



Snoqualmie Tribal Members,

3/15/2020

The Snoqualmie Tribal Council takes the current pandemic very seriously, as many in our Tribal community live in what is widely considered to be the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States.

The Governor of the State of Washington issued a proclamation declaring a State of Emergency on February 29, 2020 in response to new reported cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Furthermore, the Governor of the State of Washington issued a proclamation on March 11, 2020 limiting public events and large gathers in King County and on March 13, 2020 the Governor of the State of Washington closed private and public K-12 schools State-wide through late April. Many other states have followed suit.

The Snoqualmie Tribal Council recognizes that the effects of COVID-19 continue to adversely impact the life and health of Snoqualmie Tribal Members and their families regardless of where they live. The Snoqualmie Tribal Council passed a resolution on March 11, 2020 declaring a Tribal State of Emergency.

Current guidance from Federal and State health officials direct that people purchase necessary medical items and to prepare to work/ attend school from home in order to best be prepared for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While there are no known positive cases within the Tribal community, the Tribe is taking active steps to ensure that our Tribal Members are supported and protected. The Snoqualmie Tribal Council strives to support Tribal families through the General Welfare Consolidated Assistance Program, which affirms the Tribe's inherent sovereign right to promote the general welfare of the Tribal Membership. Through this program, the Tribal Council aims to ensure that no Snoqualmie Tribal Member is without basic fundamental necessities of life.

At this time the Snoqualmie Tribal Council has approved the release of both the April and May General Welfare Consolidated Assistance benefits. The Snoqualmie Tribal Council's hope is that providing this assistance early Tribal Members can use the funds to plan accordingly for the various needs of their households during this State of Emergency.

**Please be aware:**

- If you receive your benefits by check, you will receive 2 checks: one for April and one for May. The checks will be mailed Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. If you receive direct deposit, the deposit will show in your bank account on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. **The next time you receive this benefit will be May 20<sup>th</sup> for your month of June benefit.** No checks will be held for pick up to limit office foot traffic.
- **If you own your home**, please remember that if you make a double payment on your mortgage anything over the amount owed for that month is a payment towards principal, and it will not count as a payment towards the next month. We suggest you budget accordingly, and continue your payments on the same monthly timeline you are currently utilizing.
- **If you are on direct deposit**, depending on the bank you use, given the benefit dollar amount there may be a longer hold on the funds to clear than normal. This could take up to 5 business days to have full access to funds.



- **As of Monday March 16, the Tribal Administration offices will be closed to the public until April 24 to limit exposure in the office.** During this time the Tribe will remain operational with limited staff working in office as necessary and all remaining staff working remotely during standard business hours Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.
- With the above transition, we are requesting that Tribal Members, if possible, send all requests and applications through email or fax. Mail will continue to be checked periodically throughout the week. For this period of time we will accept scanned copies of receipts instead of originals. No checks will be held for pick up; all live checks will be mailed, if possible we recommend signing up for direct deposits for benefits.

#### Other Benefits to be aware of:

- All Adult enrolled Tribal Members have the ability to access up to \$1,500 per fiscal year of **Emergency Assistance**. The application and list of eligible items can be found on the website or contact [generalresources@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:generalresources@snoqualmietribe.us)
- The Tribe operates 2 **childcare benefits**: The first is a federal grant open to all enrolled Natives who meet income limits and other eligibility requirements. The second is the Tribe's general welfare childcare assistance this program is opened to all service eligible minors under the age of 13, who guardians are working, in school, job searching, or in training. Both programs provide a monthly subsidy to assist with the costs of childcare (licensed facility, in home, or relative care are all available). The application for both can be found on the website or contact [childcare@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:childcare@snoqualmietribe.us)
- All service eligible minor Snoqualmie children are eligible for the Tribe's **K-12 Education benefit**. If your school has been affected by a closure and the school has issued take paper homework that requires supplies to be purchased this can be done using the K-12 application up to \$15,000 per academic year per eligible student. If the school is moving to a virtual classroom that requires use of technology and software including access to Microsoft or other software, the internet, or access to technology such as a computer or printer funding up to \$1,500 per eligible student can be approved, this funding is deducted from the student's overall K-12 benefit. All requests for school materials/supplies and technology/software will require supporting documentation be shown of a school closure and that the school is requiring the student to complete tasks from home that require these resources. Questions can be sent to [education@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:education@snoqualmietribe.us)
- The Tribe operates a HUD grant and currently runs an **Affordable Housing Assistance** program eligible applicants can receive up to 30% of the affordable rent as determined by HUD based on the applicant household's monthly adjusted gross income. Payments are issued monthly directly to the landlord. Please contact [housing@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:housing@snoqualmietribe.us) for additional information.
- The Tribe's **Contract Health Services** program is available to provide assistance with payments for approved medically necessary services to eligible adult Tribal Members and service eligible minor



children. Applications can be found on the website under Health & Wellness or contact [CHS@snoqualmientribe.us](mailto:CHS@snoqualmientribe.us) with questions.

**Below are resource links for more information regarding the current pandemic:**

- CDC Main Page for Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>
- Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus Outbreak Page: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus>
- King County Coronavirus Page: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx>

If you have any questions about your Consolidate Assistance Benefit, please contact [generalresources@snoqualmientribe.us](mailto:generalresources@snoqualmientribe.us).

We hope everyone remains safe and healthy during this pandemic. Please continue to check in with your elders, and help anyone you know of who may be in need of extra support at this time.

Sincerely,  
Snoqualmie Tribal Council