

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Native American Youth Association (NAYA) a \$1.2 million Indian Education Grant to fund their Native Americans Succeed in Math and Science (NASIMAS) program.

“Reducing educational barriers for American Indian and Alaskan Native students is an important component to improving the long term health and livability of our communities,” said Blumenauer. “As one of the primary providers to urban American Indian and Alaskan Native communities, NAYA is highly qualified to deliver these critical services. This grant will enable them to continue their important educational work.”

The Native American Youth Association focuses on the health of future generations by developing more options for youth, family, and community involvement. It works to increase opportunities for healthy activities through the promotion of participation in youth conferences, camps, support groups, cultural activities, lectures and special events.

The NASIMAS program seeks to increase the number of American Indian and Alaskan Native youth who graduate from high school and successfully transition to post-secondary educational programs. Aimed at ninth to 12th graders who need college preparation in math and science, the program will provide after-school math and science tutoring sessions, hands-on math and science projects, and advocacy for additional educational services. A partnership with Portland Community College will provide additional opportunities for targeted students to earn college credits. NASIMAS will serve 100 students per year through the NAYA facility located at 4000 North Mississippi Avenue in Portland, Oregon.

“This grant will provide the critically needed support to help our Native youth reach their full potential,” stated Nichole Maher, Executive Director of NAYA. “NAYA already has an outstanding reputation for providing educational support services to middle and high school students throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area, including our Student Retention Services, an after-school Tutoring Program and a summer math and science program, as well as other youth and family services. NASIMAS completes our continuum of educational services, ensuring we have the staff and resources necessary to focus on math and science year round.”