

Programs Supporting Native Languages Revitalization

Christian churches played a significant role in assimilation efforts that tried to erase Native languages. What is the church's proper response and repentance?

This is not an area where a mission approach will work. This work of reclaiming language and culture will only survive and succeed if it is Native led. One place to start is simply by acknowledging the truth of what happened and admitting the church's role. The church could provide financial support for Native language programs, and this could happen in several ways. There is a dire need to increase the pipeline of teachers who can teach Dakota and Ojibwe. The language programs themselves need financial help. Dialogue with the groups doing this important work could reveal even more opportunities.



Below are some of the programs we know about. It is not a comprehensive list, but will give you some idea about what is out there. If you would like help making connections with a program, we would be glad to help. If you have programs to add to this list, please contact us.

Dakota Language Revitalization

Because of the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 and the Dakota exile and land loss, they have fewer tribal resources for schools. [Dakhóta lápi Okhódakičhiye](#), the Dakota Language Society, was founded to create materials that can reverse the trend of language loss and begin to raise generations of fluent Dakota speakers. Its mission is: *"Dakota language for the home, community, and classroom."*

Ojibwe Language Revitalization

A number of Ojibwe nations have reservation-based efforts to revitalize their language. One example is [Fond du Lac](#). In 2010, it passed a resolution making Ojibwe the official language for the reservation. As of late 2017, it was developing a three-year strategic plan for its language program.

Language Programs (Twin Cities)

- [American Indian Magnet School](#), St. Paul: A districtwide PreK-8 school rooted in American Indian history, culture, art, tradition and values, including instruction in Dakota, Lakota or Ojibwe.
- [Anishinabe Academy](#), Minneapolis: a Pre-K-5 magnet school focusing on high academic achievement through Native American culture and language.
- [Bdote Learning Center](#): An elementary K-6, year-round Minneapolis public charter school offering Dakota and Ojibwe language immersion.
- [Wicoie Nandagikendan](#): A Dakota and Ojibwe early childhood language immersion program in Minneapolis which, "builds on the integral connections between culture, literacy, and educational attainment."

Language Programs (Greater Minnesota)

- [Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School](#), a K-12 magnet school in Bena serving Ojibwe students from Leech Lake and other areas.
- [Dakota Wicohan](#) (or in English, Dakota Way of Life): A program based in Morton committed: “to revitalize Dakota as a living language, and through it, transmit Dakota lifeways to future generations.”
- [Enweyang Ojibwe Language Nest](#), Duluth: a preschool program of the UMD campus, providing a 100 percent Ojibwe environment for young learners.
- [Fond du Lac Ojibwe School](#) a K-12 school in Cloquet.
- [Misaabekong Ojibwe Language Immersion](#), a K-3 language program in Duluth.
- [Oshki Ogimaag](#), a K-6 public charter school in Grand Portage serving the Grand Portage band of Ojibwe.

Native Language Teaching Programs

- [U of M Dakota and Ojibwe Language Programs](#), Department of American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota
- [U of M Dakota Lanugage Program Facebook Page](#): Committed to developing a cadre of Dakota language learners, speakers, and teachers
- [Bemidji State University Ojibwe Language Program](#): Home to the first collegiate Ojibwe language program in the country.

Educational Resources

Every school district that with a threshold number of Native American students has a Indian Education Program. These programs should know about resources in various parts of the state.

- [Minneapolis Public School: Indigenous Language Resources](#): A useful site with links to Dakota and Ojibwe dictionaries, grammer lessons, and flash cards.