

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE – TRIBAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXTENSION

Tribal governments have until December 31, 2021 to utilize their allocations of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). For more information on the CRF, see [HERE](#).

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (BIA EM)

The BIA EM is responsible for policy development and program management of Bureau activities concerning disaster preparedness, planning, response and recovery, and continuity of operations; and represents the Bureau in coordinating interagency emergency management activities related to Tribal affairs. For more information, see [HERE](#).

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DHSEM)

DHSEM is responsible for coordinating requests for Personal Protective Equipment and other resources. If you have questions, please contact the State Emergency Operations Center Tribal Liaison at (505) 476-9624, or at DHSEM.TribalLiaison@state.nm.us. For more information, visit the [DHSEM website](#).

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Based on the nationwide emergency declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020, Tribal governments have the option to request funds from FEMA's Public Assistance Program as either a Recipient or Sub recipient. For more information, see FEMA's Tribal fact sheet [HERE](#). The Administration recently announced a 100% federal cost share, allowing FEMA to pay 100% federal funding for the costs of activities that have previously been determined eligible, from the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021. For an update from FEMA on this announcement, see [HERE](#). For Senator Heinrich's statement on this announcement, see [HERE](#).

In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides 100 percent financial assistance to those who have lost a loved one in result of the COVID-19 pandemic through FEMA. For a fact sheet on the FEMA funeral assistance, see [HERE](#).

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 allocates the CDC \$210 million to transfer to the Indian Health Service. Funds will be used for activities to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines. For more information and Tribal resources from the CDC, see [HERE](#).

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

IHS will receive \$1 billion through The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. \$210 million will be allocated to IHS facilities to ensure they have the resources needed for vaccine distribution and administration (transferred from CDC). More information on this allocation is available in letter to tribal leaders, [HERE](#). \$790 million will support testing, contact tracing, and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts through FY 2022. More information is available [HERE](#). These funds may also be used for renting, leasing, purchasing, construction, and other projects. For updated information, funding announcements, and frequently asked questions about the IHS response to the pandemic, see their COVID-19 website [HERE](#).

IHS NATIONAL SUPPLY SERVICE CENTER (NSSC)

NSSC provides support for supplies to federal, Tribal, and urban Indian Health care facilities. The NSSC coordinates and manages the purchase and distribution of pharmaceuticals, medical, and other health care related supply items. Visit [HERE](#) for local contacts.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 sets aside \$125 million in additional funding for Tribes to address mental health needs of Native American communities in response to COVID-19. For a list of recipients, see [HERE](#). For more information on SAMHSA COVID-19 response, see [HERE](#).

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) received an allocation of funding to carry out a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program, with a \$19 million Tribal set-aside. This program will assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion

of household income for drinking water and wastewater services, by providing funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce rates. ACF is encouraged to utilize existing funding methods and programs. For information on the Tribal set-aside as it becomes available, see [HERE](#).

OLDER AMERICANS ACT TRIBAL NUTRITION

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides an additional \$7 million for delivery of nutrition services to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian elders. For more information on the Tribal allocations, see [HERE](#). For general information on The Administration for Community Living's COVID-19 response, see [HERE](#).

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP) – TREASURY

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 designates \$800 million for Indian Tribes or the tribally designated housing entity of an Indian Tribe and Department of Hawaiian Homelands, to be allocated within 30 days and to provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible households. An “eligible household” is defined as a renter household that has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median and in which at least one or more individuals living in the household: qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19; and can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Treasury accepted payment information from Tribal governments and will begin promptly disbursing funding to eligible grantees as soon as a grantee's enrollment is complete. For more information and FAQs, see [HERE](#). For an explanation of the data and methodology for allocations under this program, see [HERE](#). For a summary on payments to Tribal communities, see [HERE](#).

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) will receive a \$409.4 million transfer from the Department of Education to assist in COVID-19 mitigation and distance learning costs. 60 percent of this allocation is reserved for BIE funded K-12 schools. The remaining 40 percent will be directed to Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities. For updated information about the transfer of this fund and the agreement between Department of Education and BIE, see [HERE](#).

HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF)

The most recent relief includes an additional \$1.7 billion through the Higher Education Relief Fund for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions. For up to date information on the HEERF II and information on the opening of this program, see [HERE](#).

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP): GUIDANCE ON ACCESSING CAPITAL FOR MINORITY BUSINESS CONCERNS

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has released a guide detailing information on the PPP for minority business concerns. The guide is available [HERE](#). More information on PPP and additional SBA programs is available [HERE](#).

EMERGENCY CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (ECIP)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides \$9 billion for an ECIP, administered by the Department of Treasury. This program will provide low-cost capital investments to minority depository institutions (MDIs) and community development financial institutions (CDFIs). More information, application instructions, and materials are available on the ECIP website, [HERE](#).

CDFI FUND

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 allocates \$3 billion to the CDFI Fund to provide grants and financial assistance to CDFIs who serve consumers, nonprofits, and small businesses.

The first tranche of this funding (\$1.25 billion) is available until September 30, 2021 with a \$25 million set-aside for Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Communities. \$1.2 billion of the second tranche of funding is reserved for financial and technical assistance to recipients that are minority-lending institutions, a new category of CDFIs that predominantly serve minority communities. This second tranche is available until expended. For more information on the CDFI Fund, see [HERE](#).

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE – NOAA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in consultation with Tribes, will develop an application and distribution process for \$30 million to eligible impacted Tribal fisheries. The distribution will take into account, economic, subsistence, and ceremonial impacts to Tribes. For more information as it becomes available, see [HERE](#).

TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 creates a \$1 billion fund for direct support to Tribal communities, including Tribal Colleges and Universities, for access to broadband funding. Projects funded under this program can include broadband service/access, infrastructure projects, remote learning, telework, and digital inclusion. The Department of Commerce will be awarding these grants with a one-year deadline. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration just concluded Tribal

Consultations for input on the implementation of this fund. More information on the program and presentation slides from the consultation are available [HERE](#).

CONNECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 designates \$285 million to provide grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges, and other Minority Serving Institutions for the purchase of broadband service or eligible equipment or to hire and train IT personnel. Awards may also be granted to anchor communities within 15 miles of a qualifying institution, with some flexibilities granted for maximum distance around TCUs.

Additionally, this provision creates an Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives within the [National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\)](#). Additional information is forthcoming.

FCC COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

This program received an additional \$250 million from The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for health care providers to deliver connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides immediate support to eligible health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by fully funding their telecommunications service. For more information, see [HERE](#).

*** The above information is changing rapidly and is not final. This guide will be updated as the agencies release further details.*