

2026 Grant Application



Mission Statement

Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture is a family literacy program that reaches out to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI), and American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) families and their intergenerational community members. Talk Story celebrates and affirms Asian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian intersectionalities through books, oral traditions, art, and more to provide interactive and enriching experiences.

Talk Story Grant

Talk Story grant funding supports library and community organization opportunities to highlight AANHPI and AIAN stories through programs, services, and collection materials. Children and families can connect to rich cultural activities through Talk Story in their homes, libraries, and communities while challenging mainstream Anglocentric literacy practices. We welcome libraries and community organizations to develop their own Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture project to serve family literacy needs.

Timeline

- Applications must be received by March 15, 2026 11:59pm AoE
- Awards will be announced by May 1, 2026
- Funds must be used by November 30, 2026
- Grant reports must be submitted by December 31, 2026

Grant Details

Amount: \$800

Grants Offered: 4 (2 from AILA and 2 from APALA)

To submit your proposal, please complete the online form:

<https://forms.gle/X1T36LanboSnF4zK9>.

If you require an alternative submission method, feel free to contact the association through which you wish to apply for a Talk Story grant:

- American Indian Library Association: <https://ailanet.org/contact/>
- Asian Pacific American Librarians Association: familyliteracy@apalaweb.org

Eligibility

Libraries, archives, museums, and community organizations that serve AANHPI or AIAN children and their families are eligible to apply. With the exception of cross-border tribal organizations, organizations must be based in the United States or U.S. territories. Organizations who have previously been awarded two *Talk Story* grants are ineligible for additional awards.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the AILA and APALA joint Family Literacy Focus committees. Awardees will be selected based on:

- Creativity and originality of the implementation of the *Talk Story* program
- Accuracy in portrayal of AANHPI/AIAN cultures
- Financial need
- Involvement of the library, community, and community organizations as participants, leaders, and promoters of the proposed *Talk Story* program.

Preference will be given to proposals that reflect the core values of family literacy, intergenerational programming and service, and cultural literacy, and representation of AANHPI and AIAN identities and communities. Projects that actively disrupt stereotypes, decenter colonialism, and hold space for AANHPI/AIAN agency will be heavily considered.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used to purchase library materials such as books, audiovisual materials, supplies for activities/crafts, programming costs such as hiring a storyteller, etc.

Note:

- At least 25% of funds must be used for library materials.
- No more than 10% of funds may be used for refreshments and decorations.
- Funds must be used to support at least one AANHPI or AIAN themed program for children and their families at the institution that receives the grant. Funds may be used for virtual programming.

Application Process

Submit a complete and detailed application including a Statement of Need, Narrative, and Proposed Budget. Describe the program your library or community organization would implement with the award and the types of programs highlighting AANHPI or AIAN cultures you plan for your community.

- **Online Form:** Submit your proposal
- **Downloadable Application:** Access the document version

Note: You may apply for either an AILA grant OR APALA grant, but not both.

2026 Grant Application



To submit your proposal, please complete the online form:

<https://forms.gle/X1T36LanboSnF4zK9>.

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Email*	
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Eligibility

Is your organization a library, archive, museum, or community organization that serves AANHPI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander) and/or AIAN (American Indian and Alaska Native) children and their families?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is your organization based in the United States or U.S. territories? (Note: Cross-border tribal organizations are exempt from this requirement. Therefore, please select, "Yes".)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Has your organization previously been awarded two Talk Story grants?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know.

CONTACT

Name of Contact Person*	
Organization Applying for Grant*	
Organization Administering Grant (if different from above)	
Mailing Address*	
Physical Address (if different from above)	
Telephone*	
Email*	

Type of Library or Institution*

- ☐ Academic Library
- ☐ Public Library
- ☐ Rural Library
- ☐ School Library
- ☐ Tribal Library
- ☐ Archive
- ☐ Museum
- ☐ Other:

Which grant is this application for? Select only one.*

- ☐ AILA Grant
- ☐ APALA Grant

NARRATIVE

1. Please describe your organization and its mission. (150-250 words)*

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2. Please describe in detail the financial need of your organization and the economic needs and social demographics of your service area(s). Specifically address how this proposal addresses your organization's economic or service needs. Include specific data or evidence to support your statement. (200-400 words)*

3. Please include a detailed plan for how you intend to use the funds if awarded. Indicate project start and completion dates, project goals, and how the grant will benefit the service area(s). Describe how the proposed project aligns with the Talk Story mission which centers family literacy, intergenerational programming, and cultural literacy. Include how the program may actively disrupt stereotypes, decenter colonialism, or hold space for AANHPI or AIAN agency. (500-750 words)*

4. Community Collaborations: Libraries and community organizations are encouraged to partner together to broaden the effectiveness of the proposed program or service and to center AANHPI or AIAN voices. Please describe how this grant will support outreach, collaboration, or partnership with other community agencies. If possible, please indicate potential collaborators for this project. (150-300 words) *

PROPOSED BUDGET

Using the chart template linked below, indicate your proposed budget.*

Note:

- Collection development must comprise at least 25% of your budget.
- No more than 10% of your budget can be allocated for refreshments or decorations.
- Indicate any in-kind costs that will be provided by your institution or community partner.

Budget Categories	Line Item Description	Projected Amount
Publicity (including printing and postage costs)		\$
Materials & Supplies (For example, craft materials purchased for the program)		\$
Collection Development (AANHPI/AIAN books, eBooks, and audiovisual materials) <i>Note that at least 25% of the total budget must be allocated to this category.</i>		\$

Professional/Presenter Fees (For example, cost to hire a storyteller)		
Refreshments for participants <i>Should not exceed 10% of the total budget.</i>		\$
Virtual Programming support (including expenses for conference platforms and closed captioning services.)		\$
Other: Any additional costs not covered in the above categories.		\$
Total Projected Cost:		\$

Reporting Requirement

If your organization is awarded a Talk Story grant, please note the following reporting requirements:

- A detailed description of the program, activities, or services supported by the grant funds.
- An explanation of how the grant funds were utilized.
- An outline of how the program will continue to benefit AANHPI and/or AIAN children and their families in the future, and its potential as a model for other libraries, tribal libraries, or organizations.
- Photographs from the program

I understand that if my organization is awarded a Talk Story Grant, AILA or APALA may use the narrative report and images to promote Talk Story on their websites, newsletters, and social media accounts.

☐ I understand.

☐ Other:

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.