Agency 76 - Nebraska Commission On Indian Affairs

Statutory Authority:

The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA) was created by LB 904 of the 82nd session of the Nebraska Legislature on May 22, 1971. The Indian Commission statutes are outlined in sections 81-2504 R.R.S.

Vision Statement:

Ensure sovereignty of Tribal, Federal and State governments are recognized and acted upon in a true government-to-government relationship. Guard that Nebraska's Indian citizens and their families are afforded the right to enjoy equitable opportunities (as do their non-Indian counterparts) in the areas of housing, employment, education, health care, economic development, and human/civil rights. To educate and sensitize policymakers, the Legislature, the general public, educators and school-age youth to the unique status of Tribes and Indian citizens; and the issues that effect them.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Commission shall be to join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the cause of Indian Rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians.

Principles: Respect for the sovereignty of Tribal, Federal and State governments, as well as respect for the rights of both Nebraska's Indian and non-Indian citizenry. Recognize and act on the fact that State government has an active role to play in the education of Nebraskans to the unique status of Tribes and Indian citizens; the many and varied ways Indian people have and continue to contribute to Nebraska history; to the issues that impact Nebraska's Indian citizens in significant and often devastating ways; and, to identify and address cultural barriers that impact accessibility to services and opportunities for Indians in Nebraska.

Goals:

Actively promote state and federal legislation beneficial to Tribes and Indian citizens and monitor and assess the impact of such policies and laws. Assist in development and implementation of state and federal programs that provide equitable services and opportunities for Nebraska's Indian families in the areas of housing, employment, economic development, health, human services, law and order, tribal sovereignty, and civil/human rights. Educate policymakers, Legislators, educators, school-age youth and the general public on the issues and legislation that impact Indian country; with priority given to issues of Sovereignty. Promote compliance with LB 922, Nebraska's multi cultural education bill and LB 340 and LB 92, Nebraska's Native American reburial legislation. Effectively mobilize government and private resources to improve the lives of Indian citizens.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	163,717	175,290	185,802	181,374	185,802	187,160
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	163,717	175,290	185,802	181,374	185,802	187,160

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Program 584 - Indian Affairs

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs' (NCIA) strategic planning goals and objectives: Legislate/Educate/Advocate; Ensure sovereignty of Tribal, Federal and State governments are recognized and acted upon in a true government-to-government relationship. Specific areas of priority for NCIA to focus on in FY 2005-2007: Governance, Public Relations, Economic Development, and Youth/Family/Elders.

Financial Data:

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Performance Measures:

NCIA is aware that improvement in government-to-government relations is not easily measured in terms of hard statistics. Yet the following all are measurable outcomes: Executive Office open door policy to meet with Tribal Councils; Passage of legislative bills on housing, cross-deputization, health care, NAGPRA; Workshops on state/tribal relations; State, Feds and Tribes working collaboratively on projects and grants in the areas of crime, women's issues, welfare reform, employment, housing and Family Preservation (i.e. collaborating with NCIA on NeDED Housing grants; Events in Nebraska (i.e. the Great Plains Improving Safety in Indian Country Summit, dealing with law enforcement and racial profiling issues); policy addressing tobacco use and NA religion within State Corrections; Fewer complaints by Tribes that the State is unresponsive to their needs. These are just a few examples, yet each shows solid progress in the NCIA's goals and objectives.

Additionally, we can look for individuals and families from an evaluative perspective. How have they been impacted by direct and in-direct actions of the Indian Commission (i.e. the Native American Health Fund Act dollars for preventative health care for youth, elders and families both on and off reservation)? Finally, we can look at assessing how the Commission is impacting areas important to Indian people, communities and Tribes.