THE AMERICAN INDIAN RURAL YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The American Indian Rural Youth Apprenticeship Development Project (AI-RYAD) is a development-focused initiative designed to support American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) in creating culturally responsive pre-apprenticeship pathways for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth with disabilities living in rural, Tribal communities.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF AI-RYAD?

AI-RYAD aims to:

- expand access to meaningful pre-apprenticeship opportunities for AI/AN youth with disabilities
- support culturally grounded workforce development strategies
- strengthen AIVRS capacity in rural and underserved Tribal communities
- promote long-term employment and economic opportunities for Tribal youth

WHO DOES AI-RYAD SUPPORT?

- American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) projects
- Tribal VR staff and leadership
- Tribal education, workforce, and economic development partners
- Community-based organizations supporting AI/AN youth with disabilities

HOW DOES AI-RYAD PROVIDE SUPPORT?

AIVRS projects will:

- receive direct technical assistance in establishing youth-centered pre-apprenticeships
- gain access to a flexible, culturally responsive Pre-Apprenticeship Implementation Framework that supports the development of pre-apprenticeship pathways for AI/AN youth with disabilities
- receive an AI-RYAD Toolkit with ready-to-use, customizable resources to support planning and implementation
- participate in the AI-RYAD Learning Collaborative and Advisory Council for peer learning, shared problem-solving, and connection to Tribal, regional, and national partners

For more information

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Project Partners and Funding

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website: www.exploreVR.org

Rural Youth Apprenticeship Toolkit

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