



Clockwise from top left: (1) Scholars are digitizing Ka Leo Hawai'i for online listening. Image courtesy of Kani'āina. Photo credit: Clara Hagan. (2) A Haida participant at the National Breath of Life Archival Institute in 2017. Photo credit: Karen L. Baldwin. (3) A Northern Paiute participant at the National Breath of Life Archival Institute in 2019. Photo credit: Karen L. Baldwin.

The National Endowment for the Humanities: Revitalizing Endangered Languages

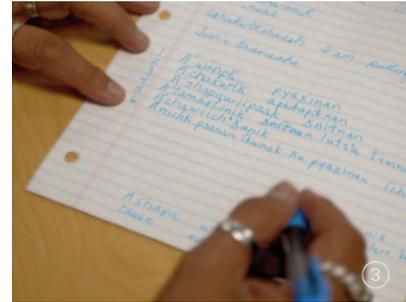
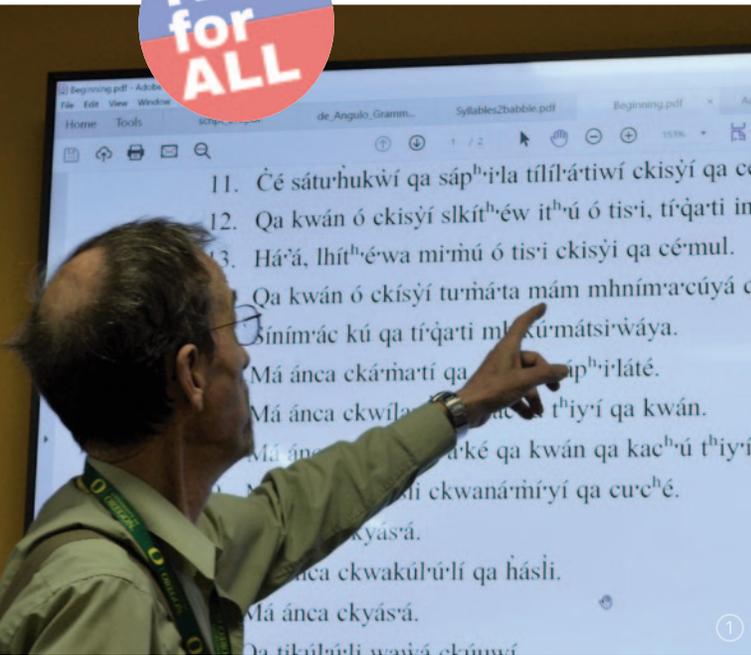
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding helps Native American communities and their partners document and revitalize endangered languages, supporting a vital aspect of Indigenous culture and identity and preserving essential knowledge.

143
of the 216
languages
spoken in the
United States
are
endangered.

NEH funding helps make Native language resources broadly accessible.

- The University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Kani'āina project digitized and transcribed audio recordings of *Ka Leo Hawai'i*, a Native Hawaiian language radio program from the 1970s and 80s that was a vital part of early language revitalization efforts.
- The California Language Archive at the University of California, Berkeley digitized and reorganized a vast collection of Native language materials, making the collection more accessible to tribal communities.
- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College organized a substantial archive of Ojibwe culture, much of it repatriated from other institutions, and produced interpretive materials to enhance Native understanding of those resources.





Clockwise from left: (1) Bruce Nevin leads instruction in Achumawi at a NILI summer institute. Photo credit: Bruce Nevin. (2) Students interview Muskogee speakers to document the spoken language. Photo credit: Jack Martin. (3) Taking notes in Ichishkiin at a NILI summer institute. Image courtesy of the Northwest Indian Language Institute, University of Oregon. (4) Linda Wood interviews a Muskogee speaker. Photo credit: Jack Martin.

NEH funding supports the preservation of Native languages and lifeways.

- Over a period of three years before her death in 2015, Kashaya elder and fluent Kashaya speaker Anita Silva worked with linguist Eugene Buckley to record her knowledge. Silva’s knowledge was essential to establishing an online Kashaya language database with spoken language resources.
- Seminole Nation employee Linda Wood, a Muskogee speaker, interviewed over 25 elders in Muskogee about a variety of traditional topics. These interviews were recorded and transcribed and are now online as part of the Documenting Spoken Muskogee project.
- Red Lake Nation College developed a series of student-driven podcasts to explore Red Lake Ojibwe language, culture, and history. The podcasts center around students’ interviews of tribal elders, preserving their knowledge while also giving the students valuable technical experience.
- The Klallam Tribes of Northwest Washington worked with linguist Timothy Montler to produce the *Klallam Dictionary* in 2012 and the *Klallam Grammar* in 2015. By improving Klallam instruction in local schools, these books helped Klallam youth access their heritage and had a measurable impact on student success.

The NEH helps Native communities work toward language revitalization.

- With NEH support, the Myamia Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and the Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) at the University of Oregon each build the capacity of community-based revitalization efforts. The Myamia Center’s Breath of Life institutes offer training in archival methods necessary to revitalizing the most endangered languages, while NILI offers training in language instruction.
- In 2017, the NEH partnered with the First Nations Development Institute to foster Native language revitalization by funding language-immersion education programs within tribal communities. Through this partnership, the First Nations Development Institute awarded over \$2.1 million in grants to support these programs across the country.
- With funding from the NEH as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums awarded \$3.3 million to Native cultural organizations around the country, including many focused on language revitalization.

