

## Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

### ABSTRACT

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Ojibwe College Community Library will be the recipient of this IMLS Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant submitted through the LCO Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The two year project entitled "Horizons in Health: a Healthy People in a Healthy World" will provide targeted collections and services in the areas of traditional culture, health, and the environment.

The LCO Reservation encompasses over 69,000 acres of Sawyer County near Hayward in Northwestern Wisconsin. About half of its 6,000 enrolled members live within reservation boundaries. It is a woodland community with 15,000 acres of its land based occupied by lakes. Serious health issues plague the community. There is a high rate of diabetes and heart disease. The loss of the traditional ways of life has contributed to this problem. The area is known for its natural beauty and pristine lakes but the community voices the same concerns that are expressed the world over about sustaining its natural resources.

This project will address these concerns by providing resources and services to all ages of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation community. The library will also share its holdings with other libraries in the Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) through Merlin, the shared system catalog.

The goal of the project is "the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Community Library will become *the* community resource center for cultural, health and environmental materials and services". Three objectives have been identified to help accomplish this goal: (1) The LCO Library will provide a series of community programs. The four seasons—*ziigwin*, *niibin*, *dagwaagin*, and *baboon*— will play important roles as participants learn about traditional ways. The summer library program will also incorporate cultural and environmental components. (2) Promotional activities will identify library services and generate increased use of the library. A traditional foods cookbook will be developed using historical and modern photographs. (3) Targeted collections of materials relating to traditional culture, health, and the environment will be added to the collection. These materials will be entered into the Merlin catalog to be accessed by the LCO community and the consortium at large.

The programming component of the project will bring more people into the library and introduce them to a number of traditional activities. The promotional activities will provide public relation opportunities and introduce library services to a wider community. The collection development objective will improve the quality of the library collection in specific areas.

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### NARRATIVE

#### I. Assessment of Need.

##### a. Description of the Community.

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is a federally recognized tribe established under the provisions of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. It was organized to conserve tribal property, develop human and natural resources, to enjoy the rights of self-government, and to provide for the general quality of life for all members.

The LCO Reservation encompasses 69,072 acres of Sawyer County near Hayward in Northwest Wisconsin. The tribal enrollment is 6,000 with 803 members under the age of 18; 4,654 from 18 through 64; and 652 who are 65 and over. Approximately 3,400 members of this population currently live on the reservation in 23 different and unique villages. It is rural and isolated community with 15,000 acres of the land base occupied by lakes and over 4,000 acres by wetlands. Sawyer County, in general, relies heavily on its tourism industry.

There is a strong commitment to education. The tribe takes great pride in its excellent Head Start program (100 students); K-12 School (252 students); and its community college (500 students at LCO and four outreach campuses). Native students (281) make up about 25% of the Hayward Public School population. Waadookodaading, an Ojibwe language charter school, has an enrollment of 21 children (preschool-4).

Traditionally the Lake Superior Ojibwe were a semi-nomadic people who left their villages for seasonal activities that included wild ricing, gathering of nuts and berries, maple sugar harvesting, hunting, and fishing. They were not an agricultural people although they often had small gardens. They led an active life style and ate a healthy diet of lean meat, greens, nuts, vegetables, berries, and wild rice. Today tribal members face the same problems as the rest of the nation. There is essentially a "commodities trail" across the reservation consisting of obesity and related diseases that include diabetes and heart disease. There is also a strong prevalence of smoking-related health conditions. Sawyer County has 2,020 cases of diabetes and if one goes according to state statistics, 46% of these cases would be American Indian. In a survey recently conducted at the LCO College for an "Honoring our Health" project through the Center for Disease Control, 11 % of those surveyed had diabetes; 67% had family members with diabetes while 89% had family members with high blood pressure.

The Ojibwe have always held a strong respect for the earth but a number of outside forces adversely affected their ability to live off of the land. The fur traders came and portions of the animal population were depleted. The lumbermen came and stripped the pine forests and destroyed a number of natural habitats. Three land cession treaties (1837, 1842, and 1854) ceded the Ojibwe homeland to the United States government and created four small reservations that included Lac Courte Oreilles. Provisions in the treaties called for the reserving of the right to hunt and fish on ceded lands but this was ignored until the 1983 Voigt Decision ruled that the tribes were entitled to their treaty rights. In 1923, the Northern States Power Company created a dam that flooded the village of Post and destroyed the traditional rice beds along with a way of life.

In addition, children were sent to boarding schools. The community is still feeling the devastating effect of the "boarding school syndrome" which resulted from the loss of language and traditional ways of doing things. The LCO community is working to get back what was lost. There is a cultural revitalization effort that clearly shows up in the schools. Waadookodaading is ensuring that there will be a group of strong Ojibwe speakers to keep the language alive. The education system from Head Start up through the community college

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encourages the integration of culture and language across the curriculum. The LCO Clinic is currently working on a trauma project with murals that will depict the tribe as a phoenix rising from devastating influences that include the flooding of Post, deforestation, and boarding schools

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College is a driving force in a number of ways. It has strong curriculums in health related fields along with Native, environmental, and sustainability studies. It became a Land Grant college through the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act in 1994. The LCO Land Grant program provides services in three ways: community-based programming through the LCO Extension; student-based activities through the Ag Equity program; and infrastructure funding through the Ag Endowment. The college features a farm with community gardens, a Master Gardener program, and an alternative energy model building.

### b. Current Status of the Library.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Community Library came into being as a small shelf collection shortly after the birth of the college in 1982. In March of 1990, a tribal resolution was passed that designated the college as the center for tribal library services and it became a public library under state statute in 1992. At the same time a cooperative agreement was developed by the Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) and approved by the LCO Tribal Council, Library Board, and College Board of Regents. This agreement designated that the library would serve a dual role as both a public and an academic library. In May of 2007, the library was moved into its third and final home. It is now housed in a 10,000 square foot facility that is both beautiful and functional with energy saving thin client computers, a children's section; conference rooms, and quiet study areas. It has a stylized wigwam with a fireplace which has become a natural gathering place for students with laptops or for storytelling sessions. Solar tubes, many large windows, radiant floor heat, timed lighting and heating systems are all energy savers in the library. The new library adjoins the Cultural Resource Center and the two institutions share an archives room, production room, and a classroom. They also collaborate on collections and cultural programming.

The library is a member of the NWLS Merlin Consortium which provides a shared catalog for its 30 member libraries. The LCO Library collection consists of 23,605 books, 1,490 audio recordings and 2,489 videorecordings. The special Native collection makes up 3,480 of these items (books and recordings) and also includes an extensive microfilm collection of Indian census rolls and historical documents. A community photograph collection has been developed through the years and these photos have been utilized for plays, exhibits, publications, genealogy, and promotional materials. The library is open 52 hours a week during the academic terms and 42 hours the rest of the year. The library staff consists of the full-time director and an assistant. Students from the Work-Based Learning Program at the college are hired as library aides on a yearly basis.

### c. Proposed Project.

This proposed "Horizons in Health: a Healthy People in a Healthy World" project will provide targeted services and materials that will meet the critical needs of the community in the areas of traditional culture, health, and the environment. It has been designed to meet Goal 3 -targeted collections-of the long range plan. It also is in accordance with the collection development and Cultural Resource Center collaboration goals. The project addresses LSTA goals of expanding services for learning and access to information; providing electronic links between libraries; and targeting library and information services to underserved rural communities. All ages in the community will be served. Materials will be purchased for both the adult and children's collections. Programming will be provided to

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children in the annual summer reading programs and the children will be asked to participate in promotional activities. All ages will be welcome at the programs. Library patrons from the other Merlin libraries will benefit as they will be able to access materials that are purchased through this project.

### d. Assessment and Planning.

The LCO Library Long Range Plan was revised in February of 2009. The library director and the LCO Library Board members discussed what direction the library should take in the next few years. The long term goals in areas of general collection development and cultural center collaborative efforts would continue as they are ongoing. An informal community assessment was also conducted by the group which identified the major issues of concern in the LCO community. The feasibility of a new health and fitness center is now being studied. Community members have been surveyed and have provided invaluable insight as to what they would like to see happen. Preventive health concerns play a major role with exercise facilities and diet issues at the top of list. The need for the availability of health resources in the center was also identified. Others mentioned the importance of incorporating the natural world and sustainable building practices into the project.

In addition to health, the state of the environment is of concern. The area is renowned for its pristine lakes and forests but even today outside forces work against efforts to retain the quality of this natural world. For example, a few years ago a high voltage power line was slated to go through part of the reservation. Over much local protest, it was erected but tribal officials would not allow it to cross reservation lands. Green building practices are now being written into plans. The LCO College 2008 Strategic Plan recommends adopting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System) for new construction and renovation. The LCO College Sustainability Program plays a strong role in the community in its encouragement of green life styles and building practices.

The library assessment also took note of LCO interlibrary loan requests, general circulation, and a log of reference questions. The curriculum of the LCO College played a major role in determining what topics should be targeted for future collection development. The library director has worked at the library since 1990 and has a strong sense of what is needed through daily interaction with the clientele and also what resources are most requested and used.

## **II. Expected Outcomes and Project Goals.**

### a. Expected Achievements.

The programming component of this project will bring new people into the library and will introduce a number of topics that will appeal to a wide range of people. People will learn to harvest and prepare traditional food as they gain a better understanding and respect for their heritage. Visitors from outside the area will develop an interest and increased awareness of the LCO community. Educational components will be incorporated into the summer reading program in such a way the children will have fun. They will develop a more positive attitude and awareness of their library.

The promotional activities will provide an excellent public relation opportunity that will reach this community and the surrounding non-native communities. In the past the library published two historical photograph books which have been extremely popular. A proposed cookbook will incorporate community recipes along with photographs of the past and present. Participants will be proud to show that they have contributed. The book also will be educational as it will provide suggestions for a healthier traditional diet. (There will be a non-judgmental special section for fry bread showing how this "staple" has come to be

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incorporated into the lives of the community. Everybody seems to have a recipe and possibly someone will take the challenge to develop a healthier version.) The children will be asked to design bookmarks and will be proud of their efforts. They will, of course, receive credit and commendations for their work.

The collection development component will continue to help establish the library as a special institution that works to meet the informational needs of the community and those of the entire state. The Native collection has always held great respect and is heavily used at LCO and throughout the system. The development of additional targeted collections will better enable the library to share its collection as it meets special designated needs.

### b. Program Goals and Objectives.

The goal of this project is "the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Community Library will become *the* community resource center for cultural, health, and environmental materials and services". Three objectives have been identified to accomplish this goal:  
*Objective 1: Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Community Library will provide a series of community programs that will incorporate culture, health, and the environment.*

The four seasons-*ziigwan*, *niibin*, *dagwaagin* and *biboon*-will play an important role in this objective as participants learn about traditional gathering and processing procedures. The environment and culture will be incorporated into the summer reading program and a storyteller will tell traditional nature stories.

*Objective 2: Promotional activities will identify services of the library and generate more library use.*

Library services will be promoted through the media and at community events. Community members will be encouraged to provide recipes for a traditional recipe cookbook and children will be asked to develop bookmarks. The library will join with other local libraries in the promotion of "Green up at Your Local Library".

*Objective 3: Targeted collections of materials relating to traditional culture, health, and the environment will be added to the collection.*

Materials will be selected that meet specific needs of the community and the world outside. New holdings will be entered in Merlin, the shared catalog, and WISCAT, the state union database.

### III. Project Design and Required Resources.

#### *Objective 1: Programming*

Objective 1 will provide a series of food and plant based community programs centered on the seasonal calendar of the traditional Ojibwe world. Community experts will be enlisted to provide demonstrations. The programs will be as follows:

- *Ziigwan* (spring). (1) *The Walleye and the Spear*. Spearfishing along with the issue of Chippewa Treaty Rights will be discussed. Presenters will include staff of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission along with original participants and demonstrators whose efforts led to the 1983 Voigt Decision. March 2010. (2) *Maple Sugar Processing*. Participants will be invited to visit a sugarbush. Processing will be demonstrated by a community Elder. April 2011.
- *Niibin* (summer). (1) *Medicinal Wild Plants*. An LCO College Ethnobotany Trail tour will be conducted for the identification of medicinal plants. June 2010. (2) *Traditional Wild Food Plants*. Plants will be gathered and prepared. Selection will depend upon availability.-e.g. cattails, milkweed, dandelion greens, wintergreen, and wild leeks. August 2011.

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- *Dagwaagin* (autumn). (1) *Ricing*. A wild rice demonstration will be provided and participants will learn to process rice. (Interested participants will also be able to sign up for a field trip that will be provided through the Native American Studies Department. This annual event that is open to everyone.) September 2010. (2) *Cranberries* will be the topic of a community gathering. Participants will be asked to bring favorite cranberry dishes and recipes. Recollections of workers from the LCO Cranberry marsh will be encouraged. October 2011.
- *Biboon* (winter). (1) *Fish Decoys*. Participants will make fish decoys in preparation for the winter ice fishing season. A community artisan will instruct the group in this traditional art. November 2011. (2) *Traditional Stories*. Storytelling sessions will be provided by Jerry Smith, traditional storyteller. He will tell winter nature stories. This program will be held in the library wigwam and will appeal to all ages. January 2010 and 2011.

Additional programs will include:

- The summer library reading programs will offer programming to children from grades 1-5. A student worker will be hired to help develop the activities and work with the library staff for the actual programming. The programs will follow the themes established by the annual Collaborative Summer Reading Program (CLSP). The theme for 2010 will be *Make a Splash-Read* and for 2011 *World Culture and Travel*. The first year's program will incorporate environmental components that tie in with water quality and the second year will emphasize Ojibwe culture with traditional games and stories. NWLS will supply basic materials including the program manual and reading incentives. The library already has a large range of art supplies.
- *Tobacco: Health and Culture*. This program will discuss the importance of the proper use of tobacco and the problems caused by its abuse. A spiritual leader will provide the traditional viewpoint of tobacco use. February 2011.

There is a large pool of experts from the community who be utilized for much of the programming. A student worker funded through this project will help with the one week summer reading programs. The library has all the needed computers and color printers for promotional materials. Displays will be developed for programs using the library collection of historical photographs. The library's 1999 digital camera will be replaced through this project for documenting the programs and providing current photographs. The 1993 copier will also be replaced for necessary programming and resource materials copying.

### *Objective 2 Promotional Activities.*

The new LCO library was completed in 2007. There was a widespread media campaign and a large open house but it still seems that the library is not reaching the general public as much as it should. A number of community members still express surprise that there is a library and that it is open to the community. Before the Merlin conversion (January 2009) the annual circulation was about 8,200. The rate since then has shown growth but mostly through holds from other libraries. It was decided not to download the 2,800 old patron records into Merlin as many were inaccurate. Instead a new database is being generated and so far there are about 300 registered borrowers using LCO as their home library. Efforts need to be made to spread the word and show what is available to the community.

The following activities will be conducted to encourage increased use of the library:

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- The project will be announced through the *Lac Courte Oreilles Times*, *Sawyer County Record*, tribal radio station, WOJB, the NWLS electronic newsletter, and the Tribal College Librarians list serve. October 2009.
- Workshops will be promoted *via* fliers, press releases through the local newspaper and radio stations. Library staff-Ongoing.
- A photograph file will be kept and used for in-house displays of events. Ongoing.
- Displays of books and promotional materials will be provided in booths at community events that will include the LCO Clinic Health Fair (October); the Annual Sustainable Living Fair (February); and Earth Day (April). Library staff will host the stations.
- A monthly column in the *Lac Courte Oreilles Times* will provide news about programs and new additions to the collection. Library Director.
- Waadookodaading children will be asked to design bookmarks using the Ojibwe language and depicting traditional plants and foods. January 2010.
- Eco-friendly, reusable green book bags will be distributed to library borrowers and at outreach events. January 2010 ongoing.
- The library director from the Cable Public Library (a member of NWLS) has included LCO in her "Green Up with Local Libraries" campaign. She feels that everyone can go green by "greening up their media consumption". This campaign provides an important opportunity for libraries to encourage the public to purchase fewer personal materials that are used infrequently-e.g. books, magazines, and tapes. They are asked to donate these materials to libraries instead so everyone can have access to them. Ads will be placed in area newspapers to promote the campaign. System library staff members will design promotional materials for this. Fliers will be provided to all system libraries. April 2010, 2011.
- A traditional foods cookbook will be developed utilizing recipes gathered throughout the project at events and also from the community at large. Historical photographs from the library collection along with modern one will be utilized to illustrate the books. Library Director, May 2011
- Resources will be accessible both inside and outside the community through Merlin and WISCAT, the state union catalog. Ongoing.
- Finding aids and bibliographic bookmarks will be produced in-house for library use and distribution at fairs. Ongoing.

The library director and assistant will work together on the promotional aspects of this objective. Again the library has the necessary computer equipment and photographs. The Waadokodaading bookmarks and cookbooks will be printed at a local printer. A table cover will also be printed for booths at community events. Utilizing a professional printer will save time and ensure quality.

### *Objective 3: Targeted collection development.*

Membership in the Merlin Consortium enables the library to focus on specific areas in collection development. It has always specialized on academic resources and Native materials although it does have a sizeable collection of popular material. Merlin is essentially *one* catalog with *one* collection. Cardholders can use their cards at any of the 30 libraries. They can also put materials on hold and these items will be delivered to LCO--usually within one week or less. Most of the other libraries feature fiction and best selling non-fiction.

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These materials will help fill holes in the LCO Library collection. Borrowers have access to 800,000 items rather than the 27,584 items at LCO. For this reason, it was decided to focus on targeted collection development. (Other materials will continue being purchased through local funds and the Basic Grant).

Cultural, health, and environmental materials will be selected and purchased using the library collection criteria, community and Merlin web requests, and college curriculum needs. These materials will cover a large range of topics that will include cookbooks, traditional foods, medicinal plants, agriculture, gardening, natural resource conservation, sustainability, GIS, careers, field guides, consumer health information, green building practices, recycling, animal habitats, and culture. Approximately 500 adult books, 150 children's books, 110 DVD's, and 40 audio recordings will be added to the LCO collection.

All Wisconsin residents can access Badgerlink through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. It provides a good range of EbscoHost databases that offer some sound consumer health sources. In addition the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) has recently purchased *Environment Complete* for all of the tribal colleges. The library does lack access to a good full-text health resource that would meet the needs of college students and area professionals. This project will be used to purchase such a program-possibly *Cinhal*.

New materials will continue to be entered into Merlin and made available throughout the system. NWLS will also enter the new holdings into WISCAT for statewide access.

The library director will be responsible for selection of materials. The assistant will help with their cataloging and processing. Staff at NWLS will download new holdings into WISCAT.

Current staffing will ensure the success of the three project objectives. Caryl Pfaff, Library Director, will devote 25% of her time to the project. Through the years she has been responsible for a number of grants and is allotted the time to incorporate them into her daily routine. She will provide oversight to the project and will plan programs, prepare contracts, select materials, generate requisitions, and perform all reporting requirements. She will be responsible for the promotional materials generated throughout this project. Cynthia Tudjen will be the assistant to this project. She was hired through a previous IMLS project as the Merlin/ Special Services Coordinator and will be retained for this one. This will help to provide a smooth transition as it will not be necessary to post a position and provide training. Tudjen has an extensive library background and since Merlin plays an important role in this project, she will be ideal as she can carry on responsibilities that are already established. She will continue to coordinate Merlin activities and be responsible for many of its functions that include circulation, holds, and notices. She will also process materials, help with programs, attend functions, and assist library users.

### **IV. Evaluation and Dissemination**

#### **a. Success of Project and Information Gathered.**

Baseline data will provide basic quantitative information for showing growth in the project outputs that include the size of the collection, circulation both in-house and throughout the Merlin system, number of registered borrowers, program attendance, and in-house visits to the library. It is expected that in-house circulation will increase by 25%. The number of registered LCO borrowers should triple in number although it is necessary to take in account that the library zeroed out the original patron records and started over in January. Promotional materials will demonstrate what is happening at the library. The success of the project will be shown partially if the objectives are carried out in a timely manner. The



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schedule of completion will be the guiding force to determine if the activities are accomplished

Outcomes will show the true success of the project. It is not as important to prove that events occur as it is to show that they provide an answer to specific needs of the participants. Short evaluation forms will be distributed at selected programs. Participants will be asked to describe what they are taking away with them-e.g. a new skill, idea, or attitude. Whenever possible, there will be hands-on opportunities that will show what the participants can do. Partakers will also be given the opportunity to make suggestions for more successful programs and additional topics for the future. Sign-in sheets will show the number of attendees and also indicate the number that *return* for additional programs. The decoys will be on display in the library and the cookbooks and bookmarks will be provided free to library visitors. Those that helped in the creation of these items will have the satisfaction in showcasing their accomplishments.

A log of significant comments or incidences will be kept. For example, a non-native may come up later and thank the presenter for *finally* helping him to understand treaty issues or children will ask to play the moccasin game *again* and *again*. Notes will be made as to problems and successes throughout the two years. Informal observation often tells the most. It is also hoped that this project will help contribute to a general change in attitude toward conservation and recycling. This could be shown with the increased use of personal dishes, water bottles, and coffee cups at functions instead of disposable items. Observations could also be made at community feasts as to what foods participants are contributing such as wild rice, vegetables and tea rather than soda, chips and processed foods.

Increased circulation in targeted areas and the library collection, in general, will show that borrowers are finding more to meet their personal information needs. Since the library has recently changed systems, it will be difficult at first to determine if the circulation growth comes from the wider accessibility of the collection or its content.

The project director will be responsible for all of the evaluative aspects of the project. She will develop grant files that contain purchase orders, bids, contracts, promotional information, survey results, material lists, photographs, program sign-in sheets, circulation statistics, patron purchase requests, and a log of significant comments from participants. Program sign-in sheets will ask for addresses/e-mail addresses. This database will be used for the promotion of future programs. The director will also provide four reports to IMLS and the LCO Library Board as to the progress of the project. All reporting information will also be provided to the LCO Contracts Office and the tribe will provide monthly financial printouts and required financial reports to IMLS.

### b. Dissemination

News releases will be issued at the time of the grant award and for documenting events throughout the project. The library director will submit the *Wisconsin Library Annual Report* to the state. Statistics from this report are published annually. Interim and final reports will provide documentation to IMLS. The library director will share results at the annual gathering of Enhancement Grant recipients. During the last few years these gatherings have been held at the "Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museum Conferences". The grantees shared their results with the entire conference through poster sessions. Results will also be shared with tribal college librarians at the annual Tribal College Librarian's Summer Institute, the group's list serve, and at Merlin Consortium meetings.

## BUDGET FORM: Section B, Summary Budget

	\$ IMLS	\$ Cost Share	\$ TOTAL COSTS
1. Salaries and Wages	\$54,600.00		\$54,600.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$19,656.00		\$19,656.00
3. Consultant Fees	\$3,200.00		\$3,200.00
4. Travel	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
5. Supplies and Materials	\$32,100.00		\$32,100.00
6. Services			
7. Student Support			
8. Other Costs	\$13,500.00		\$13,500.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-8)</b>	<b>\$128,056.00</b>		<b>\$128,056.00</b>
9. Indirect Costs	\$19,208.00		\$19,208.00
<b>TOTAL COSTS (Direct and Indirect)</b>	<b>\$147,264.00</b>		<b>\$147,264.00</b>

### Project Funding for the Entire Grant Period

1. Grant Funds Requested from IMLS	\$147,264.00
2. Cost Sharing:	
a. Applicant's Contribution	
b. Kind Contribution	
c. Other Federal Agencies*	
d. TOTAL COST SHARING	
3. TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING (1+2d)	\$147,264.00
Percentage of total project costs requested from IMLS	100 %

\*If funding has been requested from another federal agency, indicate the agency's name: