

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

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the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(j) *Institution of higher education* as defined in Pub. L. 95-471 (incorporating in part 1201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965), means an educational institution in any State which

(1) Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate,

(2) Provides an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree or provides not less than a two-year program which is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree,

(3) Is a public or other nonprofit institution, and

(4) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association or, if not so accredited,

(A) Is an institution with respect to which the Commissioner of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance, considering the resources available to the institution, the period of time, if any, during which it has operated, the effort it is making to meet accreditation standards and the purpose for which this determination is being made, that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time, or

(B) Is an institution whose credits are accepted, on transfer, by not less than three institutions which are so accredited, for credit on the same basis as if transferred from an institution so accredited.

Such term also includes any school which provides not less than a one-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and which meets the provisions of clauses (1), (2), (3), and (4). Such term also includes a public or nonprofit private educational institution in any State which, in lieu of the requirement in clause (1), admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located and who have the

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

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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