

# Oneida Nation

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Oneida, WI 54155

## BC Resolution # 12-08-21-D

### Obligation for the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund, Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Fiscal Recovery Funds Lost Revenue

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation has received federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Fiscal Recovery Funds ("ARPA-FRF-LR") to address matters arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has determined a portion of the funds should be used to assist members through allocation of funds toward higher education requirements and other projects that result in tangible outcomes to meet members express education and career needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation workforce has decreased 25 percent in the wake of the pandemic and approximately 20 percent of potential Oneida post-secondary students within or near the Reservation have a household income below the poverty rate; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee seeks to provide Oneida Nation adult members the ability to improve upon their education and job skills to find employment, locate better paying jobs, or retain their current employment status; and
- WHEREAS,** Oneida Higher Education has reported a demand and a need amongst Oneida Nation members for a program to offer them financial assistance to obtain initial, duplicate or lesser degrees, certificates and licenses, attend seminars, or engage in other professional advancement classes or training to improve their career status; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee seeks to assist Oneida post-secondary students to obtain initial, duplicate or lesser degrees, professional advancement classes or training, and assist those suspended from the Oneida Higher Education Scholarship regain good standing for the scholarship program; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee would obligate funds from ARPA-FRF-LR for qualified Oneida members to obtain initial, duplicate or lesser degrees, participate in professional advancement classes or training, or offer assistance to reinstate students suspended from the Oneida Higher Education Scholarship; and

**WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee intends this program to adhere to the Oneida General Welfare Law, 10 O.C. 1001 *et seq.*

**WHEREAS,** this program would commence January 1, 2022.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Oneida Business Committee obligates four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00) of ARPA-FRF-LR, Education category, for the purpose of supporting the continuing and higher education needs of qualified Oneida members in the wake of COVID-19 public health emergency and its impact on the economy and job market.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the program shall be called the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund and shall commence on January 1, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Oneida members must be 18 year of age or older to qualify for the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund and demonstrate a need for the assistance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** qualifying Oneida members may use the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund for their initial degree of any level, duplicate or lesser degrees, professional development and training through seminars, certifications and licenses, or other professional advancement classes or training. The education options must be offered through an accredited institution or professionally affiliated association. Qualifying Oneida members are limited to a maximum of two (2) seminars, certificates, licenses or non-degree related classes per year. The award may include course materials or fees required for the training or class not included in the cost of the program.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Oneida students qualifying for both the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund and the Oneida Higher Education Scholarship cannot receive funding from both programs for the same activity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** payments for the degree programs, seminars, certifications, licenses, or classes, all indirect costs, and equipment through the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Tuition, books, and specific course fees are paid directly to the schools, colleges, universities, or vendors. Indirect costs (Room & Board, Personal, Transportation) and required equipment costs will be sent to the student.
  - a) Both student and college/institution will receive copies of student's award letter.
  - b) If a student withdraws early from the program, Oneida will request reimbursements are made to the Oneida Nation and not the student.
- 2) A student may be entitled to a reimbursement if the student pays required course fees.
  - a) The student must submit a valid receipt documenting the payment when requesting reimbursement. Reimbursements will not be granted without a receipt.
  - b) Oneida Higher Education will require similar documentation directly from the college or institution.
- 3) A student may be entitled to reimbursement if the student paid for duplicate or lesser degrees, professional development and training through seminars, certifications and licenses, or other professional advancement classes or training between August 1, 2021 and the effective date of this resolution.
  - a) The student must submit a valid receipt documenting the payment when requesting reimbursement. Reimbursements will not be granted without a receipt.

- b) Oneida Higher Education will require similar documentation directly from the college or institution.
- c) The student must have paid for the education program with personal funds, not funds received from a third party for this purpose. "Third party" shall mean Oneida Nation, employer, grant, or scholarship. "Personal funds" may include loan taken from a financial institution for the purpose of paying for the program's costs during the above period.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Oneida Higher Education may use funds obligated for the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund herein for operation and personnel costs associated with the administration of the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund. Oneida Higher Education may not exceed one hundred fifty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$157,500.00) for Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund operation and personnel costs in any fiscal year or the pro rata amount for any partial fiscal year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Oneida Higher Education shall develop operating procedures for the qualifications, distribution, and management of the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund and amend those procedures as necessary over the term of the program to adhere to the intent of the Oneida Business Committee as expressed herein or thereafter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund is provided in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare Law, 10 O.C. 1001 *et seq.*

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the Oneida Business Committee approves the Oneida Nation Student Relief Fund program, with Jacqueline Smith, Area Manager/Education & Training, assigned as the Project Owner.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 7 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 members for, 0 members against, and 0 members not voting\*; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
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Lisa Liggins, Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

\*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."

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<sup>i</sup> ARPA FRF LR as utilized in this resolution refers to Tribal Contribution Savings