

## **Where do community-based heritage language programs find funding?**

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Funding is an ongoing challenge for many organizations and programs. Heritage language programs get their funding from various sources, with the most funding coming from tuition. It can be helpful, when searching for funding sources, to review the variety of sources that heritage programs have used. A review of the Heritage Language Programs Database shows the following funding sources:

- 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; Melvin Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD; German Language School of West Michigan in Grand Rapids, Michigan).
- Some programs are run by foundations, which function as 501(c)3, non-profits (e.g., The Chinese Language School of Connecticut, in Stamford, Connecticut; Escuela Bolivia, in Arlington, Virginia; Indigenous Language Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico). In these cases, a key goal for the foundation is the maintenance and development of heritage language programs.
- Some programs receive funding from foundations or non-profit organizations (e.g., United Way; Chong Wa Benevolent Association; the National Yiddish Book Center) that solicit funding through outreach and fundraisers (e.g., Chinese Language School of the Chinese Cultural Center in Hartford, Connecticut; Chong Wa Education Society in Seattle, Washington; Yugntruf-Youth for Yiddish in New York City).
- 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).
- 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 (Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico; The Yukon-Koyukuk School District in Fairbanks, Alaska; Tsehootsooi Diné Bi'olta' in Fort Defiance, Arizona).

## More Information

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

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

## Background

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

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