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Reminder Coronavirus Relief Fund Reporting for March 1 – June 30, 2020 due SEPTEMBER 21!

Tribes are required to submit their “costs incurred” from March 1 to June 30 through GrantSolutions.

Also, in order to access the GrantSolutions portal, tribes must identify three (3) individuals: two (2) designees (preparers) to input quarterly data, and one (1) official authorized to certify the data is true.

If you need assistance, contact CILS!

Treasury Releases **NEW Guidance and FAQ on CRF**

On September 2, the U.S. Department of Treasury released new Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments and FAQs.

CRF Guidance Updates

The changes (<https://tinyurl.com/y2ojpe6m>) begin at page 5 and add two sections: Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Payroll and Benefits of Public Employees This section highlights the various types of support for public employees varying from those who are substantially dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 health impacts to those not substantially dedicated. For substantially dedicated employees, the employer may use CRF to cover the full amount of payroll and benefit expenses.

Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Administrative Costs

In this section, the Guidance discusses different types of administrative costs associated with CRF and highlights that “Recipients may not apply their indirect costs rates to payments received from the Fund.”

CRF FAQ Updates

The updated FAQ includes (1) Expenditures regarding safe reopening of schools; (2) Expenditures regarding upgrade to critical public health infrastructure; (3) Clarification on most recently approved budgets; and (4) Clarification on application of NEPA. The updated FAQs can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2oktulz>.

Executive Orders and State of Emergency Issued on September 3, 2020

Executive Order N-78-20 was signed on September 3 by Governor Newsom to extend consumer protections against price gouging due to COVID-19 through March 4, 2021. The protections prohibit sellers from increasing the prices on food, consumer goods, medical or emergency supplies, and certain other items by more than 10 percent (10%). The Executive Order can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ksf5kj>.

A Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the “Extreme Heat Event” in California was also signed on September 3 by Governor Newsom. The Proclamation can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4hzeb97>.

Reopening California – “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”

On August 28, the Governor’s Office released the “Blueprint for a Safer Economy,” the new plan for reopening California. The Blueprint will require: (1) at least 21 days to expand activities beyond the initial tier to ensure limiting the spread of the virus; (2) mandatory metrics to determine who widespread the disease is in each county; (3) a uniform state framework with four categories; (4) a more nuanced way; (5) a new process for tightening up if conditions get worse. The Blueprint is here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>.

Senate Bill (SB) 912 Pending Signature from Governor

SB 912 – California Fostering Connections to Success Act - passed the Senate and Assembly late August and is currently pending approval from Governor Newsom. If signed, SB 912 would allow non-minor dependents who turned 21 years of age between March 4, 2020 and June 30, 2021 to continue receiving extended foster care support through June 30, 2021. SB 912 can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3jan3pt>.

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://tinyurl.com/y3cjsopy>.

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://tinyurl.com/rro9sx>.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response:
<https://tinyurl.com/yyos6b28>.

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://tinyurl.com/qsnh97g>.

Tribal Specific Webpages with Daily Updates

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI): <http://www.ncai.org/covid-19>.

Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TPLI):
<https://www.home.tlpi.org/covid-19>.

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) :
<https://tinyurl.com/yyfdhxw2>.

National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA): <https://www.nicwa.org/coronavirus/>

National Indian Health Board (NIHB):
<https://www.nihb.org/covid-19/>

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

Native American Financial Officers' Association (NAFOA): <https://tinyurl.com/yyavoevy>.