

Health and Human Services Committee Grant Guidelines

In accordance with duties prescribed in the Health and Human Services Ordinance adopted on January 15, 1898, and as amended on October 4, 1989, the Health and Human Services Committee has set aside funds for "Health and Community Promotion" grants to eligible applicants.

These grants are designed to promote health and fitness; encourage community programs such as sports, recreation and leisure activities; and to provide alcohol and drug free activities for members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and their families.

Application Guidelines

1. Individuals or Groups requesting funds must complete the Health and Human Services Committee Grant Application.
2. Requests should not exceed \$300 for groups, or \$50 per individual. Any requests above these amounts during the same fiscal year shall require a 1 : 1 dollar match to be considered.
3. Eligible applicants shall include tribal members and other individuals with close social and economic ties to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
4. Requests shall be submitted to the Health and Human Services Committee. Applications will be reviewed at the Committee's regularly scheduled meeting, usually the first Tuesday of each month.

Reporting Requirements

1. Individuals or Groups receiving funds; shall be required to submit receipts on budget and approved expenditures. Failure to submit receipts shall result in no further funding allocations to the applicant individual or group.
2. A "Health and Human Services Final Report" shall be completed and submitted with the receipts attached. These reports are due no later than 15 days following the scheduled activity or 15 days of the date of approval of the grant request, whichever is later.
3. Applicants may be requested to attend a Health and Human Services Committee meeting to report on the activities approved for funding.

For more information contact Merle Leno or Darlene Aaron at the Tribal Office. (503) 879-5211.

CENSUS REPORT: Cherokees are Largest American Indian Tribe

WASHINGTON (AP) - Cherokees are the largest American Indian tribe, Tlingits the richest and Navajos the poorest, the Census Bureau reported.

Chickasaws registered the highest median age, 27.6 years, while the best high-school graduation rate, 68.4 percent, was attained by the Comanches, according to the bureau.

The report Tuesday on American Indians essentially completed the agency's publications of 1980 census data - just two months before the 1990 census gets underway. Though data about Indians as a whole was published previously, the tribal breakdown had to wait because of budgetary constraints, the bureau said.

Tribal Court and Child Custody

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon has hired Lester Marston to be the Chief Judge of the Grand Ronde Tribal Court. The tentative date for the first session of the Tribal Court is June 8, 1990. The Court will be in session at least one day each month. This article will briefly explain the function of the Tribal Court.

The Tribal Court is an entity distinct from the Tribal Council. The Tribal Court's decisions on matters brought before it are final. As with other kinds of courts, the Tribal Court will function according to a code of civil procedure. This code will inform persons who wish to have a matter heard before the Tribal Court of the paperwork they have to file, who they have to file it with, the time limits for filing different kinds of actions, and other procedural matters. This code is currently being written by Judge Marston, and will have to be approved by the Tribal Council before it becomes effective. Judge Marston is also drafting a code of evidence, which will describe the kinds of testimony and other written and physical evidence that can be presented to the Court in a particular case.

The primary purpose of the Tribal Court, at the present time, will be to preside over cases involving child custody matters: adoptions, foster home placements, dependency proceedings, neglect and abuse. The Tribe has a long-established right as a sovereign Indian nation to determine issues of central importance to its children. However, at the present time, the Court will not hear divorce cases or custody issues as a part of a divorce.

Persons who are involved in matters concerning the placement, education, treatment, etc., of Tribal children may bring these matters before the Tribal Court. The code of civil procedure will describe the specific steps that must be taken in order to bring such a case.

A number of such cases are currently under the jurisdiction of the state courts, and the Tribe has the right to have such cases transferred to the Tribal Court. The Tribal Court does not, however, have instant and automatic jurisdiction over child custody cases that are currently under state court control. The Tribal Council has recently adopted an amendment to the Tribe's Child Welfare Ordinance that sets out the specific steps that must be taken in order to have a case currently in the state courts brought into Tribal Court.

First, the Tribal Social Services Department will examine the facts and circumstances of a particular case, and decide whether or not it wants to recommend that the Tribe request a change of jurisdiction. This recommendation is then reviewed by the ICWA Transfer Committee, which makes the final decision whether or not the Tribe will request a transfer of jurisdiction. The ICWA Transfer Committee is the final authority for such decisions.

If the ICWA Transfer Committee approves the recommendation to request a transfer of jurisdiction, the next step is for the Social Services Department and/or the Tribe's attorneys to go to the state court and request the court to transfer jurisdiction to the Tribal Court. Such a request may also be made by the child (or his or her lawyer or guardian ad litem) or by his or her parents. The state court is required to grant such a request, unless it determines that there is "good cause" not to do so.

Once the state court agrees to transfer jurisdiction, a request must be made to the Tribal Court to accept jurisdiction. Again, the Tribal Court is required to accept jurisdiction unless it determines from evidence and testimony presented to it that there is good cause not to do so.

It is important to emphasize the matter of confidential-

ity of these proceedings. Federal, State and Tribal law all contain strict requirements protecting the confidentiality of parties involved in child custody proceedings, especially where such proceedings deal with issues of treatment of mental illness or emotional problems, or involve allegations of alcohol or drug abuse. The Social Services Department and the ICWA Transfer Committee are strictly prohibited from releasing any specific information on child custody cases to any person not a party to the proceedings. Court hearings on these matters, including those held in the Tribal Court, are strictly confidential: the only people who may attend are the parties involved and the caseworkers, their lawyers, and any witnesses to be called.

The establishment of the Tribal Court is a great step forward for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde towards taking control of its own destiny. As the Court develops, it will expand its jurisdiction to preside over other matters of concern to the Tribe and its members.



Rest Home Opens Cultural, Social Doors

NESPELEM, WASH. - Gnarled fingers slowly twist yarn or painstakingly weave water-softened pine needles into baskets.

Eyes dimmed by cataracts peer closely at needlework, while voices sometimes rise in tuneless, age-old songs of healing.

It is crafts time at the Colville Tribal Convalescent Center, when paints, shellacs and yarns are trotted out and patient, younger hands help older, palsied ones create objects pleasing to the eye. Crafts time is a respite from the loneliness, boredom and homesickness that trouble any rest home.

The picture is not entirely unfamiliar. But this is a convalescent center with a difference.

The attractive 52-bed rest home, nestled in a wooded glen just south of the tribal compound, is a vanguard for convalescent centers around the country.

By Oct. 1, director David Murphy said, all U.S. nursing homes will be required by federal law to become more responsive to their residents' cultural and social needs.

Residents will have much greater control of their activities, their diets and, to an extent, their bedtimes and medications, Murphy said.

But the tribal-run convalescent center already does most of that and more, according to Murphy and Mike Somday, a tribal councilman and member of the Indian Culture Board.

When the home was opened in 1981, a mandate by the council was to stress cultural identity for its residents, primarily Colville, Yakima, Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Indians, with a 25 percent non-Indian minority.

That cultural sense pervades the building. "It's all psychologically and spiritually medicinal," Someday said of the cultural atmosphere.

Murphy, who operated 200-bed homes in Seattle and Spokane before accepting the tribal post in May, said he didn't appreciate, at first, the depth of respect that Native Americans have for their elders.

But he can see it day after day as children listen enraptured to legends, then line up to solemnly shake the hands of all elders before leaving after a visit.

- Courtesy of the Statesman Journal