

Tule River Indian Tribe

The Tule River Indian Reservation covers almost 85 square miles of rugged foothill lands of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The reservation is located in a remote rural area approximately 20 miles from the nearest town of Porterville. The two nearest cities are Fresno, 70 miles north of Porterville and Bakersfield, which is 50 miles south of Porterville. The Reservation is only accessible by one winding paved road.

Teri Dobson is the Director of Tule River's workforce program and although it is a small program, they consistently operate a successful program, especially for youth. Teri has been more than willing to step in and provide guidance to other grantees. This year she assisted with peer-to-peer technical assistance.

Recently, the Tribe amended their personnel policies for directly hiring in full-time positions those participants who successfully complete their Work Experience placement and have a positive evaluation. This new process, in large part, is attributed to the success of the program and the quality of participants. Teri also works closely with the Tribe's casino for job placement and has been delegated responsibility for other work programs.

Tule River is a great example of how small grantees can successfully operate employment and training programs in rural areas.