# FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST
# TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*Appropriations Bill:* **COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE**

**National Science Foundation**                                    *Agency:* **Education and Human Resources (EHR)**

| AUTHORIZATION/ TCU PROGRAM | FY 2023 ENACTED | FY 2024 ENACTED | FY 2025 HOUSE SENATE AIHEC | FY 2026 AIHEC REQUEST *(Inflation adjustment of +2.1%)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NSF – Education and Human Resources (EHR)** | | | | |
| NSF – Tribal College and Universities Program (TCUP) | $20,000,000 | $20,000,000 | H - $26,000,000 S - $20,000,000 A - $27,040,000 | **$27,607,840** |

In FY 2019, NSF awarded **$6.057 billion** for science and engineering at U.S. higher education institutions. **TCUs received $13.7 million of this funding, less than one-fourth of 1 percent.** The NSF TCU competitive grant program, administered and funded through EHR, enhances the quality of TCU STEM education and research programs. Between 2018-2022, TCUs received 57 awards, totaling $63.8 million, addressing Tribal research and workforce needs in STEM fields such as engineering, Native language pedagogy, environmental science, and biology. TCUs are establishing STEM programs that are culturally grounded and informed by traditional knowledge and practice. STEM pedagogies and engagement strategies that focus on the unique needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students are furthering the capacity of TCUs to provide research and education programs that contribute significantly to addressing local STEM-related challenges and opportunities while contributing to a diverse national STEM workforce. Click here for more information about TCU STEM initiatives.

This program was intended, and named, to be TCU-specific, but NSF allows Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to compete for funding under NSF-TCUP. This allows funds intended to address disparities in TCU STEM programming to be used by larger, state-supported institutions that are not resource-challenged. **We request that Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be removed from the NSF-TCU program and, instead, that a separate program be established for these institutions.**