

Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project

Project Title:	Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project
Lead Applicant:	Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California
Collaborator(s):	N/A
Project Phase:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploratory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last-mile
Region(s) Served:	Deeply rural areas, Tribal Lands, Lake County
Location of Headquarter:	Middletown Rancheria (Lake County, California)
Primary Sector:	Arts, Culture, and Tourism
Secondary Sector:	Workforce Development

Project Summary (~250 words):

The Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project is an initiative by the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians looking to address systemic challenges facing their 265- member Tribal community and the broader Lake County region. The project emerged from community consultation, with 69.2% of the General Council supporting five key priority areas: Housing, Climate Justice/Resiliency, Youth Programs/Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Cultural Resiliency. Survey data revealed that 79.49% of General Council members struggle with monthly expenses, while 55.26% face barriers to achieving living wages in non-Tribal employment.

The proposed six-month pre-development phase will focus on creating a comprehensive Master Plan, including feasibility studies, program development, and SWOT analysis. Key components include the Barnes Street Housing Project addressing post-2015 Valley Fire housing shortages, environmental initiatives such as hydropower and geothermal energy development, and cultural preservation through a Tribal museum and linguistic preservation program. The project will employ six part-time Tribal Elder and Youth Culture Keepers and establish a Youth Tribal Council to guide apprenticeship programs.

Environmental aspects include geomapping, water system evaluation, and implementation of renewable energy solutions. The initiative particularly emphasizes workforce development through apprenticeships, certification

training, and mentoring programs. The project aims to create sustainable economic opportunities while preserving cultural heritage, addressing the region's 16.8% poverty level, and responding to environmental challenges. The plan incorporates both Tribal and non- Tribal community needs, focusing on creating long-term solutions for housing, employment, and cultural preservation while promoting environmental sustainability.