



June 19, 2020

Dear Tribal Members,

Thank you for your comments and questions regarding the use of the CARES Act funds NVOK has received to date. There are three sources of funds that have or will be coming to the tribe; we have not yet received all the expected funds, and do not know yet what those final amounts will be. This is the summary update on the funds received to date and how they will be used.

1. Department of Interior, Self-Governance: Office of Information Policy (OIP) CARES Act Tribal Supplemental funding - \$1,250,319. This funding has been received. This funding is to be used to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus issues, including paying for some public safety services; deep cleaning of facilities; purchase of personal protective equipment and information technology to improve teleworking capabilities; and social services programs.
2. United States Treasury, CARES Act Tribal Allocation Funds – First distribution received: \$7,723,930. This funding may only be used to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus issues that:
 - Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with COVID-19
 - Were not accounted for in the most recently approved budget as of March 27, 2020
 - Were incurred during the period from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020

The United States Treasury is expected to provide the second distribution from the CARES Act Tribal Allocation within the next week. That amount will be announced when we have received the funds. The second distribution will have the same requirements as listed above.

The Council has discussed several community investments for the health and safety of our members that will benefit the community in general. Some of the suggestions include water and sewer upgrades/repairs, community cleanup of large structures, assisting in the homelessness effort, expanding the Hunter Support program, utility assistance and food vouchers for tribal members. Some will require partnerships and collaborations with other community organizations. These types of investments will benefit the community for the long-term and are an opportunity we may not see again in the near future.

3. Welfare Assistance CV Distribution expected to be \$35,914. Expansion of existing welfare assistance programs. These funds have not yet been made available the Native Village of Kotzebue but will enhance our current programs.

Again, thank you for your continued interest and support of NVOK to serve our members by providing them the maximum amount of benefit possible with the resources available.

Thank you, and please contact us if you have any questions.

Gia Hanna
Chair

Puyuk Joule
Executive Director