system. Follow the instructions on [this webpage](#) to register yourself as a Grant Administrator and your school as a grantee organization.

Further Information

If you have questions about your application, please reach out to the following:

Guidance on Native American Curriculum and Professional Development: Odia Wood-Krueger, odiawoodkrueger@gmail.com
Questions about Grant Guidelines: Josh Johnson, jjohnson2@mplsfoundation.org
Help Logging in to the Application Portal: grantsupport@mplsfoundation.org or 612-672-8665

Quick Guide to Mini-Grants

Eligible Applicants	Educators in Minnesota K-12 schools (including public, tribal, charter, and private schools). Individual educators and groups of educators collaborating on a single project may all apply.	
Eligible Locations	Statewide	
Grant Type	**Teacher Project**	**Classroom Directed**
Description	Professional Learning Opportunities and Curriculum Development	Classroom Resources
Grant Size	**Maximum of $2,000**	
Eligible Uses *Grant uses are not limited to these examples; other ideas are welcome, as long as they further the goals of the mini-grants program.*	Examples: • Cost of attending workshops or conferences • Tuition for a Native American studies course • Development of new curriculum • Compensation for Native experts, elders/knowledge keepers to collaborate on curriculum writing	• Books, videos, and other instructional resources • Field trips and transportation • Engagement of Native experts or elders/knowledge keepers as classroom presenters • Specific classroom project
Ineligible Uses	• Equipment (furniture, computers, technology, etc.) • Classroom/traveling trunks	• Equipment (furniture, computers, technology, etc.) • Classroom/traveling trunks
Grant Deadline	**6 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024**	
Grant Term	**Grants must be fully expended on or before June 30, 2025**	
Reporting Requirements	Grant recipients will be required to submit a post-grant report through the Minneapolis Foundation's online application system by August 15, 2025. Please include project photos when possible, budgeted vs. actual expenses, expense receipts, and a written description of deliverables, outcomes, and lessons learned.	

Evaluation Criteria	**Points**

Project alignment with at least one of the goals of the mini-grant program. Please check all that apply: a) Promote the acquisition and use of Native-specific resources for classrooms and libraries. b) Develop new standards-aligned curriculum resources. c) Support educators in attending high-quality, Native-specific professional development. d) Support experiential learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. e) Implement best practices for Native students.	**30**
Ability of the project to meaningfully engage other educators, students, and administrators to increase: a) Their understanding of the state's 11 sovereign tribal nations and urban Native communities. b) Social connections among educator(s) and students. c) The strategic capacity of educator(s) engaged in the project.	**30**
Project Need: a) Demonstrated need for the project to happen. b) Demonstrated educator, administrator, and student engagement with the concept.	**10**
Project Readiness: a) Work can be completed within the grant term; the applicant has a detailed work plan and clear outcomes.	**20**
Collaboration: a) Work demonstrates collaboration with other administrators, educators, students, and/or parents.	**10**
Total Points	**100**

Application Preview Worksheet

All applications must be submitted online. Applicants are encouraged to use the worksheet below to preview and draft application questions.

Project Name
Please name your application using the following format:
Name of School/Applicant First and Last Name
Example: *Blaine High School/Jane Smith*

Applicant Information
Applicant Name:
Title (if applicable):
Applicant's School Address:
Applicant Email:
Applicant School Phone:
Application Cell Phone:
Certified Teacher *(Yes/No)*:
Subject(s) Taught by Applicant:

We are committed to providing grants to a fair representation of our various communities in Minnesota. The following questions will help us understand whether we are achieving that goal. Please answer based on yourself or your collaborative.

Gender Identity (Educator)

Woman
Man
Prefer to self-describe (open-ended)
Prefer not to disclose
Information not available

Age (Educator)

40 and younger
41 and older
Prefer not to answer
Information not available

Race/Ethnicity (Educator)

American Indian or Native American
Asian
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latinx
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White (Caucasian/European)
More than one race/ethnicity

Identify in another way
Prefer not to answer
Information not available

Are you an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe? *(Yes/No)*
If yes, list your tribal affiliation:

School District Information
School District County:
School District Name:
School District Number:
School District Address:
School District Region: Use the link to identify on the map
https://apps.deed.state.mn.us/assets/lmi/areamap/plan.shtml#plmetro

- Central Minnesota
- Northeast Minnesota
- Northwest Minnesota
- Southeast Minnesota
- Southwest Minnesota
- Seven-County Metro Area (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN)

K-12 School Information
Applicants must submit documentation that the school administrator listed below supports their project. *(See list of required attachments.)*

School Name:
School Address:
School Type *(Public, Tribal, Charter, Private)*:
School EIN:
Principal/Administrator Name:
Principal/Administrator Title:
Email:
Phone:
School Website:

Does the school have an Indian Parent Committee?
- Yes
- No

Population Served (Students)
What grades will be served by this grant? Select all that apply.
- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- ϒ 6
- ϒ 7
- ϒ 8
- ϒ 9
- ϒ 10
- ϒ 11
- ϒ 12

Which race or ethnic populations will be primarily served by this grant? Select all that apply.
- ϒ African
- ϒ American Indian/Native American
- ϒ Asian
- ϒ Black/African American
- ϒ Hispanic/Latinx
- ϒ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ϒ White, Caucasian/European
- ϒ More than one race/ethnicity
- ϒ Prefer not to answer
- ϒ Identify in another way (open-ended)
- ϒ Information not available

Project Information

What type and amount of funding are you applying for? *(Maximum of $2,000)*

☐Teacher Directed   ☐Classroom   ☐Both

Amount Requested:

Proposal Narrative

1. Project Description: Provide a short description of the project, the need for it, and desired results/outcomes. *(Up to 2,000 characters)*

2. Is this a collaboration with other administrators, educators, students, and/or parents? *(Yes/No)*
   a. If yes, who are the collaborators on this project?

3. Indicate the program goal(s) that best align(s) with your project:
   a. Promote the acquisition and use of Native-specific resources for classrooms and libraries.
   b. Develop new standards-aligned curriculum resources.
   c. Support educators in attending high-quality, Native-specific professional development.
   d. Support experiential learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom
   e. Implement best practices for Native students.

How does your project align with one or more of the goals of this mini-grant program? *(Up to 1,500 characters)*

4. Key Strategies: Describe the specific planning and uses for this grant. Does your project leverage existing Native-focused work? If so, please explain. *(Up to 1,500 characters)*

Project Readiness
Use the table below to create a project timeline of activities and outcomes that includes:

All activities to prepare for this project.
A list of project outcomes.

Start Date	End Date	Major Activities
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Start Date	End Date	Major Outcome(s)
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text
Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text

Accountability and Communication

How will you share any accomplishments, lessons learned, and best practices (with whom, when, and how)? *(Up to 1,200 characters)*

Award Information

IF AWARDED A GRANT, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COMPLETE A W-9 TO RECEIVE FUNDS DIRECTLY. If you choose to have your school district receive these dollars, you will need to provide evidence of support and an agreement to do that. (You may wish to use or adapt this sample letter.) If you wish to receive funds directly, please identify where the grant check should be mailed.

Do you want the district to receive the funds on your behalf?

District Representative/Administrator for Receiving Grants Name:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Address for Check Distribution:

Review and Submit Application – Signature

Attachments to Upload
- Required: Project budget
- Required: Letter of support from school administration (sample letter)
- Optional: Letters of support from collaborators
- Optional: photos or images that help to describe the project

Resource List

- Understand Native Minnesota: https://www.understandnativemn.org
- Restoring Our Place – An Analysis of Native American Resources used in Minnesota Classrooms: https://issuu.com/shakopeedakota/docs/8_smsc_restoringourplace_as_pages?fr=sMDA0ZjUwNzAwNjg
- Can We Teach More Complete Histories of Native Peoples? https://hyperallergic.com/849514/can-we-teach-more-complete-histories-of-native-peoples/
- University of Minnesota: Resources for Teaching American Indian History and Culture | College of Education and Human Service Professions | UMN Duluth
- Minnesota Historical Society: Teaching Native American History and Culture | Minnesota Historical Society (mnhs.org)
- Minnesota Government: https://mn.gov/portal/government/tribal/mn-indian-tribes/
- Dakota Wichohan: https://dakotawicohan.org/dakota-of-minnesota-history/
- Bdote Memory Map: https://bdotememorymap.org/
- Minnesota Humanities Center: Considerations for Selecting and Assessing American Indian Resources: http://www.humanitieslearning.org/resource/
- Books are Good Medicine is a podcast exploring books and other K-12 teaching resources on the Native American experience.
- Minnesota Native American Essential Understandings for Educators provides teachers, curriculum developers, students, and others with a compilation of the most essential information about Native people and tribal governments in the state.
- A Guide to Reliable Native American-Related Teaching Resources provides educators with a reliable, classified bibliography of 550 recommendable teaching resources aligned with current state English Language Arts academic standards for use by teachers.