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CARES Act Funding – First Distribution

On May 5, 2020, the Department of Treasury released the formula for distributing the \$8 billion from the CARES Act for tribal governments. The CARES Act provides that the tribal allocation would be distributed in a manner determined by Treasury which is “based on increased expenditures of each such Tribal government (or tribally-owned entity of such Tribal government) relative to aggregate expenditures in fiscal year 2019 by the Tribal government (or tribally-owned entity).”

The Treasury determined that a reasonable allocation of the \$8 billion dollars would be to have 60% or \$4.8 billion distributed base on tribal populations. The calculation for this first set of funds followed the following steps:

Step 1: Using information from Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG), the Treasury calculated a pro-rata payment for each tribal government based on single-race then multi-race data for each tribe.

Step 2: Tribal governments that would receive less than \$100,000.00 (one-hundred thousand dollars) would be allocated this minimum amount.

Step 3: For tribal governments who would receive more than \$100,000.00, the Treasury would make a pro-rata reduction for the amounts above the minimum so the total all tribes amount does not exceed \$4.8 billion.

(<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Tribal-Allocation-Methodology.pdf>).

Second Distribution – Calculations and Dispersal Pending

On May 18, 2020, the Treasury participated in a listening session with tribal leaders hosted by NAFOA and NCAI regarding the dispersal of the remaining 40% or \$3.2 billion of CARES Act funding for tribal governments. During the call, Treasury informed tribes of a supplement request for information for the second distribution. This request asked tribes to provide employment information and expenditure information related to total expenses for the calendar year 2019 excluding capital outlays and debt service costs. (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Tribal-Employment-and-Expenditure-Submission-Instructions.pdf>). The initial deadline for information was May 26, 2020 but was extended to May 29.

Concerns with Second Distributions

On the May 18 call with Treasury, many tribes expressed concerns that in the second round of distribution, the Treasury would ignore tribal enterprise expenses. Additionally, NCAI submitted a letter to Treasury noting excluding tribal enterprises from the calculation would disadvantage many tribes, especially considering that many tribal governments rely on the revenue from tribal enterprises to fund tribal governments. (At time of publishing, letters were not up on NCAI’s page. Check this link future upload: <http://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/administrative/letters-sent-to-administration>). Hopefully, Treasury will acknowledge and create a distribution calculation that takes into consideration tribal governmental expenditures relying on tribal enterprises. Lastly, please check the updated Treasury FAQ page section at: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>. As always, feel free to reach out to CILS with any questions.

Contact from Treasury

Please be advised that Treasury may be reaching out to tribal governments regarding the submissions of supplemental data. Given all the scams out there, tribal governments should only respond to emails from CARES-STATES@treasury.gov or tribal.consult@treasury.gov.

TRIBAL COVID-19 FUNDING RESOURCES

*****NEW DEADLINE*** CDC – Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response.** Noncompetitive. Grant is meant to assist tribes with the following public health activities and/or to reimburse costs incurred from January 20, 2020 onward: Emergency operations and coordination; health information technology; surveillance and epidemiology; laboratory capacity; communications; countermeasures and mitigation; recovery activities; other preparedness and response activities to COVID-19. Grant information can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/cooperative-agreements/tribalcovid-ot20-2004.html>.

DEADLINE June 3, 2020.

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.

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/coronavirus/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_dccb537bb2-09967d5081-58514507