

## **E-Grants Management**

*Donovan Antelope*

The Northern Arapaho tribe's E-Grants Management program is a program available to all tribal programs and small business entrepreneurs searching for funding.

The program is relatively new and was created a couple of years ago as a resource for tribal programs looking supplement their programs and help alleviate the budget crunch many programs have been experiencing the past few years.

Kim Harjo is currently the administrator for the program and she is constantly researching what type of grants are available and she lets different programs know if their program may be eligible to apply for the grants.

Many different tribal programs can use the grants she finds to either supplement their budgets to hire more staff, attend training seminars, or obtain new office equipment and supplies. The grants can also be used to help start a new program or build a new building to house a current or new program. If a tribal member is looking to start a small business on the reservation, they can also utilize Kim's services to find a grant to help start up their business.

If a tribal program is looking to apply for a grant, they can contact Kim to set up a meeting at her home office or she can meet with them in their office. Kim will go over the steps that need to be taken to apply for a grant. Even if the person or persons have never applied for a grant before, Kim can show them how to apply. There is an online website that anyone looking to apply for a grant can visit and the address is <http://www.grants.gov>. The website was created by the government to make applying for federal grants easier and safer. Months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many federal offices and agencies began to receive envelopes lined with Anthrax powder. By creating the website, the federal government was able to reduce the risk of receiving one of these deadly letters and was able to better manage and keep track of the applicants.

However, if a tribal program or anyone cannot find a grant online to meet their specific needs, Kim would also be able to help them write their own grant proposals to different foundations and humanities councils in the country.

Due to many different budget and funding constraints, programs nationwide have been applying for many of the grants online to supplement their slashed budgets, making the competition for these grants higher. Kim advises anyone wanting to apply for the grants to as soon as they can. If they are denied the first go around, do not become discouraged. They can re-apply again when the grant becomes available again the following year. And by fine tuning their applications, they can have a better chance of getting the grant. Also, they can look for a similar grant to apply for that they may have better luck with.

Many tribal programs that are applying for the grants needs to let the Northern Arapaho Tribal Finance Department know about their intent to apply for any of the online grants because many of the grants are either supplemental grants or grants that may require the tribe to match them. Many grants require that monthly, quarterly and semi-annual status reports be given to foundations or group providing the funding for the grants to ensure that the grant is being used properly. What many people don't know is if they are using a grant for other purposes than it was created for, they can be held liable for repayment of that grant. But if it is a tribal program that is misusing the grant, then it is the tribal government that is liable. Funding from the grant may be frozen until those who are using the grant get back into compliance with the grant regulations and requirements. If the grant is revoked, any money used out of the grant would have to be repaid back to those who provided the funding for the grant.

If there is any tribal program or prospective entrepreneur looking for funding, Kim Harjo is the woman to contact. Kim can be reached at her home office at 307-335-8524, or you can e-mail her at [eaglewoman@wyoming.com](mailto:eaglewoman@wyoming.com) or [kharjo@northernarapho.com](mailto:kharjo@northernarapho.com). Kim is always willing to help others find the right grant that suits their needs.