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(Neb.)-State Lawmakers Ease Eligibility For Tribal Grants

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/15/2013 07:50 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska lawmakers have voted to expand eligibility on a grant program so that more Native American tribes might benefit.

Sen. Colby Coash of Lincoln said Tuesday that the measure would allow more tribes to make use of the money, which has already been approved. Lawmakers set aside \$25,000 in 2009, but only \$3,000 has been spent.

The money was intended for health care, law enforcement and economic development on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The reservation bans alcohol but sits next to Whiteclay, a tiny Nebraska town that sells of millions of cans of beer.

The measure would let nonprofit groups apply, as well as cities within 60 miles of a reservation. Coash says groups are interested in educational training for Native youths.

The budget bill is LB199.