



Where do community-based heritage language programs find funding?

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Funding is an ongoing challenge for many community-based heritage language organizations and programs. Heritage language programs receive funding from various sources, with the most funding coming from tuition paid by participating families and other contributions by program participants. Programs also receive funding from other sources including foundations and non-profit organizations such as United Way, the governments of the home countries of program participants, and federal or state governments (particularly programs focused on Native American languages).

When searching for sources of funding, it can be helpful to review the variety of sources that heritage programs have used. To this end, Heritage Alliance staff gathered data regarding funding sources from our database of heritage language programs (<http://www.cal.org/heritage/profiles/index.html>). A review of the Heritage Language Programs Database shows the following funding sources:

- Tuition
- Foundations
- Federal governments of the home countries
- U.S. federal government or state governments

Tuition

Most funding for community-based heritage language programs comes from tuition paid by participating families and other contributions by program participants (e.g., Annunciation Cathedral Greek Language School in Columbus, Ohio; German Language School of West Michigan in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Melvin Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD).

Foundations

Some programs receive funding from foundations or non-profit organizations (e.g., Chong Wa Benevolent Association; Indigenous Language Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico; National Yiddish Book Center; United Way) that solicit funding through outreach and fundraisers (e.g., Chinese Language School of Connecticut, in Stamford, Connecticut; Chinese Language School of the Chinese Cultural Center in Hartford, Connecticut; Chong Wa Education Society in Seattle, Washington; Escuela Bolivia in Arlington, Virginia; Yugntruf-Youth for Yiddish in New York City). A key goal of the foundation is usually maintenance and development of the specific program.

Federal governments of the home countries

Some programs receive funding from the federal governments of the home countries of program participants (e.g., the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, DC; Council for the Development of French in Louisiana [CODOFIL] in Lafayette, Louisiana; Columbus Chinese Academy in Columbus, Ohio).

U.S. federal government or state governments

Many programs focusing on Indigenous languages are supported by the U.S. government or state governments. Indigenous programs, in particular, report obtaining federal funding from states (e.g., Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico; Tsehootsooi Diné Bi'olta' in Fort Defiance, Arizona; Yukon-Koyukuk School District in Fairbanks, Alaska).

More Information

To find out where specific community-based heritage language programs find funding, [search the *Heritage Language Program Database*](#).

Programs seeking funding can also consult the [Heritage Program Funding Guide](#).

Background

The information presented here was obtained by searching the online collection of heritage language programs developed by the [Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages](#) and the [Foundation Directory Online](#).



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