

TO: Federally Recognized Tribal Governments

FROM: Office of Indian Education & ODE Summer Learning Team

SUBJECT: Action Required: Summer Learning Tribal Grant Applications Now Open

DATE: January 13, 2026

Dear Tribal Leaders,

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is honored to partner with Tribal Nations to support summer learning programs that strengthen language, culture, and community. The [State Summer Learning Tribal Grants](#) have been redesigned to reflect Tribal priorities and differ from district grants in several important ways.

Key Features of Tribal Grants

- **Direct Funding:** Tribal grants are non-competitive and are awarded directly to federally recognized Tribal Nations that submit an application which meets the grant requirements.
- **Distinct Requirements:** Applications and program requirements are Tribal-specific, not based on school district structures.
- **Focus on Language and Culture:** Programs may center on culturally specific learning structures, language revitalization, and community engagement to increase academic outcomes for Tribal students.
- **Collaborative Planning:** ODE's Summer Learning Team will work with Tribal applicants to ensure program plans meet all objectives.
- **No Partnerships Required:** While strong partnerships within the Tribe and surrounding community are encouraged, Tribal programs are not required to have external partnerships for a successful application.

Important Dates

- **January 13, 2026: Application Period Opens**
- **February 20, 2026: Finalized Applications Due; Awards Announced**

Funding Details

- **Grant Amount:** Up to \$125,000 per year

Application Documents

The State Summer Learning Tribal Grant application is designed to be straightforward and supportive. Tribes will complete and submit **three required documents**, linked below along with instructions for filling out the required forms.

- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Part 1: Program Overview Application Form](#)
- [Part 2: Program Schedules Application Form](#)
- [Part 3: Program Budget Application Form](#)

Technical Assistance Opportunities

We look forward to supporting Tribal Nations in creating summer learning experiences that honor cultural identity and foster community connection. To this end, ODE will be hosting various opportunities for technical assistance, including:

- **Application Overview Webinar - Thursday, Jan 22, 4 pm**
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - **Purpose:** Provide an in-depth walkthrough of the application documents and answer questions. *This session will be recorded and shared.*
- **Weekly Office Hours - Tuesdays, Jan 27-Feb 17, 4 pm**
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - **Purpose:** Optional space to ask questions and collaborate with ODE staff. *These sessions will not be recorded.*
- **Ongoing Individual Technical Assistance**
 - For questions or assistance, please contact the ODE Summer Learning Team at ODE.SummerLearning@ode.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Office of Indian Education

In Partnership with

ODE Summer Learning Team

[State Summer Learning Grant](#)

ODE.SummerLearning@ode.oregon.gov

