

Montana  
American Indian Language  
Preservation Program Report  
September 2022



# American Indian Language Preservation Program 2021-2022 Biennium Report

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## **Overview**

During the 2013 legislative session, Senate Bill 342 established the inaugural Montana Indian Language Preservation program (MILP). The pilot program was created to help preserve Native languages that are traditionally spoken in the state. During the current biennium, each of the eight tribal nations will produce preservation products that will help memorialize their languages while at the same time help to perpetuate language usage. Each of the tribes has their own schedule and prioritization of goals and activities for the year. The activities include digitizing language products, recordings of stories and book publishing, online classes, development of interactive language dictionaries and other language learning activities and summer language immersion classes among other priorities. The STED Commission created the guidelines for MILP. July 2021, the MILP program was transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Office of Public Instruction. OPI's Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit has become the administrative/project management arm directed by the Language and Culture Specialist, hired in January 2022. The transition included introductions and outreach to each local tribal community with updates on deliverables, budgetary reporting, and activities. The MILP program will work to ensure that all the program deliverables are submitted to the Montana Historical Society upon their successful renovation while working with Tribes to expand the usage of this good work to the schools. The contracting entity preserves their deliverables on-site to share with their local communities and school districts.

## **Budget**

The Montana Indian Language Preservation program has a biennial budget of \$750,000 for all eight federally recognized tribes (appropriated at \$1 million in 2017 session, \$250,000 reduction in the summer of 2017 via SB 261). Of the \$750,000 in allocated funds, \$20,000 is reserved for personal services and \$17,500 is reserved for operational expenses. The remaining \$712,500 is then divided equally for awards of \$89,062.50 per tribal nation.

## **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. To protect tribal communities, tribal governments declared a mandatory shut down of tribal programs and advised to quarantine over the past two years. As a result, MILP projects were stalled from March 2020 through 2022. However, some projects were able to continue through social distancing and technological means. Projects are encouraged to continue at their discretion as advised by tribal governments.

**LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

**Little Shell Language Program**

Contract Number: MT-MILP-20-01

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community Words/Phrases Survey CD/DVDs of Community Words/Phrases</li><li>2. Survey</li><li>3. Kindergarten through Community College Chippewa Language Learning Curriculum</li></ol>	\$89,062.50

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Film and record the Chippewa/Ojibwe speakers and produce written lesson plans; produce CDs and DVDs</li><li>2. Record nine Chippewa/Ojibwe stories;</li><li>3. Record Little Shell Chippewa Pow Wow songs;</li><li>4. Conduct another Chippewa/Ojibwe Language Survey</li></ol>	\$89,062.50



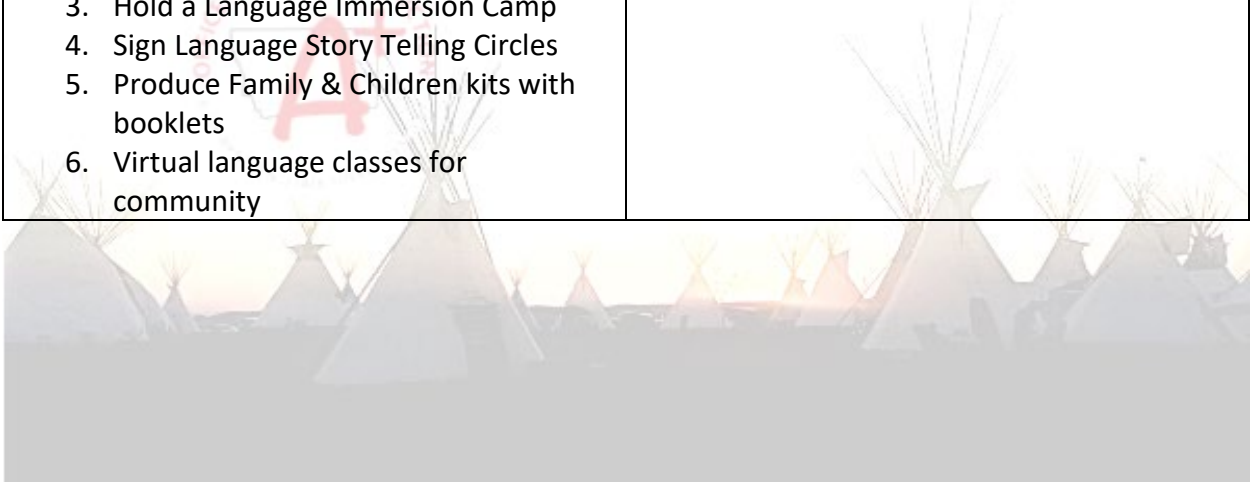
**BLACKFEET TRIBE**

**Blackfeet Early Childhood Center**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-02

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
1. Seasons Study Audio Narrative 2. Seasons Study Short Story Booklet 3. Season Study Calendar 4. Blackfeet Early Childhood Systemic Timetables	\$89,062.50

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
1. Record historical site short stories (4 locations) 2. Produce Reference Materials and Curricula for 5 short story booklets 3. Hold a Language Immersion Camp 4. Sign Language Story Telling Circles 5. Produce Family & Children kits with booklets 6. Virtual language classes for community	\$89,062.50



**CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE**

**Stone Child College**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-03

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Comprehensive Language Assessment	\$89,062.50
(b) Two Research Plans/Methodologies	

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) 1st Grade Cree Language Curriculum	\$89,062.50
(b) 2nd Grade Cree Language Curriculum	
(c) 3rd Grade Cree Language Curriculum	



**CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES (KOOTENAI)**

**Kootenai Culture Committee**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-04-1

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Develop Ksanka Wordbuilder Application	\$44,531.25

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) Expand the interactive capabilities of the Ksanka Wordbuilder App	\$44,531.25
(b) Refine the production of the Ksanka Wordbuilder App and produce new classroom materials for use with beginning lessons for new learners	



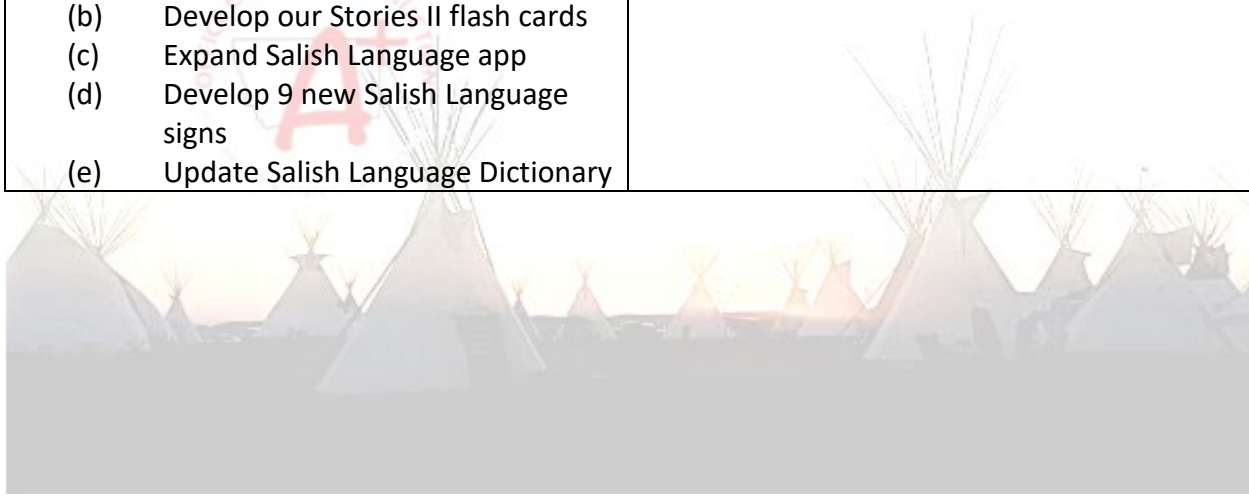
**CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES (SALISH)**

**Selis Qlispe Culture Committee**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-04-2

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Fast Animals and Go Gather flashcard games with audio CD (b) Who am I? National Bison Range card game with audio CD (c) Create 8 language posters (d) Manufacture and install bi-lingual Ethno geographic sign	\$44,531.25

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) Update Alphabet Learning Book with CD (b) Develop our Stories II flash cards (c) Expand Salish Language app (d) Develop 9 new Salish Language signs (e) Update Salish Language Dictionary	\$44,531.25





**CROW TRIBE**

**Little Big Horn College**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-05-1

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Comprehensive online mobile app Crow-English Dictionary	\$50,000

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) Expand on the Crow-English Dictionary	\$89,062.50
(b) Expand on the Crow Language App	
(c) Produce an illustrated Crow Pocket Student Dictionary	
(d) Re-print the Crow Level 2 Textbook	

**CROW TRIBE**

**Crow Education Department**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-05-2

Program Deliverables	Total Award
(a) Crow Hymes Workbook and Lesson Plans for Jr. and Sr. High Schools	\$39,062.50

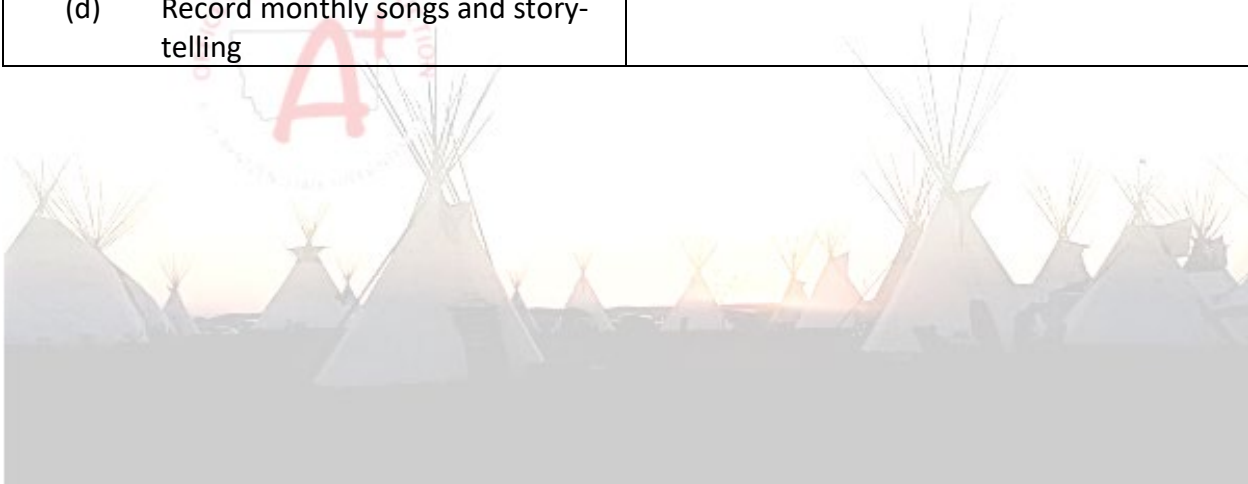
**FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**Fort Belknap Language Preservation Program**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-06

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
	\$89,062.50

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) Continue 4 Community Language Classes with recordings (2 classes per week for White Clay and Nakoda);	\$89,062.50
(b) 5 new Highway Language Signs;	
(c) Continue literature, curricula and reference materials in both languages; and	
(d) Record monthly songs and story-telling	



**FORT PECK ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES**

**Fort Peck Language & Culture Department**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-07

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Traditional Knowledge Keepers (TKK) Oral Story Project (b) K-12 Language Posters (c) Expand Ethnobotany (medicinal plants) Guide (d) Develop Star Knowledge Curriculum (e) Host 2020 Summer Youth Language & Culture Program (Dakota & Nakota)	\$89,062.50

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) 2020/21 summer immersion youth program (b) Oral story media project to be recorded via cd and distributed to Tribal members and K-12 schools and educators (c) Expand medicinal plants guide (d) Professional Development for staff at language conferences	\$89,062.50

**Northern Cheyenne Tribe**

**Chief Dull Knife College**

Contract #: MT-MILP-20-08

Program Deliverables <b>2020</b>	Total Award
(a) Record oral history stories and songs (b) Develop language acquisition training model (c) Develop language curriculum development model (d) Develop lesson plan development model	\$89,062.50

Program Deliverables <b>2021</b>	Total Award
(a) Fluency Classroom training with SIL International; (b) Language Immersion camp July 2021; (c) Record oral history stories and songs	\$89,062.50



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