



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Two Rivers CDC

Address:
45053 SE 166th St
North Bend, WA 98045

Contact:
(425) 283-2512
<https://www.tworiverscdc.org>

Organization's General Goals:
We promote economic opportunities and cultural respect through community engagement, and personal and business development.

Date of Award:	Level:
2022 Q4	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Two Rivers CDC.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY (abbreviated)

Two Rivers CDC is developing a program to expand the grant to focus on Native veterans to encompass physical, mental and economic well-being. Two Rivers has access to facilities which abuts a King County natural park. Two Rivers proposes to develop a program for veterans to include business development training while addressing stress reduction through various techniques. These include mindfulness, talking circles and mentoring...

The concept attached to this report outlines the construction of a covered arbor to allow for year-round fires and outdoor training sessions.

During the spring of 2023, Two Rivers conducted surveys and held discussions with multiple businesses state wide. The overall feelings of angst, uncertainty and the national division has created an even greater need for stress reduction. The Executive Director made presentations at Affiliated Tribes conferences, National TERO conferences and to veteran organizations.

Two Rivers coordinated with King County Parks, King County Veterans Program, WA Dept of Veterans Affairs, multiple tribes and individuals to outline the concept for inclusion of stress reduction training into business development classes. The response for immediate and in total support.

In May, the Executive Director was asked to present on a webinar hosted by the Texas chapter of the Association of Graduates of the Air Force Academy (all veterans). He gave a brief overview of the role of Native Americans in the history of the US Dept of Defense; much of which was new information to the majority of listeners. Within 2 weeks this group had committed to sufficient funds to build the arbor.

Two Rivers hosted a “ground breaking” June 7 attended by Seattle Indian Health Board, King County, United Indians and opened by the Yakama Warriors Association. Work began immediately on the arbor and is now complete. Home Depot donated materials to enhance the facility and will have a group of employee volunteers to help with the project on Nov 6.

The donation from Tulalip Tribes enabled Two Rivers to confirm the need for and to “jump start” the program. To date we have:

- Signed and MOU with King County for use of Boxley Park.
- Engaged with Seattle Indian Health Board to support traditional medicine practice
- Engaged with the United Indian veterans program
- Developed “mindfulness” course outline
- Confirmed the need

Thank you for your support.

Daucey Brewington, Executive Director

Attachments

Veterans Training Concept

Photos from “Ground Breaking”

Photo of Completed Arbor and alternate classrooms

Generic Class flyer

Veteran's Training

A concept
presented by



And

Blackstar Services Inc

45053 SE 166th St

North Bend, WA 98045

www.TwoRiversCDC.org Daucey@TwoRiversCDC.org

425-283-2512

Veteran-Owned Business Concept

Introduction: Upon returning home from Marine Corps basic training, a young man was asked by his father “What did you learn?” To which he replied “Sir! I learned what NOW means, sir.”

In addition to punctuality many other characteristics are built into the DNA of veterans that provide the basis for becoming a good employee or employer. The ability to leverage military training for long-term employment opportunities can be a mainstay of job hunting. One of the challenges is “how do I do that?” Cultural issues can be a particular challenge.

There are federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with the resources to provide training on all aspects of post-military employment. This includes resume development, job searches, interview counseling, and training in business ownership. Business plans, marketing plans, management plans, financing, partnering, and other ownership-related training can be obtained for the same sources, most at no cost to the veteran.

Two Rivers CDC is a Native 501c3 dedicated to economic development in Indian Country. Two Rivers has partnered with the Small Business Administration (SBA), DoD, USDA Rural Development, and other agencies to provide the above noted training for more than 15 years to the Native community. Blackstar Services, Inc. is a for-profit business; Native owned and certified as a service-disabled veteran owned small business (SDVOSB). Blackstar is also certified as an MBE/DBE. Two Rivers and Blackstar, collectively referred to as the Team, have partnered to develop this concept. This program is being developed to provide additional business development support without government funding.

One of the keys to successful operation of a small business is a reliable, trusted source for guidance and training. Who can you turn to when you don’t know where to turn? I just need/want to talk . . .

The concept outlined here is for a pilot program to provide an opportunity for veterans to talk about challenges post-military service to include cultural challenges, employment challenges and/or business creation or operations. The pilot program will be scalable and replicable.

The Two Rivers/Blackstar team is located in North Bend, WA, and shares property lines with Boxley Creek Park—a King County “natural” park, meaning no improved areas or facilities. The park contains more than 138 acres with public access via a 2-mile hike along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, a Washington State Park. Alternatively, the team has direct access to Boxley Creek.

The purpose of this proposal is fourfold: 1) Create an atmosphere wherein veterans and those supporting veterans feel free to engage. Essentially a “talking circle” to provide an outlet; an opportunity to engage with someone in similar circumstance. 2) Provide information relative to community engagement either as an employee or as a small business owner. 3) Provide techniques to reduce stress as an integral part of business development, and 4) learn techniques to grow their business.

The pilot program will consist of four sessions during a six-week period, each with 12-15 participants. The first two will be 3 hours long; the final two, 6 hours long. Lunch provided at all sessions. Each participant will be asked to provide feedback on all aspects of the program. Participants will include current small business owners and aspiring owners.

These sessions will be held in North Bend, WA. The primary venue will be a talking circle around a firepit, weather permitting. Otherwise, a covered patio or indoor conference rooms are available.

Methodology: At the initial gathering, the program manager (PM) will provide an overview of the project along with expected outcomes and expectations of participants. Each participant will provide a brief introduction and what he/she personally hopes to achieve. With this group background knowledge, the talking circle begins. The PM will “guide” the discussion and will ensure an air of respect and decorum is maintained.

Each session will begin with the “talking circle” that will vary in length depending upon the nature of the discussions. As the PM becomes more familiar with the participants, he/she will be able to introduce various aspects of community engagement. Many government agencies and large businesses have a “veterans’ preference” hiring policy. The discussions may cover how to identify such programs and effectively use them.

Some participants may be more inclined to create or expand their own small business in order to access veteran business advantages. One such advantage is federal certification as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB). The Veterans Administration can go directly (non-competitively) to an SDVOSB-certified company for contracts up to \$4 million. Another is the DoD’s Indian Preference Program.

Two Rivers has provided technical assistance for small business certifications for more than 20 years. Blackstar is a certified SDVOSB. The team has specific experience with business startup: organization, financing, business plans, marketing, mentoring, management and growth. During the four-session course, these will be covered in detail.

A major aspect of this pilot program is the physical location. The team has direct access to Boxley Creek Park, a King County-managed facility. King County Parks has a stewardship program that enlists volunteers to help with trail maintenance, revegetation, removal of invasive species, and other activities. Boxley Creek is not one of the areas, in part, due to lack of accessibility. This could potentially lead to creation of a veteran-oriented park support program. The team met with King County Parks representatives to tour the area and discuss the potential of a partnership. A second group discussion is in the planning stages to expand on the ideas presented during our tour.

In addition to employment preparation or business development, this pilot program will focus on personal well-being—actual training on how to “stop and smell the roses.”

The military draft in place during the Vietnam conflict created a steady influx of inductees into the military which allowed for a rotation of forces into combat zones. Those with multiple tours generally volunteered for additional assignment. Elimination of the draft reduced the number of those eligible for deployment to the Middle East during the past 20 years, resulting in multiple tours for many military personnel. The Vietnam era also showed a large degree of PTSD for returnees after a single tour of duty. Today’s estimates of military personnel afflicted with PTSD or traumatic brain injury (TBI) exceeds 70%.

The use of an outdoor facility with structured time engaged with nature enables most people to relax. The team proposes to incorporate existing King County and state programs into our activities. This may include an organized Forest Stewardship for Boxley Creek or expansion of other programs for veterans.

This is not intended to replace any mental health counseling or other medical programs in which a veteran may be engaged. Its purpose is to provide technical assistance for business development which includes an element of self-induced relaxation techniques.

Expected Outcomes: By the end of the program, participants will:

- Know how to leverage military training to complete a resume and interview process.
- Know the basics of starting/operating/growing a small business.
- Know how to access free resources for the above.
- Know how to incorporate relaxation/stress reduction into their daily routine.

Staff

Program Director: Daucey Brewington,

BS: US Air Force Academy

MBA: Troy State University

Veteran: US Air Force, Service Disabled

Lifetime member: Yakama Warriors' Association

Lumbee Warrior's Association

Small Business Owner: certified under state and federal programs

Certified as SDVOSB (service disabled veteran owned small business)

Formerly 8(a) and HUB Zone certified

VA sponsored mindfulness stress reduction program participant

Program Director, Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center (9 years)

Business Counsellor

Founding Board member of two Native Chambers of Commerce

Past Member: Washington State Business Development Advisory Group

Past Member: Sound Transit Diversity Oversight Committee

Facilitator: Joint VA/Yakama Nation Cultural Sensitivity Program (10 years)



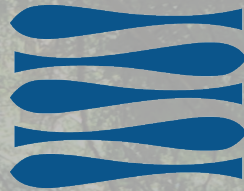
Yakama Warrior's presentation of colors



Indoor Classroom



Covered Arbor



TWO RIVERS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Free Workshops

Native Veteran Business Development Series

Initial Series limited to 12 participants

Four-Class series 9 am-1 pm each day, lunch provided

- #1: Introduction to Mindfulness and SBA Programs overview
- #2: Government Contracting and Marketing
- #3: Management: Financial and Strategic Planning
- #4: Certifications and One on One with Primes

All classes include elements of culturally appropriate stress reduction and mindfulness techniques.

Classes to be conducted in a rural outdoor setting, surrounded by and incorporating nature into a unique learning environment

- Class # 1 (add date)
- Class # 2 (add date)
- Class # 3 (add date)
- Class # 4 (add date)

Location: 45112 SE 166th St
North Bend, WA 98045

Contact: info@TwoRiversCDC.org 425-283-2512

Registration www.TwoRiversCDC.org

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the US Small business Administration