



## HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

### GENERAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Grants may be made to full-time students who:
  - a. are members of tribes served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - b. have a definite financial need
  - c. are pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a two year or four year accredited college or university
  - d. complete application requirements

**NOTE:** Continuing eligibility will depend on satisfactory progress toward degree requirements. Please see Higher Education Grant/Scholarship Policies for more details.

2. **CERTIFICATION:** The Education Department of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) shall certify tribal membership for all applicants. Certification forms are available in the WTGH(A) offices and all applicants must include an enrollment number on their application.
3. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** Students applying for grand assistance are required to provide the following documents each year:
  - a. Letter of Acceptance for first time applicants or transfers
  - b. Membership Certification for first applicants
  - c. Higher Education Grant Application
  - d. Statement of Education Purpose and Privacy Act
  - e. Essay about personal connection with Aquinnah Wampanoag heritage
  - f. Financial Aid Recommendation completed by college Financial Aid Office
  - g. High School or College Transcript of grades for each year
  - h. Official copy of student grades at tend of each term (semester or quarter)

#### 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- a. New applicants, transfers, and previously suspended students need to include a letter of acceptance from a national or state accredited institution.
- b. Fill out a complete Higher Education grant application form, including your tribal enrollment number, email address, full address and telephone number of college, etc. Sign the Statement of Education Purpose and Privacy form, write the essay and complete the top portion of the Financial Aid form.
- c. Your application needs to be sent to the Education Department in three parts and all three parts are due by June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
  - i. The first part of the application includes: the Higher Education Grant Application form, the Statement of Education Purpose and Privacy Act form, and the Essay form. Send only these forms directly to the Education Department by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. The second part of the application includes your responsibility as the applicant to contact the Registrar of your college or university (or high school, for freshman) and request that your grades be sent to the Education Department by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Call your Registrar as soon as grades come out to make this request.
  - iii. The third part of the application includes your responsibility as the applicant to sign and complete the top portion of the included Financial Aid form and mail it to the Financial Aid office of our college or university, in time for your school to fill out the required information and return it to the Education Department by June 15<sup>th</sup> (Please do not send this form to the Education Department with the rest of your application). You are required to file this Financial Aid Form (FAF) and apply for other federal and state grants. At the request of the student, the Financial Aid Officer of the college will complete the Financial Aid Package Form detailing the supplemental needs and forward it to the Wampanoag Tribal Offices. This FAF or needs analysis will state all other aid which may be applied toward meeting the student's need. A grant from the WTGH (A) is dependent upon review of the information submitted and compliance with the criteria set forth in the WTGH (A) Higher Education Grant/Scholarship Policies.
- d. A file is created for you in the Education Department and as each part of your application is sent to the Department it is included in your file. Please call several weeks before June 15<sup>th</sup> to confirm that your school has sent transcripts and financial aid form.

**NOTE:** A check shall be issued by the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). For questions concerning payment, please call (508) 645-9265 ext. 131, 153, or 203. For those who live off-island use our toll free number 1-800-332-7707 or write:

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)  
Attention: Education Department  
20 Black Brook Road  
Aquinnah, MA 02535