

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**INDIGENIZED** COMPUTER SCIENCE **EDUCATION** 

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# **OVERVIEW**

Indigitize Computer Science (*Indigitize*) is part of One Generation fund, a Project of the Tides Center. We create, support and advocate for computer science education grounded in language, culture, and Indigenous values.

In a community-driven approach to systemic change, we hope to partner with local education agencies (LEAs), school districts, and single school sites who are passionate about bringing Indigenous computer science (CS) education to their schools by co-creating plans and supporting partners through implementation.

Indigitize is seeking proposals from schools and school districts interested in partnering to expand access to culturally-grounded CS education for Native American students. Our goal is to collaborate with partners who are committed to making systemic changes and providing Indigenized CS education to all K-12 students as part of their formal education. We welcome public, charter, BIE, and Tribally Controlled schools to submit proposals.

To "Indigenize" is to transform ways of thinking, knowing, and doing in ways that **prioritize and embrace Indigenous worldviews, culture, and voices**. Culturally supportive/sustaining CS includes "instructional practice, the curriculum, resources, and activities used in the classroom, as well as the instructional design practices utilized by the teacher." (Kapor Center, 2022, p.5). Indigenizing can include historical, contemporary, and personal storytelling; sharing language and culture; exploring STEM through Indigenous lenses/frameworks; illustrating personal interests, goals, and wellness; and sharing Indigenous art and perspectives.

# TIMELINE

Request for Proposal Released	June 24, 2024	
Deadline to Submit Application	July 26, 2024 <i>(5:00pm MDT)</i>	
Anticipated Application Review Period	July 26 - August 9, 2024	
Anticipated Notice of Selection Status	August 9, 2024 (5:00pm MDT)	
Anticipated Project Period	August 2024 -June 2026 or 2027	



# LEA EXPECTATIONS

During the Project Period, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will engage in the following:

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Initial check-in to establish vision for CS education in your school	August - September 2024
Draft CS Education Implementation Plan	September - November 2024
Engage in ongoing check-ins (virtual/on-site)	Ongoing
Professional Development (teachers, team leads, counselors, school leaders)	TBD in Implementation Planning
Reporting on outcomes, progress, & student/teacher feedback / Determine what Year 2 of collaboration will entail	May 2025 / May 2026
Attend 4 Corners Convening to share with other leaders	June 2025 / June 2026

# COMMITMENTS

By applying to participate, the LEA agrees to the following:

- Commitment to offer CS Courses, or CS units, during the school day, with student demographics that match the overall school student demographics
- Commitment to host CS learning experiences for students in each grade band yearly, regardless of where the team is in planning/implementation
- Appoint a staff member with influence who will be responsible for the success of this work
- Reserve Professional Development hours for teachers, team leads, school leaders, and counselors on the calendar to support the plan we co-create
  - Teachers who participate in trainings should have the support and time to implement a unit (8-16 hours), course (~54 hours), or school-wide 1-4 hours event, during that school year
- Attend 4 Corners Convening (<u>See 2024 Event Here</u>) and share out learning after each year of work
- Completion of End of Year surveys including teacher and student feedback and data as determined in the Implementation Plan



# PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

# **Indigitize's Commitments:**

#### Co-create a vision for CS Education

• We will get to know you, your vision for your school and work with you to build a vision for how CS Education fits into your larger goals

### Co-create a CS Education Implementation Plan

- We provide custom resources that will help us co-create an Implementation Plan unique to your school/district
- Determine professional development and curriculum needs

#### **Provide Ongoing Support**

- We will meet with you on site 2-3 times per year, and connect virtually with you 4 times per year
- The exact schedule will be created in partnership with you and what works best for your school and where you are in planning and implementation

### Provide Professional Development Options

- Offer co-teaching and model teaching of CS activities inside the classroom
- Offer co-design of a workshop for all staff to build program awareness
- Collaborative lesson planning with staff members experienced in indigenizing curriculum
- Access to Teacher Communities of Practice
- Support for attending 4 Corners Convening
- Access to training from our partner organizations

#### **Provide Curriculum Access**

- Provide access to the Indigitize Curriculum Library, and resources from our partner organizations
- Build custom curriculum, as determined in the Planning Phase

# Provide Grant Funding as Needed

- Funds to help cover paid professional development hours for teachers, team leads, counselors, and school leaders
- Funds to help cover the cost of any AP CS Exam Fees for students in your LEA
- Funds to help cover the cost of student materials and resources, as determined in the Planning Phase



# **APPLICATION**

# **Alignment & Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants should consider the following criteria when assessing whether they are a good fit to partner with Indigitize on this initiative. If your LEA meets the following criteria, then see below on how to apply.

- Serves >50% Native American students
- Alignment with Indigitize's mission to engage Indigenous youth in Computer
  Science education to catalyze positive change within their communities through
  technology and to further provide students access to the skills and knowledge
  they need to strengthen their communities using CS.
- Alignment with Indigtize's core values: Kinship, Cultural Humility, Educational Equity, Tech Sovereignty, Empowerment, Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón (SNBH), Support, Social Good and Service
- Alignment with the goals and vision for your school and Indigenous CS Education
- Commitment and capacity to be actively involved throughout the 2-3 year partnership

# Components

Proposals for partnerships starting in the 2024-2025 school year are **due July 26**, **2024 5pm MDT** by <u>submission of this form</u>.



In addition to basic contact information and information about the LEA, we will ask you to respond to the following:

- Description of the school/district, including student demographics and existing STEM/CS offerings.
- What is your school/district's vision for CS Education?
- Why is CS Education important to your school/district? Why is the right time to take on this work?
- Which staff member on your team will be responsible for serving as the Point of Contact (PoC), andwhat is their level of comfort with technology?



#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Indigitize is committed to a fair and thorough evaluation of all proposals. Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria, which align closely with the questions asked in the application form. Each section reflects key areas of interest and requirements for partnership.

### 1. Organizational Capacity and Commitment (30%)

- **Description of the School/District:** Evaluators will assess the overall description, including student demographics and any existing CS offerings.
- **CS Vision and Commitment:** Proposals should clearly articulate the school or district vision for CS and demonstrate a strong commitment to the vision.
- **PoC Staff Member:** The role and interest of the staff member designated to lead this initiative will be critically evaluated.

#### 2. Alignment with Indigitize's Mission and Values (30%)

 Mission Alignment: Proposals must demonstrate a strong alignment with Indigitize's mission and values, showing a clear understanding and commitment to Indigenous CS education.

# 3. Readiness and Potential for Impact (25%)

- **Readiness to Collaborate:** Reviewers will consider the school or district's readiness to engage in a co-creation process for the CS education implementation plan.
- **Potential for Sustainable Impact:** Proposals must articulate the potential impact on Native American students and the school community, highlighting how the initiative will contribute to systemic and sustainable change.

### 4. Commitment to Professional Development and Support (15%)

- **Professional Development:** Proposals should outline the commitment to allocating professional development hours, including compensation for teachers, team leads, counselors, and school leaders.
- **Support for Implementation:** Reviewers will assess the commitment to providing support and resources for teachers to implement CS education effectively.

Questions? Contact **Francisco Cervantes, Director of Community-Led Design & Implementation** at Indigitize Computer Science, at <a href="mailto:francisco@indigitize.org">francisco@indigitize.org</a>.