

25 CFR Part 83 - *Procedures for Federal Acknowledgment of Indian Tribes*

83.11 Criteria for Federal Acknowledgment

The mandatory criteria are:

- (a) ***Indian entity identification:*** The petitioner demonstrates that it has been identified as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since 1900 [evaluated under Phase II].
- (b) ***Community:*** The petitioner demonstrates that it comprises a distinct community and existed as a community from 1900 until the present [evaluated under Phase II].
- (c) ***Political influence or authority:*** The petitioner demonstrates that it has maintained political influence or authority over its members as an autonomous entity from 1900 until the present [evaluated under Phase II].
- (d) ***Governing document:*** The petitioner provides 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 [evaluated under Phase I].
- (e) ***Descent:*** The petitioner demonstrates that its 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 [evaluated under Phase I].
- (f) ***Unique membership:*** The petitioner demonstrates that the membership of the petitioning group is composed principally of persons who are not members of any acknowledged North American Indian tribe [evaluated under Phase I].
- (g) ***Congressional termination:*** The Department demonstrates that neither the petitioner nor its members are the subject of congressional legislation that has expressly terminated or forbidden the Federal relationship [evaluated under Phase I].