

Final Report

1. **Award No.:** EE0002525
Recipient: Bishop Paiute Tribe
2. **Project Title:** Bishop Paiute Weatherization Training Program
Project Director: Carlos Hernandez, 760-873-7893

3 **Reporting Period:** 1/1/2010- 12/31/2010

4. Executive Summary

The DOE Weatherization Training Grant assisted Native American trainees in developing weatherization competencies, creating employment opportunities for Bishop Paiute tribal members in a growing field. The trainees completed all the necessary training and certification requirements and delivered high-quality weatherization services on the Bishop Paiute Reservation. Six tribal members received all three certifications for weatherization; four of the trainees are currently employed.

The public benefit includes (1) development of marketable skills by low-income Native individuals, (2) employment for low-income Native individuals in a growing industry, and (3) economic development opportunities that were previously not available to these individuals or the Tribe.

5. Project Overview

To identify and train six tribal members in weatherization techniques that would lead to employment in a growing industry.

6. Objectives

The two key project objectives for this grant were:

Objective One: Identification and training of Bishop Paiute tribal members interested in developing weatherization skills. The candidates for the program would (1) demonstrate strong performance (2) complete the program, and (3) prosper in the program.

Objective Two: Trainees would receive classroom and on-the-job training in weatherization techniques accepted into the training program. Tribal members would receive classroom training at a DOE-identified facility specializing in weatherization training and receive on-the-job training from weatherization experts.

Both objectives were fulfilled with the assistance of the DOE-funded Weatherization Training Grant. Six tribal members received all three certifications for weatherization. Four of the trainees are currently employed.

7. Description of Activities Performed / Project Activities

Trainees attended weatherization classroom training at the PGE Training Center in San Bernardino, CA on May 10-14, 2010; June 21-25, 2010; July 12-15, 2010; additional training was needed to participants who missed some classes and those trainings were held August 16-20, 2010.

After receiving classroom training, trainees had the opportunity to implement their new weatherization skills in homes located on the Bishop Paiute Reservation. The Bishop Paiute Tribe's Community Development Department (CDD) chose homes to receive weatherization updates with priority given to

households with low-income occupants and the elderly. The CDD also provided the materials for repairs.

Each home was assessed by the trainees for weatherization applications, and was reviewed by the Auditor/Inspector. The Auditor/Inspector ordered and purchased the materials required based on the home assessments and instructed the trainees on implementation of weatherization applications. Once the units were completed, a final inspection occurred and if needed, additional work was completed to pass inspection.

Work was performed on 54 tribal homes by the six weatherization trainees and Auditor/Inspector. Typical weatherization work included duct blasting, basic weatherization, CAS. Door blower testing was also completed on certain homes. Some homes received water heater blankets.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

The trainees were limited in receiving some instruction due to the lack of equipment specifically required for weatherization applications; for example, the program lacked equipment to assess carbon monoxide levels in the home. Therefore, in future funding opportunities for Weatherization Training grants, the DOE should consider allowing for the purchase and/or rental of equipment and vehicles in the grant opportunities.

The next step is for tribes to have an opportunity to access the Weatherization Assistance Program which would fund the development and employment of tribal weatherization crews. In order for tribes to receive funding for this program, the current program requires that tribes demonstrate they are not receiving weatherization services from the state, or local units delegated by the state, to perform weatherization services. However, tribes should have the opportunity to directly access DOE-funding from the Weatherization Assistance Program to develop their own weatherization crews.

The Bishop Paiute Tribe would like to thank the DOE for this opportunity. The Tribe highly recommends this program to others.

9. Lessons Learned

For low-income individuals, transportation to training centers and work site can be an issue. We found that some of our trainees did not have a driver's license to transport themselves or others. For some of the trainees, the cost of re-establishing themselves in the work force included driver training classes that were too expensive for them.

We lacked proper transportation to job sites. A work truck was required to transport materials, supplies and trainees.

Paying a good wage rate was key to trainees dependability for showing up at work sites and classroom training.

Tribal grantees, in general, are located in geographically-isolated rural areas, creating some difficulties with finding qualified trainers or training centers.

Yet, while encountering some difficulties, the program was a success and the Bishop Paiute Tribe achieved the original objectives set forth in the original grant proposal.

6. Cost Status:

All grant funds spent. \$144,343.00