

Fono 4: It takes a village project instructions (25 min.)

Introduce *Fono 4: It takes a village project*

This is our last activity. It will challenge us as a village council to work together and make an impact on our larger community through a village project.

As we talked about in the first *fono*, you are members of a village council who have been working to resolve an issue in your village and community. The issue we have been focusing on is the high rate of infant mortality among Pacific Islanders in Utah.

Each *fono* assignment gave you a chance to practice connecting culture and health for the benefit of the village and ultimately to give our babies the best chance. They gave you valuable skills and experiences that can be used in your village project.

Review material covered in *fono*

You have attended four *fono* to learn about the issue. *Fono* have included videos, PowerPoint presentations, and activities to give you information on infant mortality, preconception health, prenatal care, and birth spacing, and build skills in communication, navigation, and connection.

All of these have been explained in the context of cultural concepts: the village and *fono*, which bonds us together; *vā* which reminds us to consciously continue to nurture the space; *fonua/fanua* which we need to nourish for the sake of sustainability; and *kaliloa/aliloa* which can be strengthened to maintain our people and culture.

Today we learned about *tāno'a* or *tānoa*. Cultural ceremonies and practices that would take place around the *tāno'a* or *tānoa* were also used as ways to *tauhi vā* or *tausi vā*, nourish the *fonua* or *fanua* and preserve the culture within the village community.

Pacific Islanders have continually found ways to learn and grow our villages by keeping cultural concepts, such as those learned, as an important component of the Pacific way of life. But we need to remember that the best way to preserve our culture is through the legacy of our children. If infant mortality persists, not all children will get to carry on the legacy.

It takes a village project guidelines

Introduce the village project and give the council 20 minutes to complete the worksheet and 2–3 minutes to explain it.

Each of you is a part of your own village and community and play a specific role. In Pacific Islander culture, everyone is accepted and is given space in the society. Each person is appreciated for their different skills and knowledge. It will take a whole village working together to build our culture and our people to give each baby the best chance. You now can work together for a larger impact in your communities through a village project.