

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

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ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution.

(k) *National Indian Organization* means any organization of Indians, found by the Director of Education to be nationally based, representing a substantial Indian constituency, and expert in the field of Indian education. Notice of such findings shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER with an opportunity for comment from the public and no such finding shall be effective earlier than 30 days after publication.

(l) *Operating expenses of education programs* means the obligations and expenditures of a community college for post-secondary activities, including administration, instruction, attendance, health and other student services, operation, maintenance and repair of plant, fixed charges, and other related expenses, but not including expenditures for the acquisition or construction of academic facilities. (The term *academic facilities* means structures suitable for use as classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and related facilities necessary or appropriate for instruction of students, or for research, or for administration of the educational or research programs of an institution of higher education or as dormitories or student services buildings, and maintenance, storage, support, or utility facilities essential to operation of the foregoing facilities.)

(m) *Part-time* means registered for less than twelve (12) credit hours for an academic term; *full-time* means registered for twelve (12) or more credit hours for an academic term.

(n) *Unused portion of received funds* means the amount of financial assistance provided under this subpart to a Community College for an academic year which has not been obligated or expended by the Community College by July 1 of that academic year.

§ 41.4 Eligible recipients.

Financial assistance under this subpart shall be available only to a Community College which:

- (a) Is governed by a board of directors, regents, or trustees, a majority of whom are Indians;
- (b) Demonstrates its adherence to stated goals, a philosophy, or a plan of

operation which is directed to meet the needs of Indians, and has formally adopted, in writing, such goals, philosophy, or plan of operation, which may be in the form of a constitution, by-laws, or policy statement of the Community College;

(c) If in operation for more than one year, has students a majority of whom are Indian; and

(d) Upon completion of a feasibility study, receives a positive determination, and;

(e) Is not in violation of § 41.11 of this subpart.

§ 41.5 Eligible activities.

Financial assistance under this subpart shall be available to defray only the operating expenses of education programs of Community Colleges. Financial assistance under this subpart shall not be used for religious worship or sectarian instruction, but nothing in this subpart shall be construed as barring instruction in comparative religions or cultures or in languages of Indian tribes.

§ 41.6 HHS participation.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Assistant Secretary for Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and to revise such agreement as necessary, to assist the Director of Education in the development of plans, procedures, and criteria for feasibility studies under this subpart, and to provide the Director with technical assistance in conducting such feasibility studies, including determinations as to the reasonable number of students required to support a Community College.

[44 FR 67042, Nov. 21, 1979. Redesignated at 47 FR 13327, Mar. 30, 1982; 48 FR 13414, Mar. 31, 1983]

§ 41.7 Feasibility studies.

(a) Grants under § 41.8 of this subpart may be made to a Community College only after a positive determination of feasibility as provided in this section.

(b) Within thirty (30) days of receiving a resolution or other duly authorized request from the governing body of one or more Indian Tribes, the Director of Education shall initiate a feasibility

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study to determine whether there is justification to encourage and maintain a Community College for such tribe or tribes. The feasibility study shall give consideration to the following factors:

- (1) Financial feasibility based upon potential enrollment;
- (2) Evidence of low tribal levels of tribal matriculation in and graduation from postsecondary educational institutions;
- (3) Tribal, linguistics, or cultural differences;
- (4) Isolation;
- (5) Presence of alternate education sources;
- (6) Proposed curriculum;
- (7) The benefits of continued and expanded educational opportunities for Indian students.

(c) The Director of Education will issue detailed guidelines for conducting and analyzing the feasibility studies.

(d) Feasibility studies under this section shall be conducted in consultation with the tribal governing body or bodies involved or their designated representatives. Each feasibility study shall be completed and filed by the Director of Education within sixty (60) days after the feasibility study has been initiated. The study shall be filed with (1) the Assistant Secretary, (2) the tribal governing body or bodies requesting the studies, and (3) with the board of directors, regents, or trustees of the Community College, if already established.

(e) In the case of any feasibility study which results in a negative determination by the Director of Education, a Tribe requesting the study may within thirty (30) days of receipt of the study or of notice of such determination file a notice of appeal with the Assistant Secretary. Following the timely filing of a Tribe's notice of appeal, the Tribe and Community College shall have a right to a formal review of the feasibility study, including a hearing upon reasonable notice within sixty (60) days before the Assistant Secretary (or his/her designee, other than the Director of Education or any federal employee under the Director's supervision). At the hearing, the appealing Tribe or the Community College (or both) may present additional evi-

dence or arguments to justify feasibility. Within thirty (30) days of the hearing, the Assistant Secretary shall issue a written ruling either confirming, modifying, or reversing the original determination. The ruling, which shall be final for the Department, shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to the appealing Tribe and the Community College within one week of its issuance. In any case where the original negative determination is not reversed, the Assistant Secretary's ruling shall specify the grounds for the decision and state the manner in which the determination related to each of the factors specified.

(f) A negative determination shall not prevent a Tribe from requesting another feasibility study, but no more than one feasibility study shall be requested for any given Community College per year.

§41.8 Grants.

(a) Each Community College which has received a positive feasibility study determination under §41.7 of this subpart shall be entitled to apply for financial assistance under this subpart.

(b) Except with respect to applications for grants for the 1979–1980 academic year, each Community College shall make an application to the Director of Education before January 31, of the year preceding the academic year for which financial assistance is requested. Each application must contain the following information:

(1) The name and address of the Community College and the names of the members of the governing board and the number of its members who are Indian;

(2) A statement that the Community College has received a positive feasibility determination and the date thereof;

(3) A written statement of the goals, philosophy, or proposed plan of operation sufficient to demonstrate that its education program or proposed program is designed to meet the needs of Indians;

(4) In the case of a Community College which has been in operation for more than one year, a statement of the total number of FTE Indian students