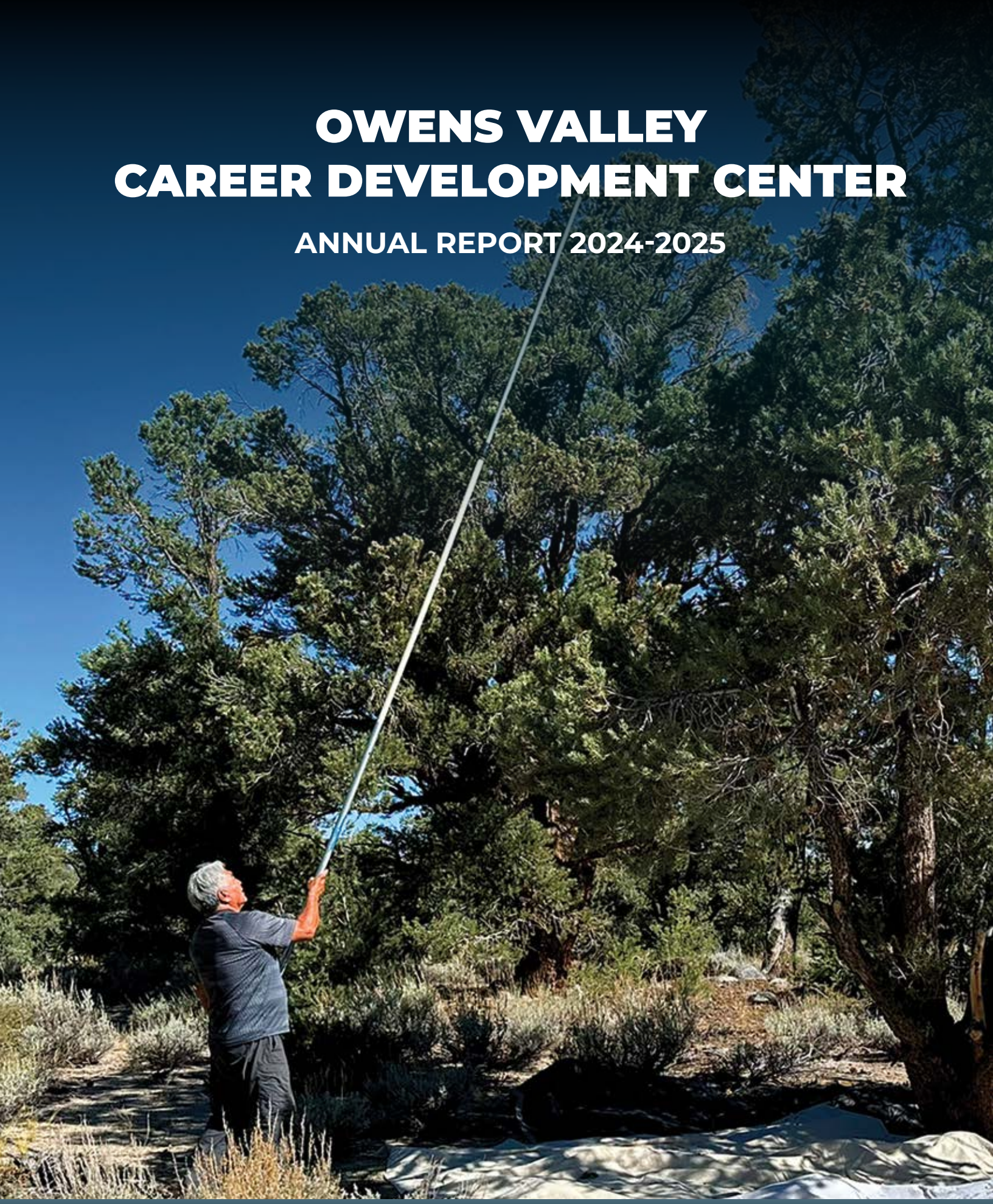
OWENS VALLEY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



AN INTERTRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

ABOUT THIS REPORT

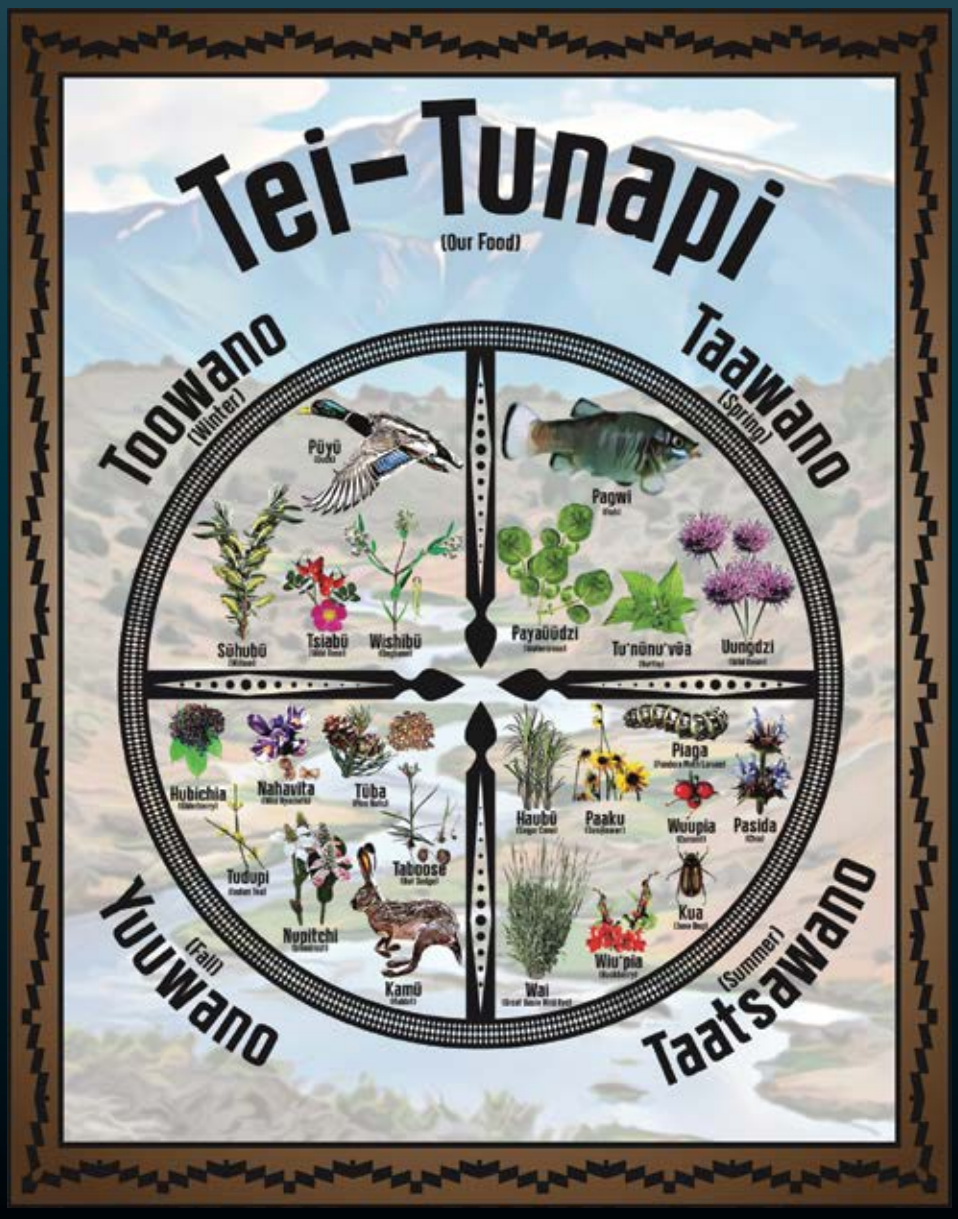
The Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC) Annual Report provides a summary of our operations and financial activity for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, covering July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Each section highlights major milestones, accomplishments, and the work of our teams as they support Tribal families across our service areas. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, this report also includes our audited financial statements for the fiscal year. Thank you for taking the time to read our report and for standing with us in this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We honor Tribal Elders, youth, and community members whose guidance shapes everything we do. Our thanks go to the Owens Valley Board of Trustees (OVBT), OVCDC Leadership, Program Directors, Managers, and staff whose efforts are reflected throughout these pages. We also thank Rosalie Lopez, Parent Educator and Parent and Child Activity Instructor, for continuing to share her graphic design talent in this report.

ABOUT THE ART

Tei-Tunapi (Our Foods) featured throughout this report honors the Nüümü (Paiute) traditional foods harvested by season. The graphic was created in 2020 by the Bishop Paiute Tribe's Food Sovereignty Program in collaboration with Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center and the OVCDC Nüümü Yadoha Language Program.



(Cover photo)
"Annual Pine Nut Harvest"
Clayton Sandoval-Tovawahmatu
Nüümü-68yrs

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OUR VALUES

The Owens Valley Career Development Center is a Native American organization operating under a consortium of Sovereign Nations that promote self-sufficiency through education, community enrichment, and cultural empowerment.

INTEGRITY

We will work in an ethical and transparent manner at all times.

PROFESSIONALISM

We will maintain a positive attitude, be supportive, and strive to exceed standards.

COMPASSION

We will engage with every participant and community with compassion.

RESPECT

We will respect all individuals, cultures, and traditions.

Taawano
Spring

Tazawano
Summer

OUR VISION

The Owens Valley Career Development Center envisions a future where all Native American communities are culturally revitalized, empowered, and self-sufficient.

LEADERSHIP

We will have the courage to lead by example, work through adversity, and inspire others.

NATIVE CULTURE

We will honor and promote the sovereignty, culture, and traditions of all Native American Tribes.

TEAMWORK

We will work unselfishly to create a collaborative culture.

Yuuwano
Fall

Toowano
Winter

OVBT CHAIRPERSON JEFF ROMERO

Manahüü,

It is my honor to present the Owens Valley Career Development Center's FY2024–2025 Annual Report. As Chairperson of the Owens Valley Board of Trustees, I am privileged to serve alongside a dedicated Board that provides governance and oversight to an organization deeply committed to strengthening Tribal communities. Together, we take great pride in supporting OVCDC's mission to empower Tribal families through workforce development, education, cultural preservation, community enrichment, and opportunities that promote self-sufficiency and cultural resilience.

This year marked an important period of planning and reflection for OVCDC. The renewal of our Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TANF Plan) for 2025–2028, along with the update of our strategic plan, provided an opportunity to evaluate our progress, engage with our Tribal communities, and reaffirm our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the families we serve.

FY2024–2025 also brought new opportunities through several significant grant awards. OVCDC received funding through the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation (Tribal MIECHV) Program, the Pacific Gas and Electric Customer Assistance Program Tribal Outreach Grant, and the California Jobs First – Tribal Implementation Phase. These investments strengthen our ability to expand services, build meaningful partnerships, and respond to the unique needs of Tribal communities throughout our service area.

During the year, we also oversaw an important transition of the Early Head Start Center in Auberry. After proudly operating the program for the past ten years, OVCDC transferred program operations to the Tribe at the request of the Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Council. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served the children and families of the Auberry community and for the lasting relationships formed with families, staff, and our partners at Big Sandy Rancheria. We wish the Tribe continued success as they carry this important work forward.

One of the year's most meaningful accomplishments was the Cultural Youth Gathering, held June 26–30, 2025, at Camp Whittier in Santa Barbara County. The gathering brought Native youth together to strengthen connections with their cultures, languages, traditions, and one another. It exemplified OVCDC's commitment to nurturing the next generation of Tribal leaders and honoring our shared responsibility to preserve and pass forward the knowledge, values, and traditions of our ancestors.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my sincere appreciation to our leadership team, dedicated employees, Tribal partners, families, and community members for your continued trust, collaboration, and support. Your commitment makes our work possible and inspires us to continue building stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Tribal communities for generations to come.

In Partnership,

Jeff Romero
OVBT Chairman

Taawano

OWENS VALLEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The OVCDC is governed by the seven member Owens Valley Board of Trustees (OVBT), which consists of the five member Bishop Paiute Tribal Council, one elected Trustee representing the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, and one elected Trustee representing the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

OWENS VALLEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES & OVCDC TANF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEMBERS
From left to right: Jeff Romero (OVBT Chairman), Meryl Picard (OVBT Secretary), Loretta L. Howard (OVBT Trustee), Jolene Carley (TAC Member), Curtis Lee (TAC Member), Janice Mendez (TAC Member), Steven Orihuela (OVBT Trustee), Nancy Madina (TAC Member), Elizabeth Hutchins (TAC Member), Gertrude Lynn Brown (TAC Member), Danny Llamas (TAC Member), Margaret Cortez (TAC Member), Loren Joseph (TAC Member), and Emma Williams (OVBT Vice Chairperson).

OVCDC PARTNER TRIBES

- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Fort Independence Indian Community
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Table Mountain Rancheria
- Tejon Indian Tribe
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
- Tule River Indian Tribe
- Utu Utu Gwaitu Tribe
- Big Sandy Rancheria
- Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Cold Springs Rancheria
- Santa Rosa Rancheria

TANF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TANF Advisory Committee includes representatives from Tribes that partner with OVCDC to bring Tribal TANF services to their communities. The Committee provides regular feedback and input on program quality and service delivery.

Gertrude Brown, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Janice Mendez, Bridgeport Indian Colony

Nancy Madina, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley

Mikala Bass, Fort Independence Indian Community

Loren Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

Jolene Carley, Utu Utu Gwaitu Tribe

Margaret Cortez, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

Curtis Lee, Cold Springs Rancheria

Amanda Sierra, Tule River Indian Tribe

Elizabeth Hutchins, Big Sandy Rancheria

Danny Llamas, Santa Rosa Rancheria

Vacant, Table Mountain Rancheria

Sandra Gillming, Tejon Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RYAN HOWARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Owens Valley Career Development Center's FY2024–2025 Annual Report. Each year, this report provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of our programs and the collective efforts of our staff, Board of Trustees, Tribal partners, and program participants. It also offers a chance to consider how OVCDC continues to grow and adapt in response to the evolving needs of the Tribal communities and families we are honored to serve.

FY2024–2025 reinforced the importance of planning with purpose and intention. Through the renewal of our Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TANF Plan) and the update of OVCDC's Strategic Priorities, we carefully assessed where we are today, identified emerging community needs, and reaffirmed our direction for the future. These efforts ensure that our work remains guided by our mission, vision, core values, and strategic plan while continuing to respond thoughtfully and effectively to the needs of those we serve.

Throughout the year, our work reflected both new opportunities and meaningful transitions. In June, the Cultural Youth Gathering at Camp Whittier brought Native youth together for cultural learning, leadership development, and activities that strengthened their connection to identity, community, and tradition. At the same time, the transition of the Early Head Start program in Auberry to Big Sandy Rancheria marked the successful conclusion of more than a decade of OVCDC's service to local children and families. We are proud of what was accomplished during those years and honored to support the Tribe as it carries this important work into the future.

As OVCDC continues to evolve, we remain committed to strengthening our organization from within. During the year, we implemented a phased replacement of our vehicle fleet, improving the safety, reliability, and comfort of transportation for both employees and program participants. We also completed a comprehensive update to our Employee Handbook and implemented several organizational policies, including the adoption of a new Artificial Intelligence Use Policy. These improvements provide clearer guidance for staff and help ensure that OVCDC remains responsive, accountable, and prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges of a changing environment.

As you read this report, I hope you see more than a summary of programs and accomplishments. I hope you see the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the lasting relationships built through service. Above all, I hope you see OVCDC's enduring commitment to supporting Tribal communities through programs that promote opportunity, preserve culture, and strengthen families.

On behalf of the entire OVCDC team, thank you to our Board of Trustees, Tribal partners, families, community members, and dedicated employees for your continued trust, collaboration, and support. Together, we celebrate the progress we have made, remain grateful for the relationships that sustain our work, and look forward with optimism and purpose to the year ahead.

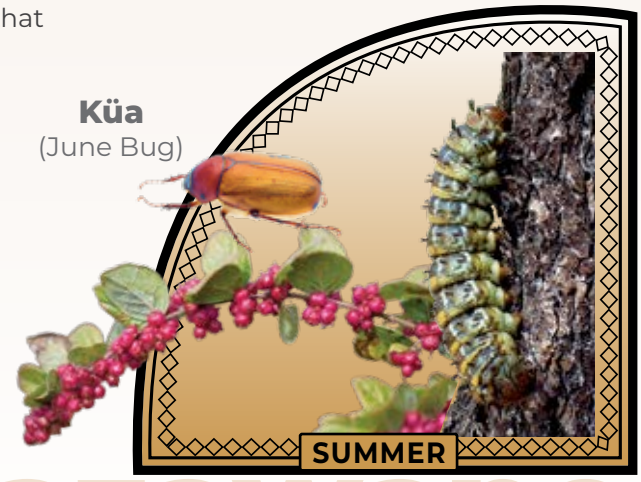
With gratitude,

Ryan Howard (Paiute-Shoshone)
Executive Director

Piaga
(Pandora Moth Larvae)

Küa
(June Bug)

Wuupia
(Currant)



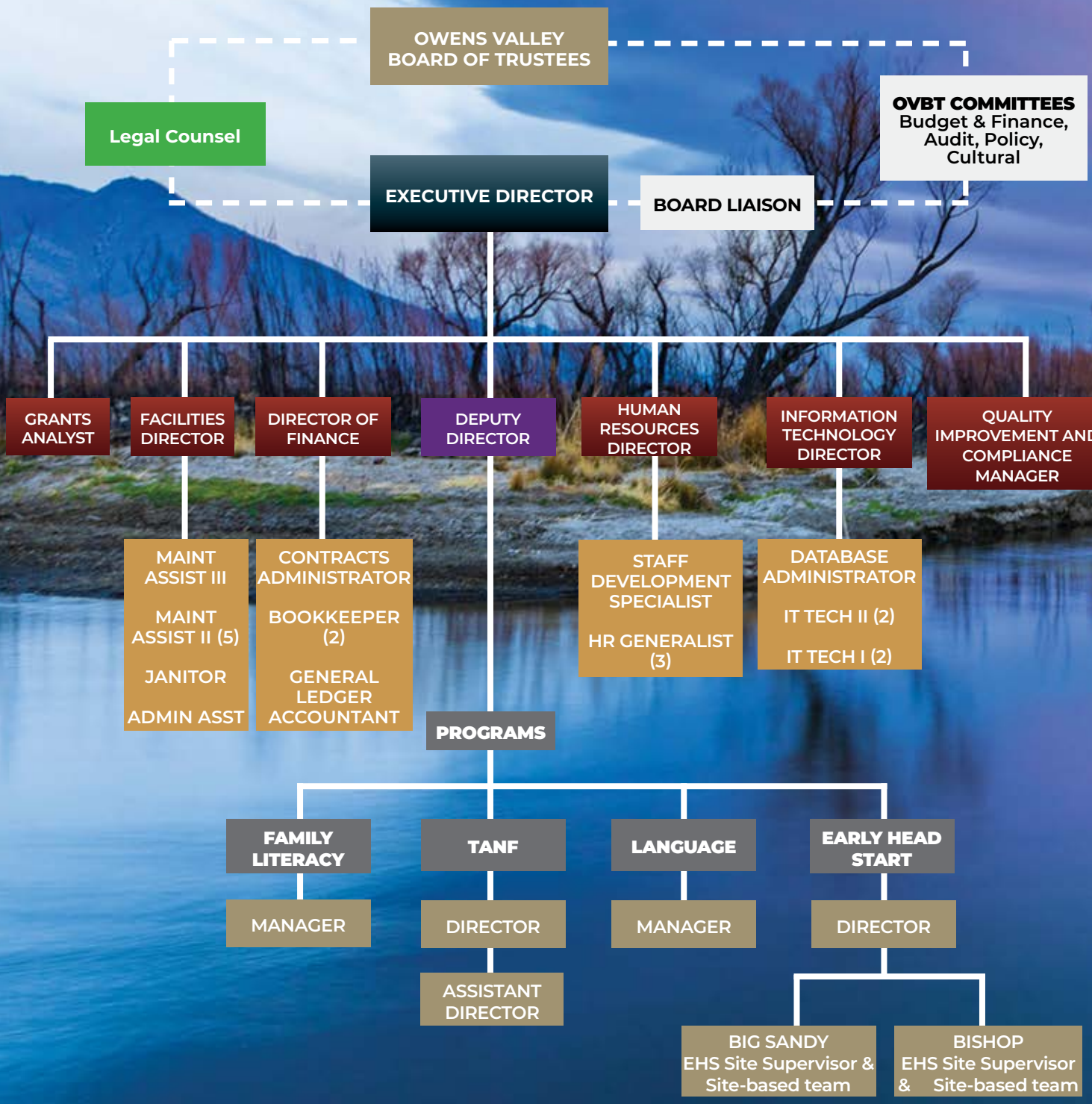
Tazawano

STRATEGIC GOALS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Strategic Priority Workgroups collaborated throughout the year to advance organizational goals. These workgroups, comprised of staff from across OVCDC, leaned on each other and subject-matter experts as thought partners and action-takers to move the goals forward. The completion of activities by strategic priority is shown below.

GOAL #1	**Data Collection and Usage**	Progress was made on data tracking and reporting through development of an initial dashboard with four core reports. While the Goal #1 group disbanded at the end of the fiscal year, the work clarified system needs and created a foundation for a future group to build on.
GOAL #2	**Quality Client and Market-Driven Programs**	Implemented an entrepreneurial training program by training staff to deliver participant focused instruction on essential topics. The program supports TANF participants in building practical skills and long-term self-sufficiency.
GOAL #3	**Optimize Resources**	Made progress toward trauma-informed culture change by completing Risking Connections training for 85% of staff, merging the East and West Trauma-Informed task forces, launching an agency-wide implementation plan, and pursuing grant funding to support this work.
GOAL #4	**Strategic Partnership and Collaborations**	Finalized Standard Operating Procedures for community resource tracking and transitioned from Access to Excel to improve security. Excel training was postponed and expanded to include IT. Additional procedures will guide outreach and marketing planning.
GOAL #5	**Governance and Structure**	Completed development of the Employee Reference Guide, an at-a-glance resource that consolidates organizational goals and commonly used agency information, policies, and procedures.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HONORING YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION

We celebrate the OVCDC staff who reached milestone anniversaries of 10, 15, and 20 years of service. Their commitment, knowledge, and continued contributions are vital to our mission and to the lasting impact we make in Tribal communities. We honor their dedication and thank them for the meaningful work they do every day.

20 Years

Jaime Meredith
Teacher
Bishop

Kathleen Alger
Family Advocate
Visalia

Nora Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant
Visalia

Alice Guardado
Administrative Assistant
Fresno

15 Years

Ryan Howard
Executive Director
Bishop

Veronica Martinez
Parent Educator/PCAI
Bakersfield

10 Years

Kala Mallory
Site Project Coordinator
Bishop

Navorina Hurtado
Site Manager
Visalia

Michelle Luna
Family Advocate
Cold Springs

Tereso (Terry) Rodriguez-Gandara
Maintenance Tech
Visalia

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Quality Improvement (QI) department supports accountability, compliance, and growth across OVCDC. The team reviews programs, assists in developing policies, and works with staff to address findings and improve daily practices. QI helps programs meet regulatory requirements, improve service delivery, and operate efficiently. In partnership with staff and leadership, QI assists in building clear processes and consistent, effective work across the organization.

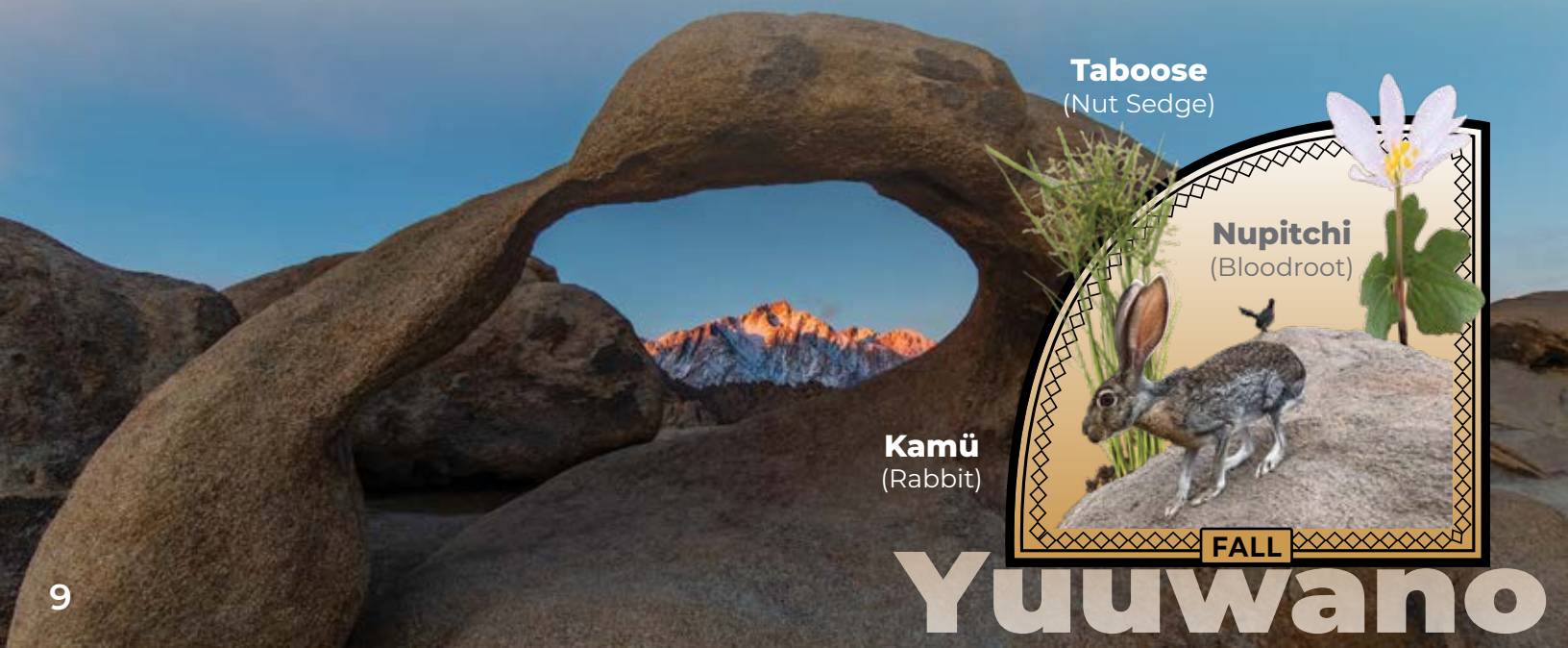
HIGHLIGHTS: This past year QI completed the AI Use Policy, the Incident Management Plan, **10** internal audits, **14** quality improvements, and **4** external audits. These efforts helped streamline processes across programs. Going forward, QI will continue to work with staff and leadership to expand internal processes, update policies, and support improvements that help OVCDC achieve its mission.

SUCCESS STORY

MEET SAMANTHA VENEGAS (CHUKCHANSI)
OVCDC SERVICES: 2 YEARS
LOCATION: FRESNO

I'm proud to have earned my high school diploma through OVCDC's Family Literacy Program and the YouthBuild class in Fresno. My next goal is to attend trade school, become a licensed cosmetologist, and open my own business.

Before joining the program, I struggled with self-doubt. Even though I was outgoing, I didn't think I could finish school, and staying motivated was hard. I wanted to set a good example for my younger siblings and show my family I could succeed. Through this journey, I learned that I can work hard, stay on task, and keep going when things are difficult. Having a teacher who believed in me helped me gain confidence and see my potential.



HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Human Resources team stayed busy supporting the organization's growth and helping staff get what they needed to do their best work and feel supported.

STAFF TRAINING INITIATIVES

RISKING CONNECTIONS – TRAUMA INFORMED CARE TRAINING

We completed our largest organization-wide training effort in 2024 with a total of 90 staff participating in the three-day Risking Connections training, and remaining staff completing it in 2025. Staff reported a better understanding of trauma, useful tools for working with participants, greater compassion toward coworkers, and increased awareness of the emotional fatigue that can come from supporting those who have experienced trauma. Feedback from these workshops informed the 2025 Trauma Informed Care Implementation Plan, focused on practical policy, procedure, and facility changes.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY – EXPANDED TRAINING

Cultural Competency training for new staff was expanded from a brief orientation to a required three hour workshop facilitated by a passionate team of Native staff. This workshop focuses on respect for Tribal cultures, understanding community challenges and strengths, and encouraging open dialogue among our culturally diverse workforce of Native and non-Native staff. The Cultural Competency and Diversity Committee successfully led this expansion.

SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Originally launched in 2019 and later paused due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Supervisory Development Program was relaunched in spring 2025 to support frontline staff in preparing for supervisory roles. From the applications received, nine staff members from across programs and sites were selected to participate for the six-month cohort. Participants attend training, work with mentors, and meet regularly for shared learning. The Supervisory Development Program will continue to accept applications annually for new cohorts.

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS & CRUCIAL INFLUENCE TRAININGS

Crucial Conversations has been a core leadership training since 2022 for all supervisors and focuses on navigating difficult, high stake, and emotionally charged conversations. In 2025, the training expanded to all staff through a series of virtual sessions, with an average class size of 35 and recordings available. The training will continue annually with refinements. Crucial Influence was added in 2025 as a one-day in-person training for leaders. The training focuses on motivation and leading change. Both trainings are facilitated internally by Staff Development Specialist Rikk Hansen, a certified trainer.

OVCDC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Our programs are guided by the voices and priorities of local families. They offer support, cultural connection, and opportunities for lifelong learning.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAM

The TANF Program serves American Indian and Alaskan Native families across seven California counties and offers culturally enriching resources and services. Funded by a federal block grant, the program provides financial assistance and strength-based activities that build resilience, honor cultural heritage, and support families.

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

Family Literacy Programs recognize the knowledge and experiences families already have and create space for learning together. Through hands-on classes and workshops, adults work toward their education and parenting goals while sharing meaningful reading and learning activities with children.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Nüümü Yadoha Language Program supports families in reconnecting with their Native language and culture through interactive classes, storytelling, and community-based learning. It creates space for families to learn together and deepen cultural identity. The program uplifts voices across generations and helps keep language and tradition alive.

EARLY HEAD START

Our Early Head Start (EHS) program works toward school readiness by offering high-quality learning opportunities, improving children's social competence, building up families as primary educators and nurturers, and assessing children's developmental progress so each child stays on track with critical milestones.

THE FOUR PURPOSES OF TANF

We proudly administers the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, a federal block grant created through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. OVCDC designed and operates a program that works to accomplish the four purposes of the TANF Program.

Paakü
(Sunflower)

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.
2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

OUR REACH AT A GLANCE

14 TANF office locations

Hubichia
(Elderberry)

62 Tribe Affiliations* of TANF participants who accessed services

*Federally and non-federally recognized Tribes.

Wuupia
(Currant)

SUCCESS STORY

MEET CRISPINA AND ISAAC HERNANDEZ (TULE RIVER)
OVCDC SERVICES: 7 YEARS
LOCATION: PORTERVILLE

Crispina and Isaac Hernandez joined OVCDC in 2023 with clear goals for their family. Crispina, a Tule River Tribal Member, wanted to continue her education, and Isaac was ready to enter the workforce. With support from OVCDC, they learned the program steps and moved forward. Isaac completed job readiness workshops, joined the Work Experience Program, and earned a full time position with a Tribal department, where he has worked for more than a year. Crispina completed the Nursing Assistant program, finished her internship, earned her certificate, and is preparing for her state board exams as the family enters Extended Case Management and prepares to welcome their third child.

PURPOSE 1 & 2: CASH ASSISTANCE

Püyü
(Duck)

Purpose 1 provides monthly cash assistance to help with basic living expenses, while **Purpose 2** supports self-sufficiency through work participation and employment-related activities. Adults receiving assistance create a strength-based Family Self-Sufficiency Plan to guide their path to achieve economic independence.

POLICY AND PLANNING IMPACT

Under federal regulations, Tribal TANF Plans operate on a three-year cycle. In May 2025, OVCDC received approval to continue administering TANF for another three years, effective June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028.

454

AVERAGE CASELOAD

Families receiving financial assistance are limited to 60 months for most adults.
123 cases had 1 adult in the home receiving assistance.
18 cases had 2 adults in the home receiving assistance.
312 child-only cases - no adults in the home receiving assistance.

38

CASE CLOSURES

Cases closed due to the participant(s) obtaining full-time employment and/or reporting that they no longer need services.

53%

WORK PARTICIPATION RATE (WPR)

Measures the percentage of adult TANF recipients participating in qualifying work activities, reflecting the program's effectiveness in promoting work and self-sufficiency. OVCDC is required to meet a WPR of 36%. Over the past 3-4 years, OVCDC has consistently exceeded this requirement, maintaining a rate of approximately 50% or higher.

SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

At our Cold Springs site, we're proud to recognize Nevaeh Miller, Karter Serna, and Louis Loretz for their dedication and hard work. They fully participated in work experience workshops and were the first to take on a placement at the Pizza Factory in Prather, CA. The manager emphasized the importance of being on time and dependable, and each of them lived up to that expectation with excellent performance reports. Each completed all 120 program hours, showing professionalism and a solid work ethic. Their efforts made such an impression that the owner offered all three part-time jobs. Their success shows how the Summer Youth Work Experience program gives young people real opportunities to build skills and take real-world steps toward future employment.

PURPOSE 3 & 4: PREVENTION SERVICES

Purpose 3 focuses on preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing education and resources to help youth and families make informed decisions. **Purpose 4** encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families by promoting healthy family relationships and supporting parenting skills.

FAMILY ADVOCATES

Our 22 dedicated Family Advocates provide critical support to families on their journey to self-sufficiency. They are the first point of contact for participants and help them access financial, emotional, and resource-based assistance.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

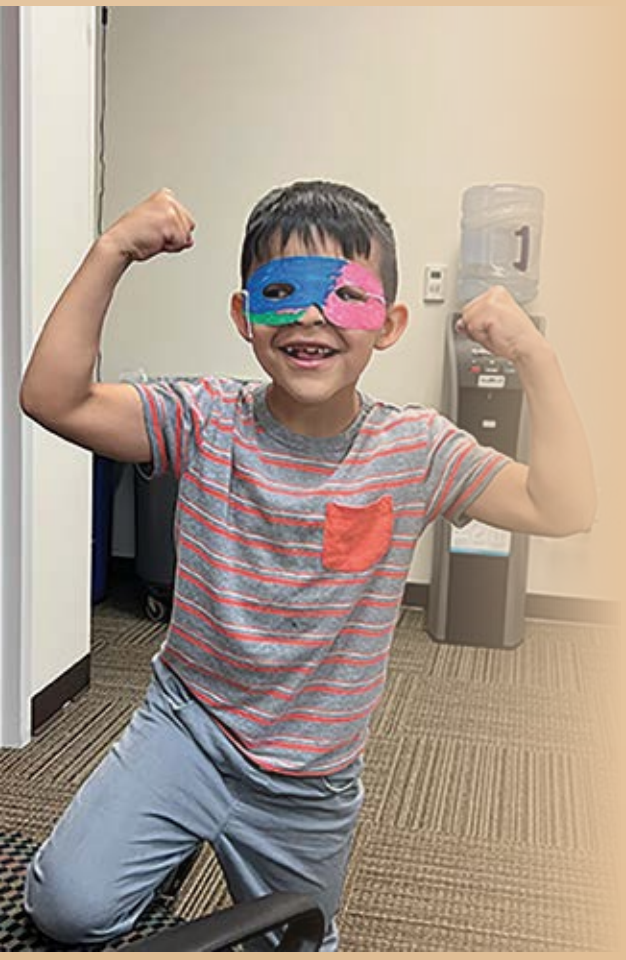
Our 5 Career Development Specialists partner with Family Advocates to help participants plan their career path, build job readiness skills, and connect with meaningful employment opportunities.

TANF Supported Activities:

92	**Youth Work Experience Program Participants** Youth gained leadership and career skills through hands-on experiences and workshops with Tribal and community partners.
1,589	**Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway** Children and youth, from kidergarten through grade 12, received backpacks and school supplies through 14 Tribal TANF sites, helping them start the school year off right.
53	**Homework Assistance Program Participants** Youth across six sites benefited from the Homework Assistance Program, gaining academic support to succeed in their studies.
46	**Cultural Youth Gathering** Youth from across our Tribal communities came together to learn, share, and celebrate their traditions through workshops, language activities, and opportunities to connect with peers and Elders.
219	**Youth After School Program** Educational and culturally enriching activities that build life skills, promote self-sufficiency, and reinforce Native culture.

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

The Family Literacy Team, in partnership with internal and external collaborators, invest in the strengths and potential of each enrolled family. Through a foundational literacy program, the Team supports life long learning and well-being, fosters social-emotional growth and academic success for young children, school-age youth, and adult learners.



Our Family Literacy program offers courses in Adult Education, Parenting, and Parent-Child Time. Each one is designed to support families as they learn and grow together.

THE KERN INDIAN EDUCATION CENTER

Through the American Indian Education Grant, families join after school and summer Native Youth Group activities focused on pregnancy prevention and family formation. These programs offer culturally grounded learning for youth and families.

At the Fresno Family Literacy site, we partner with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission to deliver adult education through YouthBuild and connect participants to job readiness skills in order to compete in today's economy. Through the Tuniwa Nobi Family Literacy program, funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services, we support the Bishop site library and expand community access to learning resources.

7,236 **Total class and activity attendance** (Duplicated head count)

1,882 **Unique participants** (Unduplicated head count)

Tüba
(Pine Nuts)

County & Sites	Cash-Aid Duplicated	Cash-Aid Unduplicated	Prevention Duplicated	Prevention Unduplicated
Inyo/Mono County Sites: Bishop, Big Pine, Lone Pine, and Coleville	124	44	715	367
Kern County Bakersfield and Lake Isabella	361	51	928	145
Tulare County Porterville and Visalia	517	195	1,824	562
Fresno County Fresno, Big Sandy, and Cold Springs	280	81	1,068	213
Kings County Hanford	278	63	1,140	151

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM IMPACT

4	Driver's License Workshop Participants earned their California Driver's License.
14	Microsoft Computer Literacy Participants completed their training and earned certificates in Microsoft software.
18	Youth Program Participants earned pregnancy prevention and cultural certificates.
29	American Indian Education Participants received academic tutoring support.
32	Book Club Members were recognized for their literacy achievements.
35	Graduation Recognition students were honored for their educational achievements, including 15 high school seniors and 10 8th-grade graduates.
34	Life Skills and Parenting Participants earned 11 Life Skills Certificates and 24 Parenting Certificates.
113	Adult Education Participants engaged in workshops, with 3 students earning their high school diplomas and 3 earning their GED.
152	Book Fair Families received books for their home libraries.
304	Family Formation Families came together for Family Unity Nights, Parent and Child Time, Tuka Time, Family Literacy Nights, Education and Wellness, and Native Family Academy.

SUCCESS STORY

MEET JANICE MENDEZ (BRIDGEPORT INDIAN COLONY)
OVCDC SERVICES: 5 YEARS
LOCATION: COLVILLE

My life is busy in a good way. I encourage my family and youth to join TANF events because they are family centered, instructional, and introduce new ideas that help us grow. I am proud of how connected my family has become.

Before reaching out, we faced financial hardships that made it hard to cover essentials. Through OVCDC, I learned financial management, budgeting, and planning. I also began learning my language and joined programs like Tuniwa Nobi and the book program. With help from the Site Manager and Family Advocates, I built skills, reconnected with my culture, and grew closer to my community. My next goal is to help my student finish high school and show my family that education builds a stronger future.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The Nüümü Yadoha Language Program supports Indigenous language revitalization and family connection across seven languages. Classes and activities welcome learners from beginners to conversational speakers. The program uses a trauma informed approach and aligns with TANF goals supporting families, cultural identity, and intergenerational connection.

1,022

Unique participants

This number is the unduplicated count of individuals who took part in at least one class or cultural activity.

LANGUAGE SERVICE AREAS

Inyo/Mono Counties
Bishop, Big Pine, Lone Pine, Bridgeport & Benton
Language: Paiute

Fresno County
Fresno, Big Sandy Rancheria, Cold Springs Rancheria
Language: Western Mono

Tulare County
Visalia, Porterville, Tule River
Language: Wukchumni and Yowlumni
Subrecipient: Tule River Yokuts Language Project

Kern County
Bakersfield, Lake Isabella, Tehachapi & Ridgecrest
Language: Navajo & Pakanapul

"Hello" in each language

Yowlumni **Hiyuk'**	Diné **Yá'át'ééh**	Wukchumni **Hihde'**	Northern Paiute **Howni' u?**
Paiute **Manahüü**			Western Mono **Munahoo**

MEET GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ (DINÉ NATION)
OVCDC SERVICES: 9 YEARS
LOCATION: BAKERSFIELD

I recently returned to college to finish my education, and I am proud of that choice. Before reaching out for support, I was working a job that left me with little time for friends or family. Taking classes showed me that I enjoy and understand computer and business skills, which gave me confidence.

OVCDC's cultural language classes and gatherings also helped me reconnect with my family and culture. Because of these experiences, I now see myself on a career path that excites me. My next goal is to earn both a business degree and a computer degree. What I hope my family and community learn from my journey is to take time to relax, embrace our culture, and not let the unknown hold them back.

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING WESTERN MONO LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Emceed by Gabrielle Lira, the celebration honored 49 language learners from Dunlap, Cold Springs Rancheria, Big Sandy Rancheria, and Fresno, along with Elders who shared their knowledge and oral traditions. Language Coordinator Rena Picaso opened with a traditional Choinumni song, using music as a way to carry culture forward. Weekly online and in person classes led by Jamie Smith supported learning across ages.

LANGUAGE & STEI-DUBA-KA-WEI-GWAE
(The Place Where We Are Going to Gather)

In September 2024, the Inyo County Language Program hosted its first Annual Tüba Pine Nut Camp, a three-day gathering at the Inyo National Forest Holiday Campground. Families gathered pine nuts, joined an Ikibe' Pine Nut Mush demonstration, and practiced language together. Seventeen families and 64 participants attended. The camp will continue each year, with part of the harvest set aside for the Tüba Nuga Blessing.

NAVAJO LANGUAGE LEARNING

Our Navajo Language class grew to 11 participants, including 3 new learners. The classes helped Melanie, one of our first students, gain confidence and is now preparing to lead her own class. Two other participants, who have been attending for a while, moved from learning basic words to speaking in full sentences. Every learner's commitment contributed to the collective strength of the class.

6,909 **Total class & activity attendance** (Duplicated headcount)

1,022 **Unique participants** (Unduplicated headcount)

County & Sites	Cash-Aid Dup.	Cash-Aid Undup.	Prevention Dup.	Prevention Undup.
Inyo/Mono County Sites: Bishop, Big Pine, Lone Pine, and Coleville	113	32	2,205	321
Kern County Sites: Bakersfield and Lake Isabella	357	41	1,623	194
Tulare County Sites: Porterville and Visalia	275	19	1,476	108
Fresno County Sites: Fresno, Big Sandy, and Cold Springs	99	33	761	274

EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

The OVCDC Early Head Start (EHS) Program, funded through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), is a child-focused, family-centered program that provides learning and development services to children ages 6 weeks to 36 months from low-income families and families with enrolled Tribal members. EHS offers high quality services that help with school readiness and improves the well being of children and their families.

4:1 ratio	With a low teacher-to-child ratio, each child receives personalized attention and meaningful interactions, all provided by Native American teachers who bring cultural relevance to every experience.
20 students	In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, 20 children participated in two full-day center-based EHS programs in Bishop and Big Sandy Rancheria.
13 staff	The program is supported by 13 staff members, including 6 Native American teachers, a Program Director, 2 Family Child Service Specialists, 2 site supervisors, and 2 cooks.
5 engaged governance	The FY 2024-2025 EHS Policy Council included five Native American members representing the Big Sandy and Bishop sites, maintaining family and community involvement in program decisions.

MEALS PROVIDED:

HEALTHY BREAKFASTS	NUTRITIOUS LUNCHES	WHOLESOME SNACKS
3,033	3,025	3,023

MEET STEVIE POLE (HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE)
OVCDC SERVICES: 3 YEARS
LOCATION: BISHOP

My life feels full in the best way right now. My children are thriving, I've started college courses at Cerro Coso, and I'm homeschooling my first grader. I'm also growing my small business, Polecats Customs & Creations, which I hope my children will inherit. Before reaching out to OVCDC, I wasn't sure about my career path, but I've learned I'm a better problem solver and self-advocate than I realized. OVCDC helped me through TANF, business workshops, Early Head Start, and Parent Council. Ms. Josie Rogers has been especially helpful in connecting me with resources. With their guidance and my own effort, I've gained confidence, set new goals, and look forward to teaching and expanding my business.

MAKING A LASTING IMPACT

20 Children received dental screenings

15 Children received services for speech, language, or other disability services

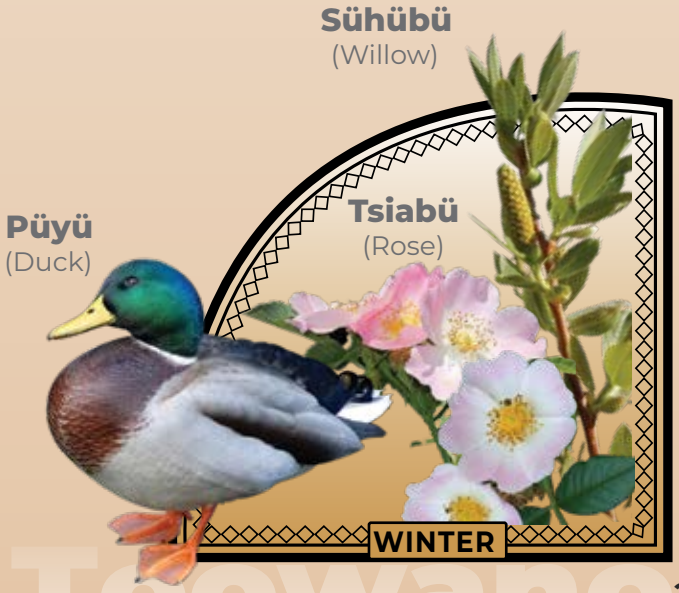
20 Children benefited from early intervention assessments

20 Families received car-seat check-ups

20 Children received health screenings

BIG SANDY RANCHERIA EARLY HEAD START TRANSITION

In FY2024-2025, OVCDC transitioned our EHS site in Auberry to the Big Sandy Rancheria, working closely with the Tribe to support a smooth transition. In FY 2025-2026, Early Head Start services will continue at the Bishop site.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, OVCDC's financial position showed steady growth. Total assets increased by 8.4%, driven by higher cash balances and continued investment in capital assets.

Total liabilities rose by 10.8%, reflecting increases in accrued liabilities, compensated absences, and amounts due to related parties, with decreases in accounts payable and lease liabilities helping offset some of that growth.

By the end of the fiscal year, net position increased by $89,332, bringing the total to $2,451,380. This reflects stable financial management and continued investment in program operations and infrastructure.

Statement of Position

Government-Wide

2025
$2,451,380

2024
$2,362,048

Change
3.8%

	2025	2024	$ Change	% Change
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,330,402	$ 1,926,403	403,999	**21.0%**
Grants receivable	1,392,031	1,751,803	(359,772)	**-20.5%**
Other assets	138,925	261,339	(122,414)	**-46.8%**
Capital assets, net	3,593,124	2,938,385	654,739	**22.3%**
Total assets	**$ 7,454,482**	**$ 6,877,930**	**576,552**	**8.4%**
Accounts payable	$ 704,362	$ 1,179,986	(475,624)	**-40.3%**
Accrued liabilities	671,565	579,427	92,138	**15.9%**
Due to related parties	476,824	-	476,824	-
Unearned revenues	344,993	314,557	30,436	**9.7%**
Compensated absences	1,250,390	589,729	660,661	**112.0%**
Lease liabilities	1,554,968	1,852,183	(297,215)	**-16.0%**
Total liabilities	**5,003,102**	**4,515,882**	**487,220**	**10.8%**
Net position	**$ 2,451,380**	**$ 2,362,048**	**89,332**	**3.8%**

Vehicle Fleet Refresh

During FY 2024-25, OVCDC completed a significant fleet transition to improve reliability, safety, and cost efficiency. By February 2025, we received an order of 22 new vehicles from a local dealership, representing a significant investment in updated transportation. To offset the cost and responsibly manage surplus assets, we implemented a multi-phase vehicle disposal plan for 48 older vehicles. Sixteen vehicles were traded through a wholesaler, 10 were offered through a public sale, and 7 were sold through sealed bids. We also negotiated sales through a specialty used vehicle retailer, with remaining vehicles offered through public sales with priority given to Tribal partners and associated tribal entities.

Overall program revenues increased slightly, with growth in education and non-assistance revenues offset by a decline in assistance funding. Expenses also rose modestly, driven by higher administrative and program costs. Stronger net and general revenues contributed to a significant increase in the change in net position, which more than doubled compared to the previous fiscal year, reaching $770,372.

Financial Highlights

Government-Wide

2025
$770,372

2024
$345,972

Change
122.7%

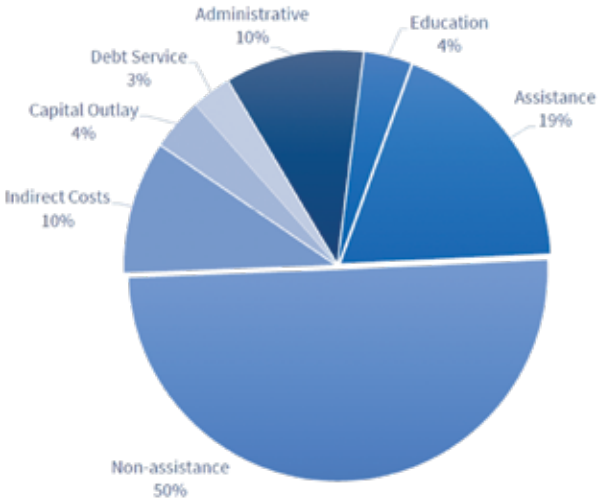
	2025	2024	$ Change	% Change
Education	$ 1,732,753	$ 1,461,427	271,326	**18.6%**
Assistance	6,859,526	7,595,678	(736,152)	**-9.7%**
Non-assistance	23,743,307	22,410,636	1,332,671	**5.9%**
Total program revenues	**$ 32,335,586**	**$ 31,467,741**	**867,845**	**2.8%**
Administrative	$ 4,044,808	$ 3,576,700	468,108	**13.1%**
Education	1,359,698	1,208,280	151,418	**12.5%**
Assistance	6,859,526	7,595,678	(736,152)	**-9.7%**
Non-assistance	19,481,530	18,762,050	719,480	**3.8%**
Interest on leases	63,501	-	63,501	-
Total expenses	**$ 31,809,063**	**$ 31,142,708**	**666,355**	**2.1%**
Net revenues	$ 526,523	$ 325,033	201,490	**62.0%**
General revenues	$ 243,849	$ 20,939	222,910	**1064.6%**
Change in net position	**$ 770,372**	**$ 345,972**	**424,400**	**122.7%**

Most expenditures supported non-assistance services at 50%, followed by assistance at 19%. Administrative and indirect costs each accounted for 10%, with smaller shares for education, capital outlay, and debt service.

Governmental Uses

(FY 2025)

Administrative	**10%**
Education	**4%**
Assistance	**19%**
Non-assistance	**50%**
Indirect Costs	**10%**
Capital outlay	**4%**
Debt Service	**3%**



Glossary of Paiute (Nüümü) Vocabulary

Our food : Tei-Tunapi
Spring : Taawano
Summer : Tazawano
Fall : Yuuwano
Winter : Toowano

SPRING FOODS
fish : pagwi
watercress : payaüüdzi
nettle : túnünúvüa
wild onion : uungdzi

SUMMER FOODS
sugar cane : haubü
sunflower : paaku
pandora moth larvae : piaga
currrant : wuupia
chia : pasida
great basin wild rye : wai
buckberry : wiúpia
junebug : kua

FALL FOODS
elderberry : hubichia
wild hyacinth : nahavita
pine nuts : tüba
Indian tea : tudupi
bloodroot : nupitchi
nutsedge : taboose
rabbit : kamü

WINTER FOODS
duck : püyü
willow : sühubü
wild rose : tsiabü
dogbane : wishibü

Special thanks to Ross Stone for Photos used

Ross Stone is a landscape and night-sky photographer based in the Eastern Sierra/Owens Valley region of California (primarily around Big Pine), frequently featured on platforms like EarthSky Community Photos. His work captures regional geography, such as Death Valley, the Alabama Hills, and the Owens Valley Radio Observatory. **unsplash.com @rs2photography**

Index of photos used:
Page 1-2: photo montage of Summer, Fall, Winter with his photos, **Page 6**: Sunflowers **Page 7-8**: Owens Valley (purple lake sunset), **Page 9**: Mobius Arc Alabama Hills, **Page 13-14**: Mammoth Lakes, CA, **Page 21-22**: June Lake, CA, **P23-24**: Bishop, CA (An ancient Bristlecone pine tree at sunset)

OWENS VALLEY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

(HOME OFFICE)
2574 Diaz Lane, Bishop, CA 93514
Phone: 760-873-5107

SITE LOCATIONS AND LANGUAGES TAUGHT BY COUNTY

Fresno County
(Western Mono)
*BIG SANDY
*COLD SPRINGS
FRESNO

Mono County
(Northern Paiute)
COLEVILLE

Inyo County
(Paiute)
*BIG PINE
*BISHOP
*LONE PINE

Kings County
(Tachi Yokuts)
HANFORD

Tulare County
(Yowlumni and Wukchumni)
PORTERVILLE
VISALIA
*TULE RIVER

Kern County
(Diné/Navajo)
BAKERSFIELD
LAKE ISABELLA

Ventura County
(Chumash)
Ventura

* Denotes Sites Located on Reservations