

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:

Sovereignty of both Tribal and State governments are recognized and acted upon by both in a true government-to-government relationship. Each of Nebraska's Indian citizens and their families be 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 the general public, educators, school-age youth, and legislators 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 to enhance the cause of Indian Rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians. Principles include respect for the Sovereignty of Tribal and State governments, as well as respect for the rights of both Indian and non-Indian citizenry. Recognizing 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 varied ways Indian people have and continue to contribute to Nebraska history; to the issues that impact Indian citizens in significant and often devastating ways; to identify and address cultural barriers.

Goals:

Actively promote state and federal legislation beneficial to Tribes and Indian citizens in Nebraska, and monitor and assess their impact. 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 legislators, educators, school-age youth and the general public on the issues and legislation that impacts Indian country in Nebraska; especially Sovereignty issues. Promote compliance with LB 922, Nebraska's multi cultural education bill. Effectively mobilize government and private resources to improve the lives of Nebraska's Indian citizens.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	140,540	156,656	262,223	160,279	262,397	165,141
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	140,540	156,656	262,223	160,279	262,397	165,141

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Program 584 - Indian Affairs

Program Objectives:

NCIA five-year plan and preliminary strategic planning goals and objectives: Advocate/Educate/Legislate. Ensure sovereignty of both Tribal and state governments are recognized and acted upon by both in a true government-to-government relationship. Specific areas of priority for NCIA to focus on in FY2000-2001: Governance, Public Relations, Youth/Family/Elders, and Economic Development. This includes identifying and eliminating barriers in housing, employment, education, health care, economic development, and human/civil rights. Promoting and effectively mobilizing government and private sector resources to improve equitable opportunities for Nebraska's Indian citizens, encouraging self-sufficiency, and promoting good quality of life for both Indian and non-Indian citizens.

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 mark vast strides: Executive Office open door policy to meet with Tribal Councils; Passage of legislative bills on housing, cross-deputization, and health care; Workshops on state/tribal relations successfully continue; State and Tribes working collaboratively on projects and grants in the areas of crime, women's issues, welfare reform, employment, and Family Preservation; Fewer complaints by Tribes that the State won't respond to their needs. These are just a few examples, yet each shows solid progress in the NCIA's goals and objectives.