

## ANALYSIS

### Item 10: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Oregon Tribal Student Grant Program

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**Analyst:** Kim To

**Request:** Allocate \$19 million General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the implementation of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program.

**Analysis:** The 2022 Legislature approved a \$19 million special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for allocation to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to implement the Oregon Tribal Student Grant (OTSG) program to provide grants to eligible Oregon tribal students to offset the cost of attending eligible Oregon colleges and universities.

Since the 2022 session, the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) has been working with tribal stakeholders to develop and implement this new scholarship grant program in time for the 2022-23 academic school year. Temporary administrative rules were approved by the Commission on April 14, 2022. OSAC has established an application process and is accepting applications online for the upcoming 2022-23 academic year. OSAC is also working with tribal, high school, college, and community partners to raise public awareness and promote student outreach efforts.

To be eligible for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program, students must be an enrolled member of one of the nine Oregon federally recognized tribes. Grant awards are intended to cover the average cost of attendance after all federal and state grants and scholarships have been applied. Awards will be prioritized for undergraduate and master's degree students. If funding is available after eligible undergraduate and master's degree students, full or partial awards may be made to students in either professional or doctoral programs of study, and/or graduate certificates. Graduate students are not required to have participated in the grant as undergraduate students. Grant payments for eligible recipients will be disbursed on a term or semester basis provided the student is in good standing in a degree or certificate seeking program. Disbursement is made directly to the college or university, not to the recipient. Award amounts will be pro-rated for half time and three-quarter time enrollment levels.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$19 million General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the implementation of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program.

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Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
Gibson

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**Request:** Allocate \$19.0 million General Fund from the Special Purpose Appropriation made to the Emergency Board for the implementation of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant Program.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** House Bill 5202 (2022) established a Special Purpose Appropriation (SPA) of \$19,000,000 for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for an Oregon Tribal Student Grant (OTSG) program. The new scholarship grant program needed to be designed and implemented to receive the allocation.

Since the February 2022 Legislative Session, the Agency's Office of Student Access and Completion has been working with tribal stakeholders to develop the following programmatic components required to establish a new scholarship-granting program:

- Application form,
- Application process,
- Administrative rules,
- Eligibility requirements,
- Section criteria and process,
- Informational materials,
- Selection and training of program staff, and
- Awareness campaign.

The temporary administrative rules were approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on April 14, 2022. Additionally, the Agency started the process of raising public awareness and accepting applications online for the upcoming 2022-23 academic year.

HECC is requesting the Emergency Board allocate the \$19,000,000 General Fund SPA to finalize the implementation of the OTSG program.

**Legal Reference:** Establish a General Fund appropriation by allocating \$19,000,000 from the Special Purpose Appropriation made to the Emergency Board by chapter 110, section 455(1), Oregon Laws 2022, to the Higher Education Coordinating Council for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, OR 97302

[www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

April 28, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) requests allocation of \$19,000,000 General Fund, which was appropriated to the Emergency Board in HB 5202 (sec. 455) during the 2022 session through a Special Purpose Appropriation for the implementation of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant (OTSG) program. Eligibility for this new grant program is limited to registered members of federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

### **Agency Action**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has taken multiple steps to define and implement this new program. The agency's Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) has worked closely in consultation with Oregon tribal representatives and the Governor's Office to create the application form, establish the application process, draft administrative rules, and gather general information to best guide, process, select and award eligible applicants for grants during the 2022-2023 academic year. To this end, the Commission approved temporary rules on April 14, 2022 that will guide the new grant program, and OSAC posted an informational brochure to raise public awareness.

Temporary rules can be viewed at:

[https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/COMMISSION/2022/April%2014/12.2a%20OAR%20575-105%20Proposed%20\(OTSG\).pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/COMMISSION/2022/April%2014/12.2a%20OAR%20575-105%20Proposed%20(OTSG).pdf)

Oregon Tribal Student Grant Brochure:

[https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/COMMISSION/2022/April%2014/12.2c%20Oregon%20Tribal%20Grant%20Brochure%204\\_13\\_22%20KR.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/COMMISSION/2022/April%2014/12.2c%20Oregon%20Tribal%20Grant%20Brochure%204_13_22%20KR.pdf)

OSAC is leading the preparations and will be implementing the OTSG program that will distribute funds on behalf of the students through participating Oregon public and non-profit institutions. The electronic application process where Tribal Students may easily and safely submit their applications should roll-out on or near May 1, 2022. In preparation, the office prepared a brochure and a new website to inform prospective students about the program at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-tribal-student.aspx>.

**Action Requested**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission requests the Emergency Board approve the allocation of \$19,000,000 General Fund to implement the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program.

**Legislation Affected**

None. Allocated through HB 5202, 2022 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Cannon".

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

Higher Education Coordinating Commission