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ANCs Ruled Eligible for CARES Act Money

The ongoing dispute as to whether Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) are eligible for CARES Act money has come to an end. On Friday June 26, 2020, the [United States District Court held](#) that ANCs *are* “Indian Tribes,” and that their boards of directors are “Tribal Governments” for the purposes of the CARES Act and are accordingly eligible to receive Title V funds. The treasury had set aside funds for ANCs, pending litigation, but had otherwise completed making payments to tribes.

CARES Act - Guidance on Eligible Fund Disbursements Now Available

The new allocation formula for Tribal Government disbursements has been updated, and you can read it [here](#). One of the key takeaways from the new allocation formula is that a tribe cannot, or is discouraged to, issue payments to members without some application and showing of need. Tribal governments have discretion to determine how to tailor assistance programs they establish in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, however, *“a per capita payment to residents of a particular jurisdiction without an assessment of individual need would not be an appropriate use of payments from the fund.”*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury released updated [Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions](#). The majority of the updates are found on page 8 and page 9. These FAQs supplement the [Treasury’s Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance](#) for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, which was issued on April 22, 2020. The U.S. Treasury’s [CARES Act Webpage](#) is a great source for all updates!

Child Care Services for Foster Families

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) announced an Executive Order extending Emergency Child Care Bridge Program voucher services for 60 days, or August 4, 2020. Initially, this was done in an effort to provide expanded access to childcare for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Bridge Program voucher will be terminated when the family secures a long-term childcare subsidy. Read the announcement [here](#).

Protective Measures Home-Based Care

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has issued a notice which provides guidance on protective measures to prevent and minimize the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 for caregivers and children/youth in out-of-home placements. The notice also asks counties to ensure that caregivers are aware of the county specific orders and provide information or refer the caregiver for resources or support needed for complying to help maintain the health and safety of the children in care and themselves. The following information is provided in the notice, which you can read [here](#):

- 1) Current data regarding children under the age of 18 and COVID-19;
- 2) Public health definitions and recommendations regarding isolation and quarantine;
- 3) Current guidance for placing children in isolation, and;
- 4) Emergency plan recommendations for facilities and home-based family settings.

Resource Family Approval – In-Person Requirements Resume

CDSS is advising that all county child welfare agencies and juvenile probation departments to resume in-person requirements related to complaint investigation within the Resource Family Approval (RFA). This new order, issued from Governor Newsom, will be in place as of July 1, 2020. The new advisement will essentially revert the previous announced flexibilities, such as the use of videoconferencing, to pre-COVID-19 protocols. Read the order [here](#).

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?

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

CARES Act Distribution -

- 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.

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

TRIBAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

For updates on COVID-19 and Resources for Tribal Communities see the following links:

State of California:

A one-stop page collecting information related to COVID-19 can be located at:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/>

CDSS Tribal Affairs: COVID-19 resources for California tribal communities:

<https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/tribal-affairs/tribal-affairs-covid-19>.

Federal Resources:

A one-stop page for Federal COVID-19 information:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>.

Indian Health Service:

<https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>

Health and Human Services:

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronaviruses/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control: Providing information on how to protect yourself and what to do if you are sick. Also contains the most update-to-date information on the virus and medical news related to the virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019->

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response:

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/Pages/default.aspx>

Bureau of Indian Affairs: Includes resources for tribal governments when responding to COVID-19:

<https://www.bia.gov/coronavirus>

Treasury: For more information on CARES Act funding and distributions.

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-local-governments>

Tribal Specific Webpages with Daily Updates

NCAI: <http://www.ncai.org/covid-19>

TPLI: <https://www.home.tlpi.org/covid-19>

NIWRC: <https://www.niwrc.org/news/resources-response-coronavirus-covid-19>

NICWA: <https://www.nicwa.org/coronavirus/>

NIHB: <https://www.nihb.org/covid-19/>

Turtletalk: <https://turtletalk.blog/covid-19-tribal-documents/> and <https://turtletalk.blog/tag/covid-19/>

NAFOA: https://nafoa.org/coronavirus?utm_source=Nafoa+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=09967d5081-newsletter-33020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dcdb537bb2-09967d5081-58514507