

# 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:

NCIA's vision is dedicated to protecting tribal sovereignty, strengthening government-to-government consultation, and preserving the integrity of State-Tribal relations by legislating, educating, and advocating in partnership with tribal governments, Indian citizens and organizations. In fulfilling the vision the NCIA is charged with leveling the playing field for native citizens in a way that ensures equity in the quality of life that is afforded non-Indian citizens, in the areas of housing, employment, education, health, economic development and human rights.

## 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." The mission of the NCIA is to also instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating the rights, beliefs and opportunities which impact quality of life. Principles: Honor and respect the government-to-government memorandum in place with the Governor and four headquartered tribes in Nebraska (Omaha, Ponca, Santee Sioux, and Winnebago) that ensures recognition of the sovereignty of Tribal, Federal and State governments in a way that protects the rights of both tribal and non-Indian citizenry.

## Goals:

Actively monitor and promote state and federal legislation beneficial to Tribes and Indian citizens and monitor and assess the impact of such policies and laws. Collaborate wherever possible with state and federal entities in developing and implementing 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. Study, consider, accumulate, compile, assemble and disseminate information on Indian Affairs through our web-site, quarterly newsletter, legislation, training, and education.

## Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	178,971	191,415	221,012	196,339	221,012	201,386
Cash Fund	4,496	40,000	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	183,467	231,415	221,012	196,339	221,012	201,386

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## Program 584 - Indian Affairs

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### 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 per the Memorandum of Government-to-Government approved by the current administration. Specific areas of priority for NCIA in the next biennium will be Governance, Public Relations, Education, Health and Economic Development, with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency for Tribes and their citizens.

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### Performance Measures:

NCIA is aware that measurable performance outcomes are hard to demonstrate in hard data however we have seen significant improvement in government-to-government relations as well as a marked improved public image of the Indian community. Through our efforts to educate the public through utilizing the media, web-site, our new quarterly newsletter, Chief Standing Bear Commemorations in Capitol Rotunda, Chief Standing Bear Breakfast this past year, upcoming NA scholarships resulting from the CSB events we have seen positive impact to the self-esteem of our American Indian children and families. Through the Native American Health Fund Act dollars we are able to continue to support preventive health education and programs for all of our Tribal and off-reservation American Indian communities. The courts and other entities that have come together to create the Minority Implementation Task force are addressing access to justice for American Indian Citizens who statistically have higher sentencing and longer sentences in Nebraska's correction facilities. Although we are not a direct service provider we work diligently to utilize all resources available to serve and address the daily requests we have from American Indian constituents who have unmet needs. In light of our small staff and budget the NCIA fulfills their mission through committed staff, improved state-tribal relations and overall public awareness of the unique issues facing American Indians in Nebraska.