



For Immediate Release  
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Mashpee, MA

## **Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) Awarded Two-Year Grant from the Administration for Native Americans to Conduct Language Apprentice Program.**

The Wôpanâak Language and Cultural Weetyo, Inc. also known as the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) has been awarded a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

The ANA grant, which will span a two-year period, will be used for a Master-Apprentice Program that will allow Project Director and Founder, Jessie 'little doe' Baird, to train three apprentices in gaining advanced fluency in the Wôpanâak language and developing early childhood curricula for the Pre-K and Kindergarten school planned for fall of 2012.

"This is an amazing opportunity not just for WLRP but also for the entire Wampanoag Community." said little doe. "Training more teachers will allow us a much broader reach in teaching Wampanoag tribal members and restoring fluency of our language more quickly. "

As part of WLRP's 10-Year Strategic Plan, one of their objectives is to open a full-day, Wôpanâak-only, Pre-K and Kindergarten for the Wampanoag community at the completion of the grant period. Says little doe, "We know that it is through our children that reclamation of our language can be accelerated and the receipt of this grant is an incredible step on that path."

ANA received over 389 new grant applications for this year's grant application process with funding requests for approximately \$84.5 million. In spite of a highly competitive application process, WLRP was counted among the select group of funding recipients.

### **About the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project**

The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project began in 1993 under the direction of Jessie 'little doe' Baird who earned a Masters Degree in Algonquian Linguistics from MIT in 2000. Through the joint collaborative efforts of members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah, the Herring Pond Band of Wampanoag and the Assonet Band of Wampanoag, the project aims to return fluency to the Wampanoag Nation as a principal means of expression. Wampanoag Language is one of more than three dozen languages classified as belonging to the Algonquian language family. It was the first American Indian language to develop and use an alphabetic writing system. More information about the **Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project** can be accessed at [www.wlrp.org](http://www.wlrp.org).

### **About the Administration for Native Americans**

ANA was established under the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (NAPA) and provides discretionary and competitive grant funding to assist in the planning, development, and implementation of short-term community-based projects that result in social and economic benefits supporting healthy children, families and communities. For more information on the Administration for Native Americans please visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>.