

FISCAL YEAR 2026 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Appropriations Bill: AGRICULTURE

Agency: NIFA and Rural Development

AUTHORIZATION/ TCU PROGRAM	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 HOUSE SENATE AIHEC	FY 2026 AIHEC REQUEST (Inflation adjustment of +2.1%)
Equity in Educational Land Grant Status [7 USC 301 note]				
1994 Institutions Extension Program (NIFA)	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000	H - \$12,000,000 S - \$11,000,000 A - \$17,500,000	\$17,867,500
1994 Institutions Research Program (NIFA)	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	H - \$6,000,000 S - \$5,000,000 A - \$17,500,000	\$17,867,500
1994 Institutions Equity Payment (NIFA)	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	H - \$8,000,000 S - \$7,000,000 A - \$17,500,000	\$17,867,500
Native American Endowment Payment (NIFA) <small>*Annual corpus payment (Only annual interest distributed as payment)</small>	\$11,880,000	\$11,880,000	H - \$11,880,000 S - \$11,880,000 A - \$17,000,000	\$17,357,000
Consolidated Farm & Rural Development Act [7 USC 1926(a)]				
TCU Broadband Service Fund	--	--	H - Unspecified S - Unspecified A - \$40,000,000	\$40,840,000
TCU Essential Community Facilities	\$10,000,000	\$8,000,000	H - \$6,000,000 S - \$8,000,000 A - \$20,800,000	\$21,236,800
Smith-Lever Act [7 USC 341 et. seq.]				
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)	\$4,305,000	\$4,000,000	H - \$4,405,000 S - \$4,000,000 A - \$10,000,000	\$10,210,000

Inequality among Land Grant Institutions: The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act created the “1994 land grants” nearly 30 years ago. Since then, funding for the 1994 land-grant programs has remained inadequate to address growing agricultural needs and opportunities in Indian Country. Stark inequities in federal funding and resources exist in the land-grant system. The first Americans, last to join the nation’s land-grant family, deserve parity.

TCU Broadband Service Fund: The pandemic exacerbated the digital divide and underscored the lack of broadband access across Indian Country. To address these deficiencies that could leave Indian Country – and AI/AN students—behind the rest of the U.S. for generations, Congress must act to establish a *permanent* TCU Broadband Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program. An annual \$40.8 million set aside for TCUs, which are the 1994 land-grant institutions served by USDA, would help cover rapidly increasing network connectivity and equipment costs, maintenance, infrastructure expansion, and IT staffing.

