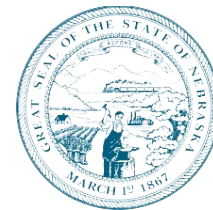


# STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



## Tribal Nations

### Workforce Pell Grant Program

Effective Date: May 20, 2026

#### **Purpose**

This policy establishes the options available to Nebraska Tribal Nations for participation in the Federal Workforce Pell Grant Program, as authorized under the Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTCA) and implemented through U.S. Department of Education regulations (34 CFR Parts 600, 668, and 690).

#### **Policy Statement**

Nebraska Tribal Nations retain full sovereignty over decisions regarding the authorization and approval of eligible workforce programs. In exercising this authority, each Tribal Nation may elect one of the following two pathways for administering the Workforce Pell Grant application process:

##### **Option 1 – Nebraska Workforce Pell Application Process**

A Tribal Nation may elect to utilize the existing Nebraska Workforce Pell Grant application process established by the State. Under this option, the Tribal Nation participates in and adheres to the State's established framework, procedures, and timelines for program review and approval.

##### **Option 2 – Tribal Council Policy and Application Process**

A Tribal Nation may elect to develop and adopt its own Policies and Application Process for approving eligible workforce programs. This option recognizes Tribal sovereignty and the authority of the Tribal Council to establish criteria, procedures, and timelines appropriate to the needs of the Tribal community.

#### **Required Submission to the U.S. Secretary of Education**

Regardless of which option is selected, the following requirement applies to all Nebraska Tribal Nations:

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**The Tribal Council must submit all Tribal Council-approved eligible workforce programs to the United States Secretary of Education for final approval prior to those programs becoming eligible for Workforce Pell Grant funding.**

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This requirement ensures compliance with federal law and the program integrity standards established under 34 CFR Part 690.


### **Applicability**

This policy applies to all federally recognized Tribal Nations located within the State of Nebraska seeking to offer or approve eligible workforce programs under the Workforce Pell Grant Program.

### **Adoption and Effective Date**

These Written Policies and Procedures are adopted and are effective as of the date signed below.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Pillen, Governor  
State of Nebraska

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Thurber, Commissioner  
Nebraska Department of Labor  
Authorized Designee

Date: 5/20/26

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