

25 CFR Part 83 Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe

83.7 Mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment

The mandatory criteria are:

- (a) The petitioner has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900.
- (b) A predominant portion of the petitioning group comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until the present.
- (c) The petitioner has maintained political influence or authority over its members as an autonomous entity from historical times until the present.
- (d) A copy of the group's present governing document including its membership criteria. In the absence of a written document, the petitioner must provide a statement describing in full its membership criteria and current governing procedures.
- (e) The petitioner's membership consists of individuals who descend from a historical Indian tribe or from historical Indian tribes which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity.
- (f) The membership of the petitioning group is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged North American Indian tribe.
- (g) Neither the petitioner nor its members are the subject of congressional legislation that has expressly terminated or forbidden the Federal relationship.

The seven criteria are presented here in abbreviated form. For the complete text of each criterion, please refer to 25 CFR Part 83.