

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
COVID-19 Financial Impact Relief Payment Program Policy VI*

A. Similar to many other governments across the world, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians has declared a Tribal State of Emergency during the COVID -19 Emergency Disaster on March 17, 2020.

B. As a result of the impact of the global COVID-19 Emergency Disaster, LTBB Citizens have experienced unanticipated losses or reduction of income from employment, business interruption or other revenue sources, in the form of reduced or shorter work hours, cut in salary or pay, furlough, reduced capacity, limited hours of operations, infected with COVID-19, quarantined or assisted an immediate family member who has been infected with COVID-19 or quarantined, stay at home orders, and unable to work due to having to take care of children that were required to stay at home from school as a result of school closures. This was especially difficult for older Tribal Citizens and Tribal Citizens that live on or near the poverty rate.

C. As a result of the economic and supply chain impact of the global COVID-19 Emergency Disaster and the current and lasting impact of COVID-19, LTBB Citizens are facing rapidly increasing costs in food, household supplies, rents, fuel and home heating costs.

D. According to the Department of the Treasury, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, 31 CFR Part 35, RIN 1505-AC77, Interim final rule the *Impacts on Households and Individuals*: “The public health emergency, including the necessary measures taken to protect public health, resulted in significant economic and financial hardship for many Americans.”

E. Further the Department of the Treasury states: “A severe recession—and its concentrated impact among low-income workers—has amplified food and housing insecurity, with an estimated nearly 17 million adults living in households where there is sometimes or often not enough food to eat and an estimated 10.7 million adults living in households that were not current on rent.” and “As the economy recovers, the effects of the pandemic-related recession may continue to impact households, including a risk of longer-term effects on earnings and economic potential.”

F. according to the White House news briefings, “*COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unconventional recession, and we do not expect the recovery will be typical either. While the*

paramount policy goals are to control the virus, get to full employment, and make the necessary investments for a more resilient and inclusive recovery, economic uncertainties and risks demand careful attention going forward. One risk the Administration is monitoring closely is inflation.” Inflation has caused financial hardship for LTBB Tribal Citizens, just the increase in cost of gas, food, rent, and heating energy costs alone have left many struggling, leaving the untenable choice of either going without or going into debt which will impact their future finances, and while President Biden’s “Build Back Better” bill languishes in Congress, the long-term financial impact of COVID-19 has impacted supply chains, and raised inflation which will increase poverty in 2023 for many Tribal families.

G. The global COVID-19 Health Emergency, has caused LTBB Citizens to experience inflation, supply chain issues and/or economic uncertainties causing financial hardship, including the unanticipated additional expenditures of higher costs of cost of gas, car payments, medical expenses, food, rent, and heating energy costs and other general health and welfare expenses as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

H. The **COVID-19 Financial Impact Relief Payment Program Policy VI** will provide a one-time **COVID-19 Financial Impact Relief Program payment VI** to LTBB adult Tribal Citizens up to seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) payment and a seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) payment for each minor LTBB Citizen dependent in their household, or to a parent/Guardian of a LTBB minor dependent LTBB Citizen, to help meet their needs created by the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

I. COVID-19 Impact on their Households and/or Individual.

Applications will be available to each adult Tribal Citizen or to a parent/Guardian of a LTBB minor dependent LTBB Citizen and processed by the Department of Human Services. The application shall require the Tribal Citizen or parent/Guardian of a LTBB minor dependent LTBB Citizen provide a statement that the global COVID-19 Health Emergency, has caused LTBB Citizens to experience inflation, supply chain issues and/or economic uncertainties causing financial hardship, including the unanticipated additional expenditures of higher costs of gas, car payments, medical expenses, food, rent, and heating energy costs and other general health and welfare expenses as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

Eligibility. The adult Tribal Citizen or LTBB minor must be enrolled with the tribe by March 31, 2023 and has had a negative financial impact on their household as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

J. Deadline. Application must be received by November 30, 2023 in order to qualify for the program.

K. Electronic Signature. Electronic signature on the application shall be accepted and the application may be executed by facsimile or other electronic means.

L. Records and Documentation. Tribal Citizens are to maintain records that support that they are eligible for the **COVID-19 Financial Impact Relief Payment Program Policy III**, in the form of W-2, 1099, paycheck stubs, business records or other documentation and/or any records of increase expenditures.

M. Such records should be maintained until April 30, 2028 in accordance with OIG record keeping guidance.

N. Payments received under the **COVID-19 Financial Impact Relief Payment Program Policy V** to Tribal Citizens will be tax exempt under the WOS 2017-002 General Welfare Statute.

This Policy was approved by Tribal Council on April 20, 2023.

Marcella R. Reyes

4/21/2023

Tribal Secretary Marcella Reyes

Date



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