



Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Native Pathways program (NP), formerly the Tigua Indian Employment and Training Program, has been serving low-income and unemployed Native Americans in West Texas since 1979. NP is administered by Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (YDSP), a federally recognized Indian tribe. The program, recognizing the growing need for employment training and education assistance amongst Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiian, aims to help participants become economically self-sufficient by providing them an array of career services. In order to serve participants residing in the 122 West Texas Counties Native Pathways has staff employed in two offices: one in El Paso, Texas and another in San Antonio, Texas.

Training

Policy: Training services are available to assist individuals in gaining skills and knowledge to obtain and retain employment. Training services must be directly linked to employment opportunities in which the participant resides or in another local area where the participant is willing to relocate. Participants must apply for all federal financial aid, state and campus based programs. Participants who do not apply will be considered ineligible. Late applications will be considered only upon the availability of funds. The award is based on the financial need of career and will have a cap of \$10,000. The amount of assistance that a participant receives will be subject to the availability of funds. In some instances the total award may be less than the documented need. Payments will be made directly to the institution. No payments will be made to the participant as a reimbursement.

Procedure:

1. Participants are to meet with NP Program staff to determine skill level or qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services prior to enrollment.
2. Participants must choose a technical/ vocational program from Native Pathways partners or the Eligible Training Provider System who have been in operation for 5 years or longer and are accredited institutions.
3. Participants requesting assistance for training costs must complete both a NP and Training application which may include all or some of the following:
 - Student aid report and financial needs analysis form (if available).
 - Latest transcript or highest degree
 - Class schedule/ Degree plan
 - Fee statement
 - Letter of acceptance (if applicable)
4. Once the training is complete, participants must bring proof of completion. If proof is not provided, participants will not be eligible for further service.

Incomplete Training

Policy: Participant must maintain the course load based on what student was awarded. Participant must complete all of their enrolled courses in order to continue to receive funding. Participant is responsible for refunding the money for failure of completion, dropped or withdrawn courses. Any non-refunded monies will affect future Native Pathways funding and are subject to judicial review by Tribal Court. Exemptions will include justifiable conditions such as a death in the family, a verifiable family emergency, or medical condition.

Procedure:

1. Participant must notify Native Pathways in writing of the intent to withdraw or drop courses a minimum of 5 days after drop date and the reason behind such action.
2. If the participant withdraws or drops, they must resubmit a new Financial Needs Analysis Form, invoice, or balance, immediately.
3. If the new calculation submitted differs from the original calculation, student is responsible to repay the difference of such amount.

4. Participants who fail to complete the training will be informed via letter in the mail of their current balance and negative status. Once notified the participant will need to establish a plan for repayment with a Career Developer or Outreach Counselor.
5. Participants may:
 - a. Make a full refund payment by making a check or money order payable to the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and submitting to the Department of Finance located at 119 S. Old Pueblo Rd., Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, TX 79907. The Department of Finance will issue a receipt for payment at the time payment is rendered which is to be submitted to the Career Developer or Outreach Counselor.
 - b. Installment Payment Plan: Student can set up an installment payment plan with a Career Developer or Outreach Counselor. A signed promissory note must be executed, and the student must keep current on payments in order to qualify for future funding. Payments must be made to the Department of Finance. Career Developer or Outreach Counselor will request a confirmation from Finance department monthly.