

Coronavirus Relief Fund Information for Tribes

The following information is from the Supplemental Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Important: The Tribal Government must keep records sufficient to demonstrate that the funds have been used in accordance with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act.

ALL USES OF CARES ACT FUNDING MUST BE DIRECTLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY. DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED.

CARES Act Funds cannot be used to cover expenditures / expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program.

- A Tribe can use CARES Act Funds for all direct COVID-19 tasks including testing, contact tracing, quarantine, enforcement of tribal decrees related to COVID-19, PPE, cleaning supplies, items to ensure effective social distancing (helping students attend classes online, helping people work remotely, helping vulnerable people with tasks to limit contact, etc.) and projects that reduce the chance of COVID-19 infections (improving water, sewer, sanitation, laundry, etc.).
- A Tribe can use CARES Act Funds to pay the salary / benefits tribal government employees only if those employees work duties are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- A Tribe can use CARES Act Funds to prevent eviction and assist in preventing homelessness as long as it is a necessary expense incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and documentation is provided. Assistance could include payment of overdue rent or mortgage payments to avoid eviction or foreclosure as long as the reason that help is needed is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and documentation is provided.
- A Tribe can use CARES Act Funds to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families **only if they are directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.** Such assistance could include financial costs for funerals and other emergency individual needs.

All assistance should be structured in a manner to ensure as much as possible, within the realm of what is administratively feasible, that such assistance is necessary and is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency