



NATIVE AMERICAN APPRENTICESHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAAAP)

December 2024



Passed during the 2024 session, House Bill 2019 established the Native American Apprenticeship Assistance Program (NAAAP). Intended to support the Native American Apprentices, NAAAP began to accept applications November 1, 2024.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) developed a block grant application process that any of the Federally Recognized Tribes in Washington State can use to access the funding available for NAAAP. Due to the expedited timeline expectations of the legislation and limited administrative funds, the block grant process allows WSAC to provide funding to apprentices within the 2024-25 fiscal year. Creating awareness and understanding on this condensed timeline has presented a challenge.

The block grant application process is designed to award funds to Tribal nations, who will then distribute the funding to qualified apprentice applicants. Each Tribe may receive up to \$150,000—an amount based on how many apprentices Tribal partners indicated they may be able to support. Data from the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) program indicates that costs of apprenticeship programs easily exceed \$10,000; thus, Tribes will be able to award up to \$10,000 per apprentice through NAAAP.

To ensure that WSAC is responsive and considerate to various needs and concerns of apprentices and Tribal nations, WSAC has contracted a Tribal liaison consultant, Christina Riley, to assist in the development of NAAAP. Christina Riley brings a vast wealth of knowledge and expertise in both working with apprenticeships and Tribal nations.

WSAC has created a four-person advisory committee that is made of up Tribal leaders from across Washington State. Selection was based on a combination of factors, including involvement and knowledge of apprentice programs, leadership, and interest in serving. This committee represents various Tribes and provides direct guidance and feedback to program staff regarding process, procedures, and policies.

The committee first met in October 2024 and is scheduled to meet three more times during the 2024-25 fiscal year. Members of the committee are:

- Chris Winters, Puyallup Nation
- Kristin Lawrence, Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), Makah Nation
- Kolbi Monasmith, United Indians Foundation, Cherokee Nation
- Teresa Ray Bomatay, TERO Director, Lummi Nation

As part of the marketing and communication plan, WSAC program staff created a webpage and flyer and sent out numerous email communications to all Tribal Nations in Washington State, including to a listserv of all Tribal Chairmen provided by Christina Riley.

Staff have also attended several conferences and large Tribal meetings this fall, including:

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Annual Convention – October 2024
- Washington State Apprenticeship & Training Council Meeting – October 2024
- Regional TERO Conference – October 2024
- Department of Labor and Industries Meeting – November 2024

WSAC plans to offer direct support to Tribes and apprentices that receive NAAAP funding. Throughout the fiscal year starting in January 2025, WSAC anticipates offering webinars and “office hours” to assist in completing the application and related data reporting.

NAAAP Timeline

<i>March 19, 2024</i>	NAAAP signed into law
<i>April–June, 2024</i>	Reviewed requirements and met with program staff
<i>July–Aug., 2024</i>	Hired consultant and outlined a process to fund apprenticeships
<i>Sept.–Oct. 2024</i>	Program staff attended several Tribal and apprenticeship-related meetings and conferences to share updates and distribute information
<i>October 2024</i>	Advisory Committee meeting
<i>Nov. 1, 2024</i>	NAAAP application became available online
<i>Dec. 6, 2024</i>	Current deadline for application submission
<i>Dec. 20, 2024</i>	Schedule deadline for WSAC to notify Tribes of awards
<i>January 2025</i>	Distribute funds Create FAQs and online supports for TERO offices and applicants Advisory Committee meeting
<i>March 2025</i>	Advisory Committee meeting
<i>June 2025</i>	Advisory Committee meeting Collect data report from Tribes that have been awarded funding

Reporting Requirements Per HB 2019

- A. **Total number of eligible participants.** This is yet to be determined, but WSAC anticipates up to 100 apprentices will receive awards.
- B. **The amount WSAC determined the assistance award to be.** Up to \$150,000 per Tribe (with 7% that can be used to administrative costs), and up to \$10,000 per apprentice.
- C. **How WSAC determined what the assistance award should be.** In discussion with its consultant and stakeholders, WSAC determined \$10,000 would be adequate to support any apprenticeship. This amount represents roughly 2x the amount of the WA Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) and allows apprentices to use the funds for any costs related to completing the apprenticeship.
- D. **How many members of federally recognized Indian Tribes in Washington received assistance versus members of federally recognized Indian Tribes from other states.** This has yet to be determined.
- E. **Current fiscal award budget.** \$1,000,000

Contact Information

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council

The Washington Student Achievement Council is committed to increasing educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. The Council has three main functions:

- Lead statewide strategic planning to increase educational attainment.
- Administer programs that help people access and pay for college.
- Advocate for the economic, social, and civic benefits of higher education.

The Council has ten members. Four members represent each of Washington's major education sectors: four-year public baccalaureates, four-year private colleges, public community and technical colleges, and K-12 public schools. Six are citizen members, including two current students (one graduate student and one undergraduate student).

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council at:

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