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Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Announces Grant Funding for Indigenous Language Programs

Española, New Mexico, July 2nd, 2024—The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area (NRGNHA) is now accepting proposals for grant funding dedicated to supporting Indigenous Language Projects within Rio Arriba, Taos, and Santa Fe Counties. This initiative invites proposals from eligible organizations, including tribal governments, tribal affiliated schools and programs committed to preserving, revitalizing, and promoting Indigenous languages.

Indigenous languages are the essence of cultural heritage and identity for Indigenous peoples, embodying unique worldviews, knowledge systems, and oral traditions passed down through generations. *"For Indigenous communities, language is not simply a means of communication; it is a vital link to their history, spirituality, and connection to the land,"* explains Eric Vasquez, Director of the NRGNHA. *"However, the survival of many Indigenous languages is under threat. As a result, many Indigenous communities are experiencing language loss, with fluent speakers dwindling and intergenerational transmission of language knowledge becoming increasingly rare. This makes the efforts to preserve and revitalize these languages more critical than ever."*

The grant aims to support projects that foster partnerships, promote innovative approaches to language preservation, and ensure the sustainability of language projects. Applications are open to pueblos and tribes within Santa Fe, Taos, and Rio Arriba Counties and educational institutions affiliated with tribal entities. Funding up to \$21,500 may support a variety of projects, including the development of language learning materials, the creation of digital tools, the establishment of language immersion programs, linguistic research, community workshops, and more.

To begin the application process, please contact Steve Vigil at info@riograndenha.org. Applications are available beginning August 5, 2024. Submissions are due by October 18, 2024, and award notifications will go out November 15, 2024.

ABOUT THE NRGNHA

The NRGNHA, established by Congress in 2006, has been at the forefront of cultural preservation and environmental stewardship within the Northern Rio Grande corridor. By facilitating these grants, the NRGNHA continues to foster a sense of unity and purpose in maintaining the unique character and traditions of Northern New Mexico. For more information about the NRGNHA and its grantees, please visit www.riograndenha.org.

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