



# AICRC

American Indian Child Resource Center  
Founded 1974

United Way  
Designee #  
3338

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Enactment Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enactment Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_

October 22, 2013

Board of Directors  
Oakland Unified School District

American Indian Child Resource Center (AICRC) houses the Oakland Indian Education Center (OIEC). OIEC established in 1989 has offered American Indian youth academic tutoring, advocacy, enrichment activities, skill building and nurtures cultural growth through its after school program and case management for American Indian students in schools throughout the district.

In 2004, AICRC became a subcontractor for OUSD to implement the Title VII program on behalf of the district. Title VII is federal funding meant to provide American Indian and Alaskan Native students attending public schools with programs that address their unique academic and cultural needs. We work collaboratively with the district to ensure American Indian/Alaskan Native students are aware of resources available to them such as advocacy within schools for obtaining IEP's and providing advocacy in school discipline matters. Our agency provides American Indian cultural programming and provides information about other programs available in the AI community. Our agency has a four day a week after school program for AI/AN middle and high school students. We leverage funds received from Title VII through OUSD with other funds received from other sources to provide a comprehensive educational program. We focus our efforts on those schools that have the most American Indian students in attendance.

In the past few years because of district restructuring, responsibility for our subcontract has moved from department to department and to different personnel within in the district. This has led to disarray in the grant application and contracting process. While in past years funding has been delayed significantly, including this year, the purpose of our presentation is to ask for more intention and stability for where responsibility is placed within the district over our grant application and grant contracting processes. We are never informed if responsibility for oversight has changed to a new department or person within the department. We have worked with the same contracting personnel for the past few years but every year we begin from ground zero in terms of getting our contract approved. For several years now our grant award letter drifts around in the district because no one knows who is responsible. This contributes to the delay in contract processing. This year the issue was further exacerbated because of the move from Second Avenue Administration building which is understandable.

The job of identifying and certifying eligibility of American Indian students is left largely to our agency and we do not have resources to outreach to every student who has been self identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native to have them sign the mandatory Form 506.

Central Office:

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Satellite Office:

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Mission:

To preserve and promote the integrity and culture of American Indian youth and their families.

Programs:

Oakland Indian Education Center

Foster Family Agency - CCL

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Indian Child Welfare Act Advocacy

Indian Child Advocacy Network (I-CAN)

Living by Sacred Colors

The Title VII grant document has the program year as July 1 through June 30 each year. In the summer we often have a summer program which over the years has included; summer field trips and camping trips; a cultural camp for one to two weeks targeting rising sixth graders in the District to recruit them for our school year after school program; a barbeque picnic for sixth graders and their parents to recruit for an after school program; a backpack giveaway program before the school year begins in August for sixth graders and returning students to enroll in our after school program. The summer program varies on funding available. We begin planning for the school year in mid August, it is important that the Title VII Coordinator be part of the planning process. Typically our after school program begins in mid September.

In terms of building a better collaborative partnership between our agency and OUSD to promote better educational and life outcomes for American Indian students;

- We respectfully request that some thought and intent go into who is assigned responsibility to our contract so some institutional memory is created.
- We request that the form 506 which is required to be signed by eligible American Indian/ Alaskan Native students be made part of the enrollment packets completed by students/parents upon enrollment in OUSD schools with particular attention to those schools who have had a history and pattern of American Indian students in attendance, particularly middle and high schools. Middle and high schools are like transfer stations, students from many schools in the district intersecting at these grade levels.
- We request that the grant approval and contracting process be streamlined. Next year it will be ten years since we have subcontracted with OUSD. Each year it is like it is a brand new contract and we have to go through each phase between applying for the grant to contracting explaining the grant. The steps are; 1.) In late winter – early spring, the EASIE Federal application is made available to be completed by our agency on line; 2.) We request data from OUSD about test scores, etc. 3.) It is to be submitted by mid to late May each year. OUSD personnel must certify application and submit it. You have to access to EASIE system on OUSD side. 4.) In late June it is approved by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education. OUSD will receive notice based on amount of funding asked for in application which is based on number of students and use formula dollar per student amount given by Department of Ed. 5.) Funds can be drawn down as of July 1st each year 6.) In mid July Department of Education will send Grant Award letter to OUSD with final grant award amount which is based on amount of funding given out overall – there will be a variance between original amounts given in application process.  
It is at this point we are usually asking for how to get it through contracting process.
- We respectfully request some form of ID or letter from OUSD certifying that our employee is allowed to seek verification from each school site that there are American Indian students in attendance and be able to leave 506 forms.
- We respectfully request that the OUSD contract begin and align with our programming actually begins and with the school year.

We gratefully thank OUSD and the Board of Directors for this opportunity to partner in serving the American Indian students and families in achieving academic success and essential cultural enrichment.

Respectfully,

*Mary Trimble Norris*

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