

FISCAL YEAR 2026 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Appropriations Bill: ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Department of Energy

Agency: National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

AUTHORIZATION/ TCU PROGRAM	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 HOUSE SENATE AIHEC	FY 2026 AIHEC REQUEST <small>(Inflation adjustment of +2.1%)</small>
DOE – National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)				
Academic Alliances: Tribal Colleges & University (TCU) Program <small>(within the Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program, MSIPP)</small>	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	H - \$10,000,000 S - \$12,000,000 A - \$12,480,000	\$12,742,080
DOE – Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs (OIEP)				
TCU Transitioning to Clean Energy	--	Unspecified in OIEP Budget	Unspecified in OIEP Budget A - \$15,000,000	\$15,315,000
<p>NNSA MSIPP-TCU: TCUs began participating in MSIPP in 2016 when DOE allocated \$2 million for the AIHEC/TCU Advanced Manufacturing Network Initiative, an innovative capacity-building program focused on training and education collaborations at five TCUs. The goal of the program is to grow an American Indian/Alaska Native advanced manufacturing technical and engineering workforce through certificate and 4-year degree programs and establish a network of geographically distributed micromanufacturing facilities that are building engineering/technician career pathways for TCU students.</p> <p>With increased support from Congress, the MSIPP-TCU program has expanded to more TCUs, including:</p> <p>IMPACT: TMCC & UTTC: \$5M/5 years: Indigenous Mutual Partnership to Advanced Cybersecurity Technology focuses on cybersecurity with Sandia National Laboratories providing technical advising, planning, and academic program development. PAMER: Navajo Technical University, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Nebraska Indian Community College, & University of Texas at El Paso: \$5M/5 years: Partnership for Advanced Manufacturing Education and Research is developing sustainable pathways for a next-gen additive manufacturing workforce and other experts for NNSA enterprises.</p> <p>Report Language Request: The FY 2026 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, Appropriations bill should explicitly designate \$12 million for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program and direct the Department to fully distribute the designated funding to TCUs.</p>				



Appropriations Bill: COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE

National Science Foundation

Agency: Health and Human Services-ACF-Head Start

AUTHORIZATION/ TCU PROGRAM	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 HOUSE SENATE AIHEC	FY 2026 AIHEC REQUEST <small>(Inflation adjustment of +2.1%)</small>
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
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				