



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 7, 2020**

## **Sac and Fox Nation Announces COVID-19 Assistance Programs**

***Business Committee establishes COVID-19 Relief Department; approves Human Services Relief Program and Business Relief Program.***

(Stroud, Oklahoma)- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sac and Fox Nation Business Committee has established a temporary COVID-19 Relief Department to assist tribal members during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Business Committee also approved new COVID-19 assistance programs to provide critical assistance to eligible members of the Sac and Fox Nation. **The COVID-19 Relief Department will be operational beginning on Monday, August 10 to assist tribal members and accept applications.**

During a July 23 meeting, the Business Committee allocated \$2,000,000.00 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the COVID-19 Relief Department. The Business Committee also approved two new assistance programs: the COVID-19 Human Services Relief Program and the COVID-19 Business Relief Program. Both programs were designed to provide necessary relief to tribal members in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Under the Human Services Relief Program, eligible tribal members may apply to receive assistance with expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled members of the Sac and Fox Nation, 18 years of age or older, experienced a loss of income, and meet the income guidelines outlined in the program guidelines (earn 400% or less of the National Poverty Guideline standards). As part of the application process, applicants will have to provide documentation to verify need.

Under the Business Relief Program, any business or enterprise held solely or majority-owned by a Sac and Fox Nation tribal member can apply for grant funds to reimburse eligible expenses incurred due to COVID-19. The business must be able to document business interruptions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program guidelines and applications are available on the Nation's website: [www.sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov](http://www.sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov). The application period will close on November 1, 2020. However, funding is on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will be reviewed and approved until program funds are depleted.

Beginning on August 10, the COVID-19 Relief Department will be available to assist tribal members and answer questions. If you have questions about these programs and the application process, please contact the COVID Relief Department: **(918)-968-3526** or **coviddept@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov**.

These new programs are in addition to previously announced COVID-19 relief programs: the COVID-19 Relief Program for Elders (announced on April 29, 2020), the COVID-19 Economic Support Program (announced on May 21, 2020), and the COVID-19 Education Technology Program (announced on July 28, 2020).

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