

**THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES
OF THE DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION**

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June 15, 2020

Shoshone Paiute Tribal Membership,

Official notification, dated June 3, 2020, was provided to the Membership regarding funds the US Treasury provided to Shoshone Paiute Tribes as its allocation under the CARES Act. Those funds were provided directly to the Tribes for use specifically by the Tribal Government. With the purpose of maintaining governmental functions throughout the pandemic, as well as, to mitigate, prevent and/or respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

It has come to all of our attention that various tribes have provided per capita payments to their membership during this pandemic. However, the Shoshone Paiute Tribes cannot speak as to how other tribes are covering those expenses, legally; because, according to CARES Act guidelines, to which the Tribes are legally bound, a "per capita" payment is prohibited as the money received was not a settlement payment. Further, the Federal Government has not yet fully identified all penalties and consequences for a tribe should a per capita payment be distributed. However, we have been advised by our tribal legal counsel, our auditors and the National Congress of American Indians, that *if* the Tribes were to make such a distribution with CARES Act funds, the Tribes risk having to pay those funds and/or the full amount of CARES Act funds back to the US Treasury. Additionally, there is even the possibility of being restricted when it comes to receiving future funds/grants from the Federal Government. For these reasons, we feel that we cannot take the risk of putting our funding, our future and our People in that predicament.

Therefore, the Business Council and I have spent countless hours in discussions and deliberation with tribal administration, tribal legal counsel, other tribal leaders throughout Nevada and the United States, our auditing company and others regarding options to assist our People financially. We have completed all of our due diligence in order to protect the Shoshone Paiute Tribes and Tribal Membership by looking out for the best interest and benefit of us all during this time.

With that being said, the Shoshone Paiute Tribes authorized and implemented under approved CARES Act guidelines, its first Tribal Program to assist all Tribal Members who have been directly impacted financially by COVID-19. The Program is the "COVID-19 Emergency Family Assistance Grant Program," per Resolution 2020-SPR-089, which was adopted on May 26, 2020. Therein, the Tribes set aside up to 3 Million Dollars for this Program. And, just as with any other grant, here or throughout the country, there are application processes and procedures to follow in order to receive an award. The processes and procedures, which were vetted through our attorneys and auditors, are the only possible way of legally providing the emergency assistance to members. In addition, the processes and procedures allow the Tribes to legally document and justify the appropriate use of the funds in the event of an audit.

We recognize that the Program's application and processes may seem a little intimidating or difficult. However, we have staff ready and willing to assist members and answer questions. And, in the near future, staff will be providing online videos or messages to provide clearer assistance on the instructions and information specifically related to the applications and associated documentation. In the meantime, we ask for your patience, as those individuals are quite busy with calls, emails and processing the applications. When needed, applicants can reach the grant administration staff at 208-759-3100, extension 1270 or by email: assistancegrant@shopai.org.

The Business Council and I are aware of the hardships and questions that our People are dealing with here in Duck Valley and across the Nation during these unprecedented times. Nevertheless, be aware that, as your leaders, we are working diligently to address the issues while continuing to focus on protecting you all. Along with that, we want to thank you all for adhering to Executive Order 2020-01 by doing your part to keep our People safe and our Reservation COVID-19 free. And, I highly recommend that we all continue to be careful and consistent in order to protect the health, safety, welfare and future livelihood of the People of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes.

Sincerely,



Colin L. Thomas, Tribal Chairman
Shoshone Paiute Tribes