

News You Can Use from the Sac and Fox Nation Education Department

By Barbara Ramos Education Director

The Education Department is now fully staffed with the addition of Barbara Ramos as the Education Director. I am a member of the Sac and Fox Tribe and I am excited about the potential of the Nation's education program. I have worked as a Substitute Teacher in Arizona and in Oklahoma which encompassed working with both elementary students and high school students. While working on my Masters of Education in Special Education I worked as a full-time Special Education Teacher at Yuma High School in Yuma, AZ. I worked with Learning Disabled students but ended up working with the Severe and Profound students who faced many challenges. Prior to working in education I worked with the Indian Health Service as a Supervisory Health Systems Specialist and managed CHS Programs in El Paso, TX, Mesalero, NM, and Yuma, AZ.

During the coming months I look forward to conducting professional development activities, workshops, and in-service training for staff and client population. (Yes, Elders I do intend to set up some basic computer classes for you.) I plan to also facilitate access to continuing education, distance learning, and on-line courses.

Some things that are happening in the Education Department are the following:

* The RAP Education Program was able to provide assistance to fifty (55) tribal members who attended colleges/universities for the 2015 fall term. If you intend to attend college/university the spring 2016 semester you should submit your RAP Education Request packet as soon as possible. The application deadline is March 1; however, many students started applying early in the fall. The RAP Education Program has limited funds and it is on a first-come first-served basis.

* Start your scholarship search early in your senior year. For those of you who are attending or planning to attend college you should apply for scholarships well in advance because some scholarship deadlines for the fall semester are

April 15. Contact Catching the Dream (CTD), 8200 Mountain Road, NE, Suite 203, Albuquerque, NM 87110. Phone: (505) 262-2351, Fax: (505) 262-0534 or E-mail: Main: (Joy Noll) Nscholarsh@aol.com for guidance on how to apply. This program encourages students to apply for all sources of funding in addition to applying to CTD. The minimum number of scholarships students will find is 40 or more. This will enable them to attend any college in the U.S.

Scholarship Programs for Native American Students:

MESBEC: Math, Engineering, Science, Business, Education, and Computers: All science fields, medicine, business, education, math, computer science

NALE: Native American Leadership in Education: Secondary Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Educational Administration

TBM: Tribal Business Management: Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Accounting, Retailing, Hotel Management

According to CTD their biggest frustration is that students inquire about the scholarship and then do not apply. They fail to read the instructions (How to Find and Win Scholarships) and end up calling them to ask what they are supposed to do. Their answer is that they should find and win all the scholarships they can find and can and should go to college with no loans. One student found 102 scholarships and won 70 of them. This takes time but it can pay off in the long run. GIVE IT A TRY!

The 2015-16 school year is closed for scholarships; however, you are encouraged to visit the following websites: American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC)-offers both undergraduate and graduate programs funded in part by the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund – you should contact the agency to obtain information on scholarships for the 2016-17 school year. <http://aigcs.org>. Applications need to be completed as soon as possible. The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) this program is designed to help develop

a group of leaders that represent the ethnic diversity of America in the 21st century. Contact this scholarship program at: <http://www.aigcs.org/scholarships/gms-program-information/>

* The Education Department will no longer be responsible for scheduling activities for the gym. Effective December 15, 2015 the Finance Department will be handling the scheduling of the gym for any tribal activities as well as the payments and refunds of deposits. This will streamline the process for tribal members to obtain services without going from one

department to the other.

* NOTICE: We have many RAP college students who are doing exceptionally well in their chosen field of study. If any of you would like to be featured in the tribal newspaper please submit a picture, biography, and what your major is and why you chose that field of study and where you are attending college. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

* If you have any questions you may contact me at (918) 968-3526, EXT. 2046 or Jean Lynam, EXT. 2043.

Food Distribution Program Updates

FDPIR Income Guidelines: New Deductions Expected to Boost Participation Nationwide

With our increased FY14 Net Monthly Income Standards, new income deduction rules were also approved in the CFR. Households that pay rent or utilities, regardless of amount, are now allowed a Standard \$300 Deduction of their Net Monthly Income that is measured against the USDA Net Monthly Income Standards. For elderly or disabled household members there is now a Medical Expense Deduction that can be claimed for all out of pocket medical expenses with no limit regarding the amount. Also there is a new Meal Deduction that can be claimed should a household member require the full time services of a home health worker.

For more information on these deductions or to see if you qualify please call (866) 622-2310 Shawnee Office or (800) 256-3398 Stroud Office.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR) FY 2016 NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS (Effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016)

The net monthly income standard for each household size is the sum of the applicable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) net monthly income standard and the applicable SNAP standard deduction.

48 Contiguous United States:

Use this Amount

Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		SNAP Standard Deduction		FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
1	\$981	+	\$155	=	\$1,136
2	\$1,328	+	\$155	=	\$1,483
3	\$1,675	+	\$155	=	\$1,830
4	\$2,021	+	\$168	=	\$2,189
5	\$2,368	+	\$197	=	\$2,565
6	\$2,715	+	\$226	=	\$2,941
7	\$3,061	+	\$226	=	\$3,287
8	\$3,408	+	\$226	=	\$3,634
each additional member					+ \$347

Alaska:

Use this Amount

Household Size	SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		SNAP Standard Deduction		FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
1	\$1,227	+	\$265	=	\$1,492
2	\$1,660	+	\$265	=	\$1,925
3	\$2,094	+	\$265	=	\$2,359
4	\$2,527	+	\$265	=	\$2,792
5	\$2,960	+	\$265	=	\$3,225
6	\$3,394	+	\$282	=	\$3,676
7	\$3,827	+	\$282	=	\$4,109
8	\$4,260	+	\$282	=	\$4,542
each additional member					+ \$434

FY 2016 FDPIR Income Deductions (see 7 CFR 253.6(e)) Effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

Earned Income Deduction	Households with earned income are allowed a deduction of 20 percent of their earned income.
Dependent Care Deduction	Households that qualify for the dependent care deduction are allowed a deduction of actual dependent care costs paid monthly to a non-household member.
Child Support Deduction	Households that incur the cost of legally required child support to or for a non-household member are allowed a deduction for the amount of monthly child support paid.
Medical Expense Deduction	Households that incur monthly medical expenses by any household member who is elderly or disabled are allowed a deduction in the amount of out-of-pocket medical expenses paid in excess of \$35 per month. Allowable medical expenses are provided at 7 CFR 273.9(d)(3).
Home Care Meal-Related Deduction	Households who furnish the majority of meals for a home care attendant are allowed an income deduction equal to the maximum SNAP benefit for a one-person household. The home care meal-related deduction amounts are as follows: 48 Contiguous U.S. States = \$194 Alaska by Area Designations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban = \$237 • Rural 1 = \$302 • Rural 2 = \$368 See 7 CFR 272.7(b) for area designations in Alaska.
Standard Shelter/Utility Expense Deduction	Households that incur at least one monthly shelter or utility expense are allowed a standard income deduction (see chart below). Allowable shelter/utility expenses are provided at 7 CFR 273.9(d)(6)(ii).

FY 2016 FDPIR Standard Shelter/Utility Expense Deductions Effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

Region	States Currently with FDPIR Programs	Shelter/Utility Deduction
Northeast/Midwest	Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin	\$400
Southeast/Southwest	Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas	\$300
Mountain Plains	Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	\$400
West	Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington	\$350

*If the geographic boundaries of an Indian reservation extend to more than one region per the identified regional groupings above, then a qualifying household has the option to receive the appropriate shelter/utility expense deduction amount for the State in which the household resides or the State in which the State agency's central administrative office is located.



Roseanna Preston
Sac and Fox tribal member

I make Sac and Fox tribe clan shields and Sac and Fox ribbonwork. I also mend clothes and do jewelry repair. If you're interested give me a call at 405-585-9527



Sac and Fox Nation Food Distribution Program

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!!!

STROUD OFFICE
(800) 256-3398

SHAWNEE OFFICE
(866) 622-2310

If at least one member of your household is Native American, you reside within our service area, and you meet our income guidelines... You May Qualify. Call Today!!!

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