



TEACH our children our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.
APPLY TO AITP
www.pdx.edu/aitp

AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHER PROGRAM ➔

Bike helmets available

The Tribe's Social Services Department has bicycle helmets available for distribution.

Those needing a helmet need to visit the department and sign a helmet application, as well as get fitted.

For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

Staff researching what other Tribes have experienced

COMMUNITY MEETING continued from front page

Office are reviewing the Minors' Trust Fund program," states a prepared statement released by General Manager David Fullerton. "Over the next four months we will be reviewing how the program is operated and assessing whether the objectives for serving the membership are being achieved."

The Member Benefit Fund Ordinance says that the Minors' Trust Fund is set aside "to assist in education, or other important purposes ... to contribute to individual self-sufficiency, which is a stated value of the Tribe."

"One of the first priorities will be to determine whether there is a need to provide Tribal members more or easier-to-access professional advice for financial and tax planning and how to best provide that," the statement says. "Our staff is researching what other Tribes have experienced and how they operate similar trust funds and options for teaching financial planning in schools.

"Council understands how important the Minors' Trust Fund program is to our members. We want to hear from you about how the program is operated and how it affects your life and future. ... We will serve a nice meal and provide a safe space for Tribal members to talk about experiences, concerns and recommendations for how the minors' trust is working."

In a separate interview, Fullerton said the idea for the community meeting began with Tribal Council wanting to initially survey members in their early 20s about how they have used their "21 Money."

"They wanted to either confirm or dispel the rumor that people use it irresponsibly," Fullerton said. "It moved from there to what is really the best way to gather that information. Is it a survey or to have focus groups? The decision by council was to do focus groups and invite people to those meetings to have a conversation."

Tribal Council wants to examine what the Tribe is doing to help young Tribal members be more financially responsible, as well as re-assess the intent of the Minors' Trust Fund money and is that intent being achieved, he added.

Fullerton, who spent many years as the Social Services Department manager for the Tribe, said he has seen good and irresponsible things happen to Tribal youth when a lump sum of money suddenly becomes available to them. Consid-

ering he worked in Social Services, the cases tended to tip more toward the irresponsible, he added.

Tribal youth today are receiving as much as \$100,000 in "21 Money," considering they are receiving funds that have been invested, added to and accrued interest for 18 years. Once Tribal members turn 18, they start receiving quarterly per capita distributions and can access their "21 Money" only under limited circumstances – educational expenses and purchasing a house – before they reach 21 years of age.

Fullerton said one option might be to offer increased financial literacy education for Tribal youth as they are growing up. Previous efforts by the Tribe to offer voluntary, web-based financial literacy classes were infrequently used and eventually discontinued, he said.

In addition, Fullerton said, the Tribe will have to tackle how to make any classes or programs that might be adopted available to Tribal members who do not live in the Grand Ronde area.

Planning Director Rick George said his research into what other Tribes are doing found that about a dozen Tribes have recently re-evaluated how they manage their programs that are similar to the Minors' Trust Fund.

"They have worked to provide better service and protection for their Tribal members," George said. "They have worked to provide more tools to successfully handle receiving that much money at a young age."

George said that one Tribe has included intense financial literacy classes at its high school and Tribal youth must meet certain benchmarks to receive their funds. Those who fail to meet the benchmarks see the age at which they can receive their money moved until they are 25 or 30 under the assumption that the older they are the more responsible they will be with the money.

The community meetings are for enrolled Tribal members and families 18 years of age or older.

"These conversations will potentially drive policy decisions," Fullerton said. "What level of responsibility do we have as a Tribe in preparing people to hand over that money?"

Three additional meetings will be held in Eugene, Salem and Portland in April and May. Tribal Council approved moving \$8,000 from contingency to pay for hosting the sessions.

For more information, call 503-879-2275 or 503-879-2165. ■

SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual Native Caring... A Conference to Learn, Connect & Share

Hosted by the Oregon Indian Tribe of ...
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Other Oregon partnering Tribes include:

Coquille Indian Tribe ~ Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians ~ The Klamath Tribes ~
Burns Paiute ~ Tribe Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs ~

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians ~ Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

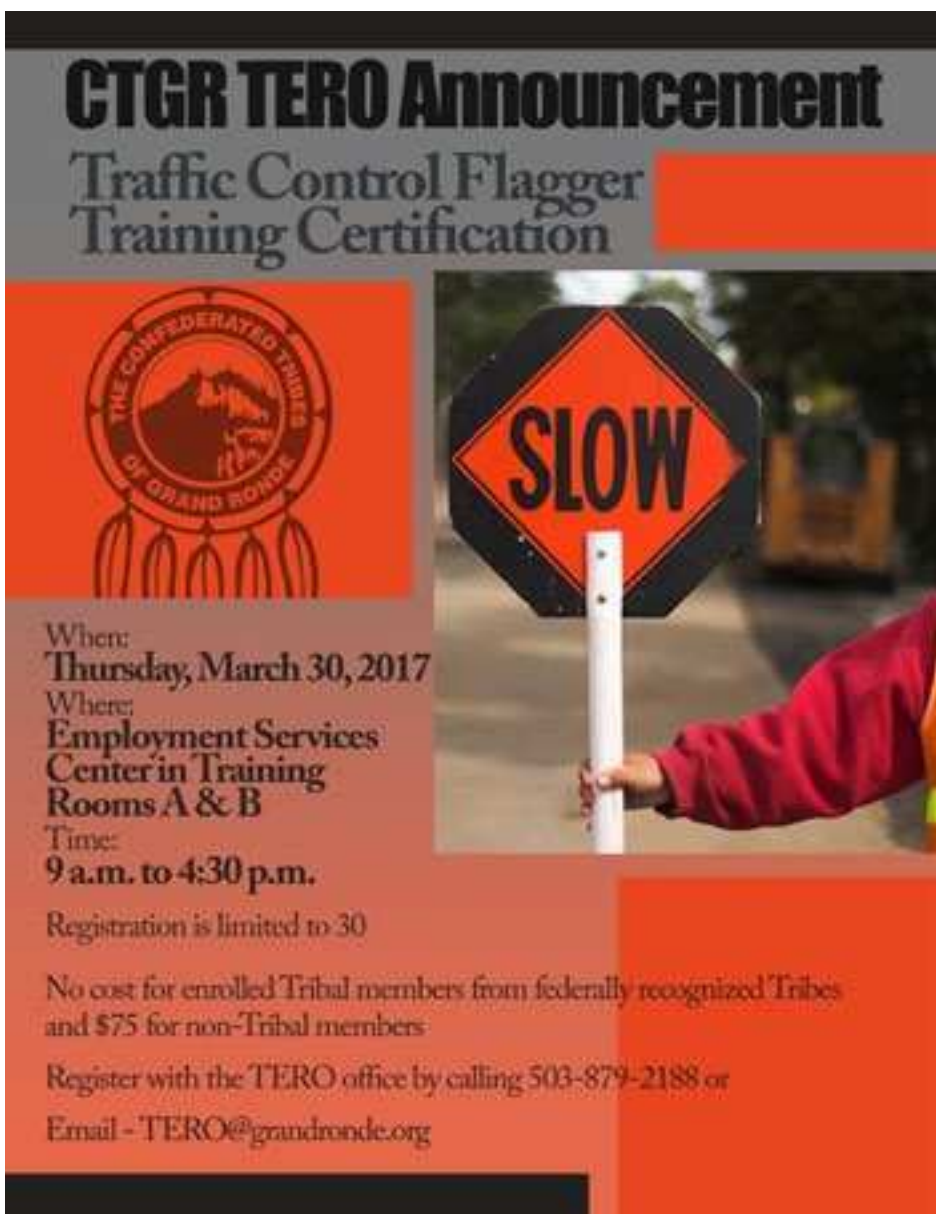


April 19-20, 2017
Grand Ronde, Oregon at
Spirit Mountain Casino

Come and join other caregivers of native elders and relative caregivers of children from Northwest Indian communities in this two-day event. You will have the opportunity to attend valuable workshops that will enhance your caregiving skills and provide you with a break from your daily responsibilities.

For more information, contact Darlene Aaron darlene.aaron@grandronde.org 503-879-2078

VENDORS- To register, please contact Suzy Deeds at 503-304-3429



CTGR TERO Announcement

**Traffic Control Flagger
Training Certification**

When:
Thursday, March 30, 2017

Where:
**Employment Services
Center in Training
Rooms A & B**

Time:
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration is limited to 30

No cost for enrolled Tribal members from federally recognized Tribes
and \$75 for non-Tribal members

Register with the TERO office by calling 503-879-2188 or
Email - TERO@grandronde.org