



# THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

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## For Immediate Release

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council understands the economic impact that COVID-19 has had on our members and their families. The Tribal Council is pleased to announce its intention to provide critical support to our members during this health emergency.

On July 23, 2020, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council approved the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah 2020 Coronavirus Disaster Relief Assistance Program in order to provide assistance to adult Tribal members of up to \$4,000 in qualifying COVID-19 expenses. The Tribe is also taking measures to place these payments in the best position possible for tax free treatment under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014 (the "GWE"). Please keep in mind, however, that this is not a "per capita" payment. All payments must be used for necessary COVID-19 expenses that meet the federal CARES Act requirements.

Under the federal CARES Act, the Tribe may only use federal Coronavirus Relief Funds ("CRF funds") for (1) necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19; (2) that were not accounted for in the most recent Tribal budget as of March 27, 2020; and (3) that are incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. The survey that the Tribe recently conducted was intended to provide an individual needs assessment to help in meeting these requirements. We have also developed application and certification documents that will need to be completed to participate in this Program. Keep in mind, however, that guidance under the CARES Act and the GWE is very limited at this time. Thus, as new guidance is issued we may have to make changes to the Program. It is also important for you to keep all receipts or other proof of COVID-19 expenses in case it is needed for compliance with the CARES Act or to secure favorable tax treatment under the GWE.

This Program will be made available to all adult Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah tribal members enrolled as of October 31, 2020, 18 years of age and older, who meet program guidelines, incur qualifying COVID-19 expenses from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, and complete an individual application for assistance. Under the program, eligible members will receive reimbursement for necessary expenses due to COVID-19. For those of you who have not suffered a loss of income, this may include things like additional utility or food costs as a result of stay at home orders, increased cost of food and supplies during the pandemic, or the cost of equipment or internet service to telecommute or help children attend school remotely. The assistance is not for the routine amounts normally incurred by a household, but just those added expenses due to COVID-19. Those who have lost income due to COVID-19, on the other hand, such as layoff, reduction in hours or furlough may need assistance to pay even routine costs such as rent, mortgage or utilities to maintain critical services during the pandemic. All Program assistance will be made in accordance with Program guidelines and is intended to help alleviate the reasonable and necessary hardships endured by individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. We have developed individual

applications for assistance to guide you through key expenses that the Tribe is aware that members are incurring. But if you have questions we are here to help.

The distributions must be used between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 for increased costs or loss of income that are directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds may not be used to cover costs that are reimbursed through other programs, and any excess funds must be returned to the Tribe.

To participate in this program, you must complete a program application. Applicants must be 18 years or older at the time of submitting their application. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, only on-line applications will be accepted. The on-line application is located on the Tribe's website at <https://www.utahpaiutes.org/>. If you, your family member, or someone you know do not have access to a smartphone or computer, please contact a member of our Family Services Team and one of our team members will be more than happy to assist you. Applications for the General Welfare Program must be completed by October 31, 2020. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Payments will only be processed via ACH (direct deposit) and only complete applications will be considered.

\*If you have any questions please contact the Tribal Secretary at 435-586-1112.