

# Tribal-ISAC Cybersecurity & Technology Leadership Scholarship Program

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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### 1. What is the purpose of the Scholarship Program?

The Scholarship Program supports professional education that strengthens cybersecurity and technology operations within tribal governments and enterprises. It invests in the people responsible for protecting tribal infrastructure and advancing cybersecurity maturity.

### 2. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligibility is limited to employees of Federally recognized tribal governments or tribal enterprises wholly owned by Federally recognized tribal governments that are members of Tribal-ISAC. Applicants must be listed on the official roster of a Tribal-ISAC member organization in good standing and work in roles related to cybersecurity, IT, risk management, or technology leadership where the funded activity will benefit their tribal organization.

Not eligible: Members of the Tribal Share Board of Directors, Tribal-ISAC Steering Committee members, and Tribal-ISAC staff.

### 3. What types of activities are eligible?

Eligible activities include professional cybersecurity certifications, technology leadership certifications, structured professional training programs, certification exam fees, and conference registration. Travel expenses are eligible only when directly related to an approved in-person certification, training, or conference.

### 4. What travel expenses are covered?

Travel expenses are limited to economy airfare and standard lodging when directly related to an approved activity.

### 5. How much funding can I receive?

The maximum award per recipient is \$5,000. Only one award per individual is permitted per calendar year.

### 6. Is funding provided in advance?

No. The Scholarship Program operates on a reimbursement basis. Recipients are reimbursed after completion of the approved activity, submission of required documentation, and proof of payment. Reimbursements will not exceed the approved award amount or actual documented expenses, whichever is less.

### 7. When must reimbursement documentation be submitted?

Reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days of completing the approved activity.



#### 8. Does my employer need to contribute funding?

Employer contribution is not required, but it may be considered during review as part of overall resource stewardship. Applicants must provide a brief statement of supervisor support confirming awareness of the application.

#### 9. How are applications evaluated?

Applications are evaluated competitively by the Tribal-ISAC Steering Committee using an established scoring rubric. Reviewers consider alignment to the applicant's role, organizational impact, leadership development, feasibility and readiness, and cost effectiveness. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

#### 10. Does applying guarantee funding?

No. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Awards are competitive, discretionary, subject to available funding, and all funding decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

#### 11. Can conference attendance qualify?

Yes, if the primary purpose of attendance is professional education aligned with Tribal-ISAC's mission. Conferences must demonstrate substantial educational content relevant to cybersecurity, technology governance, risk management, IT leadership, or related areas impacting Tribal Nations. Events primarily focused on vendor marketing, entertainment, or social networking are not eligible.

#### 12. What are recipient responsibilities?

Recipients must provide proof of attendance or certification completion, submit a brief summary of key takeaways and how the training will benefit their tribal organization, and provide a short testimonial about the value of the educational activity and the Scholarship Program.

#### 13. Does Tribal-ISAC endorse specific certifications or conferences?

No. Approval of funding does not constitute endorsement of any specific vendor, provider, or event.

#### 14. Can I apply for an activity that has already occurred?

No. Expenses incurred prior to formal award approval are not eligible for reimbursement.

#### 15. When will I know if I've been selected?

Applicants will be notified following the Steering Committee review process. Timing depends on the announced application cycle.

#### 16. How can scholarship funds be used?

Scholarship funds must be used solely for approved purposes and eligible expenses in accordance with the [Scholarship Program Policy](#).



## 17. Is Tribal-ISAC responsible for travel or participation?

No. Participation in funded activities is voluntary. Applicants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, participation decisions, and compliance with their organization's policies.

## Questions?

For questions about the Scholarship Program, please contact: [info@tribalisac.org](mailto:info@tribalisac.org).

For full Scholarship Program details, eligibility requirements, and terms, please refer to the [Scholarship Program Policy](#).