

IN A PERFECT WORLD, grantees would achieve all outcomes of their projects, and reports would all be submitted on time.

IN THE REAL WORLD, cultural gaps in communication, unreliable technology and attrition contribute to non-compliance, late reports and frustration.

ALASKA PROJECT SOLUTIONS, INC. (APSI) has 15 years of experience working with Alaskan grantees, which has provided the vision to develop a unique solution to the above challenges.

TRIBAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS™ is a new software system that integrates Native ways of learning with Native ways of implementing technology into a culturally relevant project management tool.

The proposed software will provide a tool to bridge the gap of learning grants management practices with effective administrative skills. It will be designed for entry-level project managers with minimal exposure to grants management, and its first and primary market will be Tribal grantees who have basic needs for grants management support.

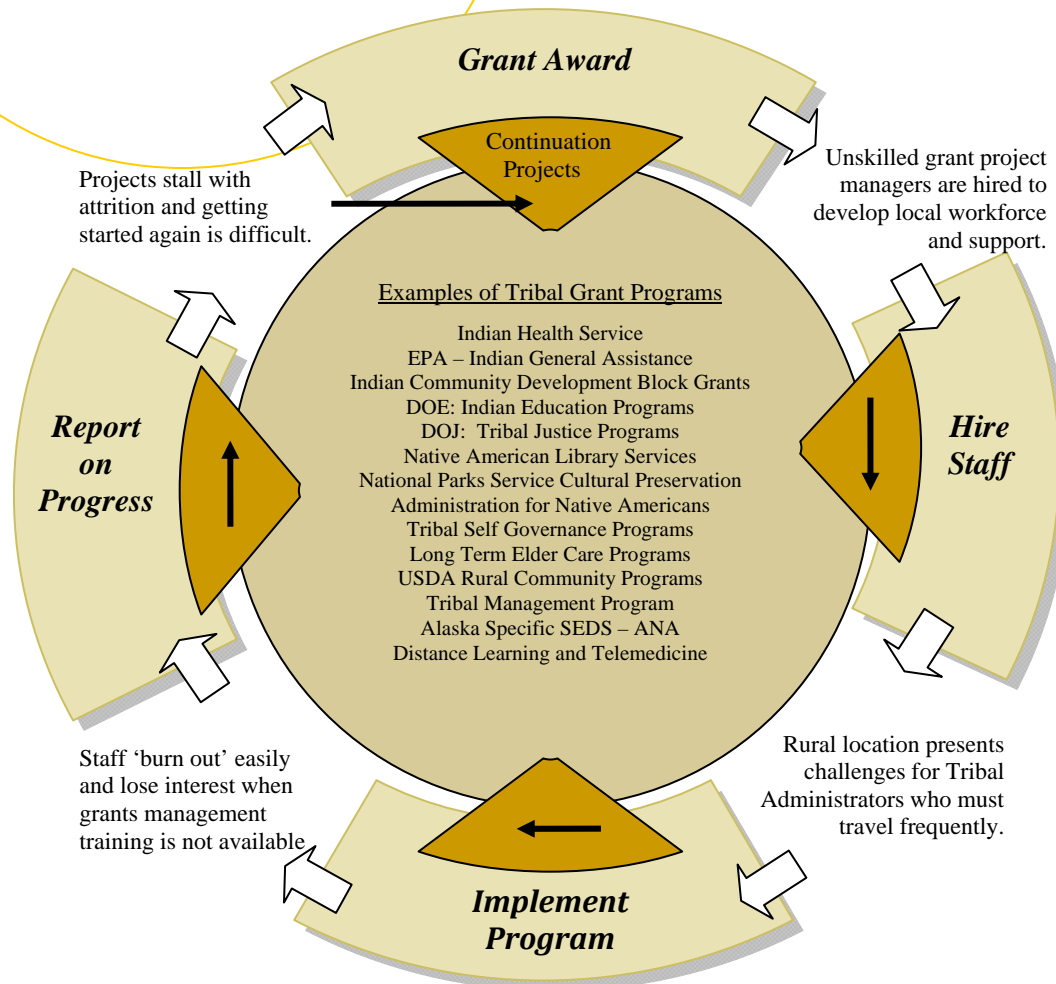
The technology will be a valuable management tool for rural Tribal administrators and could benefit hundreds of small villages throughout Alaska, and potentially nationwide.

The successful development of this software will present a best practices model for the information technology industry in developing culturally relevant products. Federal agencies who work with Tribes will find this technology especially beneficial to improve communications and reporting needs.

TRIBAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS™

THE NEED

Most of Alaska's Tribal communities are remotely located, which contributes to administrative challenges such as untrained staff, high attrition rates and deteriorating programs. Tribal leaders are forced to work within the "all too common" cycle of rural day-to-day grants administration, as shown below.



Tribal Project Solutions™ will enable Tribal staff to take ownership of their grants in a way that will contribute to successful programs, learning and career advancement.

TRIBAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS™

THE SOLUTION

APSI is developing a software supported grants management system that will provide Tribal grantees an effective, culturally comprehensible management tool.

Native learning styles impact the way Tribal members learn software programs— and this still has yet to be addressed by the IT industry.

Tribal Project Solutions™ will be designed to help program staff who may have minimal management skills to effectively manage their grant projects, while learning about the Federal requirements and components of grant projects.



Customers will have a useful project management tool, while learning efficient project management skills.

This approach will position individuals for career advancement and will result in more confident project managers who can lead effective programs. Technical support, online management and training will be considered as part of the overall function and design, and will contribute to the business concept.

The ability to address specific cultural attributes will be adapted to Alaska Native cultures, American Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations, and will be developed for nationwide impact.

Preliminary interviews with Tribal agencies and Universities have produced immediate and enthusiastic feedback.

Administrators have expressed their support for a solution to the challenges of every day grants management for small Tribes, and they indicated that the need for a solution was immediate.

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TRIBAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS™

BUSINESS MODEL

Tribal Project Solutions™ will be the first technology-supported grants management services that addresses entry-level grants management as a culturally comprehensible tool. The proposed business model will include technical support, data management, training and education for its end users. Services will include customer technical support and web support, including automatic backup of the data on daily basis.

By integrating Native ways of learning into its processes, the software will be highly marketable to a well-defined, niche market.

PROJECT TEAM

APSI is a grants management services company located in Anchorage, Alaska. The company incorporated in 2003, after ten years of providing consulting services to Tribal agencies that needed technical assistance with grants management and grant writing.

There are more than 630 First Nation Tribes in Canada, and the U.S. is home to more than 1.2 million non-governmental organizations, some of the most effective voices for the concerns of ordinary people in the international arena.

APSI's mission is to *provide effective project guidance and consulting, successful grant writing, fund raising, grant maintenance, and efficient project management services.* APSI has received \$140,000 in grant funds from the University of Alaska and the National Science Foundation to pursue *Tribal Project Solutions™*.

Project Team

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