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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Alexis Lindquist

This week, Governor Gavin Newsome issued a statewide mandate requiring the use of face coverings in public to slow the spread of COVID-19. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued [guidance](#) for the use of face coverings. The new order requires masks inside most public places and while outdoors in public spaces when physical distancing of six feet is not feasible.

Resources

PPE is clothing such as masks, gloves, and devices such as respirators and safety goggles, worn to protect against hazardous environments. *Tribes can request PPE through their established local processes including any county, city, and state emergency operation centers.* A tribe may request “Strategic National Stockpile,” or SNS, by contacting their [IHS Emergency Management Point of Contact](#) to make a request for PPE for healthcare purposes after the tribe has exhausted all other supplies. If a tribe has a request for PPE that is not healthcare related, such as a request to support law enforcement, it must contact its [FEMA Regional Tribal Liaison](#).

- [Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Emergency Situations \(HEROES\) Act](#)
 - Provides \$500 million in funding for direct health and telehealth services, including to purchase supplies and PPE.
- [The CARES Act](#) provides Indian Tribes and the IHS with \$15 million in emergency supplemental funding through the Public Health and Social Service Emergency Fund to purchase PPE and other medical supplies. Additionally, the CARES Act provides the IHS with over \$1 billion in flexible emergency supplemental funding that can be used for procurement of PPE and other supplies.

CARES Act Update

The Treasury had reported a delay in distributing the second round of CARES Act funding. Fifty-seven tribes did not submit information and necessary data to qualify for the final distribution of the CARES Act funding, and 336 tribes that needed to fix the information that was submitted. The Treasury’s extended deadline for submittal has passed and the final 40% distribution of funds is expected to be dispersed this month. If tribes need assistance with distribution payments, they should contact CILS.

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation [lawsuit](#) has been dismissed and as of this writing, no appeal has been filed. The CARES Act funding will be released to the tribes except for:

1. The amount to cover a distribution to the Alaskan Native Corporation claim should they win on the challenge to their right to receive funding the CARES Act; and
2. \$7.65 million to cover the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation claim that they were underfunded if the Tribe appeals and wins said appeal.

The National Indian Health Board has issued correspondence to the U.S. Senate Majority and Minority leaders outlining requests for the next pandemic relief package regarding the outlined provisions in HEROES. You can read the letter [here](#).

Spending Guidelines on the CARES Act:

Once received, tribes may use CARES Act relief funds to cover:

- Only those costs which “are necessary expenditures incurred due to the [Coronavirus] public health emergency;”
- Only those costs which the Tribe incurs between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020;
- The funds cannot cover costs that were already accounted for in the Tribe’s most recently approved budget as of March 27, 2020.

If the US Treasury determines that a Tribal government has misused funds, the funds used in violation of the above requirements “shall be booked as a debt” of the Tribe and “owed to the Federal Government.”

How Can CILS Help?

- 1) Ensuring your tribe will be able to meet reporting requirements;
- 2) Assisting the tribe in assessing what its COVID-19 related costs and needs are; and/or
- 3) Providing guidance on what is and is not allowable expenditures.

All CILS offices are currently accepting calls and providing legal assistance to tribes and individual Native Americans.

For assistance contact the CILS office closest to your tribal location at:

Escondido Office
(760) 746-8941

Bishop Office
(760) 873-3581

Eureka Office
(707) 443-8397

Sacramento Office
(916) 978-0960

EMERGENCY BANS ON EVICTIONS

Governor Newsom has issued an [order](#) that all evictions are halted through July 28, 2020. If a landlord is attempting to evict a tenant for not paying rent, that tenant should contact CILS.

- o If a tenant is unable to pay rent, they should:
 - Notify the landlord in writing before the rent is due.
 - State reasons related to COVID-19, which are outlined in the order linked above.
 - Pay what they can.
 - Retain verifiable documentation, such as termination notices, statements, medical bills, etc.

The federal ban on evictions and foreclosures in public housing was lifted at the end of May although the government-backed mortgage buyers Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae agreed to do the same until at least June 30, 2020.

- o If a renter is facing financial issues due to COVID-19, [Fannie Mae](#) and [Freddie Mac](#) offer a Renters Resource Finder. You can enter an address to see which, if any, assistance might be available. This includes:
 - Access to HUD-approved housing counselors.
 - Assistance with FEMA and insurance claims after a natural disaster.
 - Federal and state housing assistance information.
 - Guidance on unemployment benefits, nutrition assistance and a variety of other programs.
 - Non-legal support in communicating with landlords.

TRIBAL COVID-19 FUNDING RESOURCES

Don't forget...

FCC – COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Provides eligible health care programs support in purchasing telecommunications, information services, and connected devices necessary to provide telehealth services to patients in response to COVID-19. More information can be found at: <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>.

There is currently no deadline.

EPA – State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program. Noncompetitive. Grant is to support activities and projects to improve the health and welfare of low income, minority, tribal, and indigenous communities. EPA will give special consideration to applications addressing the impacts of COVID-19 in communities with environmental justice concerns. Grant information can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program#tab-2>
DEADLINE June 30, 2020.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP). Grant will support recipients who seek to engage high-risk populations and provide substance use disorder/opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services. For more information see:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=324246>
DEADLINE July 13, 2020.

USDA – The CARES Act Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. Focuses on helping rural communities use telecommunications to connect teachers and medical service providers. For more information see:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>.
DEADLINE July 13, 2020.

Administration for Community Living (ACL) – The CARES Act: Support Older Adults with People of Disabilities in the Community During COVID-19 Emergency. Grant will fund home-delivered meals, care services in the home, respite care and other support to families and caregivers, and more. For more information:

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/supporting-community-living-during-covid-19-cares-act-and-civil>.
 There is no deadline.

How Can CILS Help?

CILS staff can discuss whether the tribe is eligible for a grant and in preparing documentation.

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