

Even with best practices, you
may face significant project
challenges

A Descriptive Analysis of Missing and Murdered Native Women and Children in Nebraska, Barriers to Reporting and Investigation, and Recommendations for Improving Access to Justice, National Institute of Justice Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant (NIJ Award 2019-75-CX-0014)

Project strengths:

- Responsive to community needs and state legislation (LB 154: study on missing Native women in NE).
- Strong tribal partner – Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs.
- Native researcher co-leading research team.
- Motivated law enforcement partner.

Challenges:

- Marrying/balancing Western academic methodologies versus Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Negotiating politics and relationships; including dissemination of the results.
- No control regarding (in)action on recommendations.
- Too little money – TRPG at 169k.
 - Complex researcher-practitioner partnership; consistent and sustained rapport building.
 - Final report, archived data, special report, and **new proposal**.

Identifying the Scope and Context of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) in New Mexico and Improving MMIP Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting, National Institute of Justice, Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women (NIJ Award O-NIJ-2022-171197)

Project strengths:

- Responsive to community needs and NM MMIWR Task Force preliminary report
- Strong tribal partner – NM Indian Affairs Dept.
- Strong project champions at NM IAD.
- Native researcher co-leading research team.

Challenges:

- Sunsetting of MMIWR Task Force.
- Complete turnover of NM IAD including IAD Secretary...
 - Complex researcher-practitioner partnership; consistent and sustained rapport building.

Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant: Strengths, Needs, and Partnerships regarding Nebraska Indian Community College's Response to Gender-Based Violence and Victimization, National Institute of Justice Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant (NIJ Award 15PNIJ-21-GG-02809-RESS)

- Project strengths:
 - Strong researcher-practitioner partnership beginning with site visit/tribal TTA provider.
 - Responsive to community needs and TCU faculty/staff listening session.
 - Project champions at the TCU including leadership; Executive Board; Tribal Council.
 - Native researcher co-leading research team.

Challenges:

- Could not get through tribal IRB; resulted in change in site to new TCU.
 - Project moved forward but original TCU partner did not benefit from the project.
- Too little money – TRPG at 149k.
 - Final report, archived data, special report, and **new proposal.**

Practical Suggestions for Funders

RFP/Solicitation Suggestions

- Extend solicitation openings (6 months or so) or rolling submission deadlines
 - Accommodate for extra layers of approval for tribal collaborations
- Consider phased projects
 - Development (survey, intervention, etc.) as Phase 1
 - Deploy/evaluate (data collection) as Phase 2
- Allow waiver for data deposit due to data sovereignty concerns
 - Clear and easy to navigate – on RFP
 - Consider this in the LOS's

Award and Scope Suggestions

- Significantly increase funding amounts and flexible spending avenues
 - Funding for “on the ground” Native American research partner
 - Increases in incentives/stipends for tribal member participation; and/or advisory board membership
 - Increased travel to tribal communities
 - To develop, support, cultivate personal relationships and trust; more in-person meetings
 - Draw-downs of funds for long periods
 - Labor intensive to get ‘off the ground’ for researchers (council approval, tribal IRB approval)
- Consider longer Periods of Performance (POPs)
 - Things take longer

Other Grant/Funding Considerations

- Be careful of unfunded mandates
- Transparency in how research is beneficial and needed
 - By both researchers and funding agencies
 - If federal mandates require research, this should be clear to tribes
 - Awareness campaigns?
- Expectations on deliverables
 - Tribes may want to approve deliverables, reports, and/or publications – how does this work with funder expectations?