



Navajo Nation P.L. 93-638 COVID-19 GENERAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

September 21st, 2020

Section One: General Information

1. The Navajo Nation received a one-time non-recurring non-base funds through a modification to an existing Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) agreement under the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Program Contract A16AV00385. The funds are from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Recovery (CARES) Act funding for COVID 19 prevention, preparedness and response to address the specific needs arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.
2. The Navajo Family Assistance Services (NFAS) established within the Department for Self Reliance (DSR) currently administers the standard P. L. 93-638 General Assistance. With the receipt of the CARES pandemic funds, the NFAS is assigned to administer the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance. The P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance requires a separate policy for reporting and auditing purposes. This assistance is contingent upon availability of funds and will be used until exhausted or by May 18, 2021, whichever comes first.

Section Two: Purpose

1. The purpose of the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance is for immediate financial needs for eligible Native American and Alaska Natives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligibility will be determined by the submittal of the NFAS application with eligibility determined according to 25 CFR Section 20.100.
2. The purpose of this document is to serve as a Guideline when Applicants are applying for P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance.

Section Three: Eligibility Criteria

1. In order to qualify for the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance, the Applicant must meet the following:
 - a. The Applicant must be eighteen (18) years or older upon submittal of the application.
 - b. The Applicant is impacted by a job loss or reduced salary due to COVID 19 and as a result, the Applicant has been furloughed, reduced hours, or the employment has ended.
 - c. The Applicant does not qualify for unemployment or other emergency assistance resources.
 - d. The Applicant must reside within the Navajo Nation or in a Near Reservation Designated Communities authorized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (list of eligible communities attached).
 - e. The Applicant must be a member of a federally recognized Indian nation.
 - f. The Applicant must meet the income and resources eligibility in compliance with the 25 CFR Section 20.37 through 20.313.
2. A non-P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance participant that is already receiving the regular General Assistance and has been provided resources to engage in training courses, GED classes, or any professional development shall be deemed ineligible for the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance.



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Section Four: Application process

1. Only one application will be accepted per household. A household includes each family member who are included in the family and whose income and resources are considered in determining eligibility for assistance.
2. An applicant must provide the following to the local NFAS office Senior Caseworker
 - a. Application
 - b. Certificate of Indian Blood(s)
 - c. Residency verification: map to locate residence, utility statement
 - d. State driver's license or official identification
 - e. Social Security card
 - f. Employer letter of termination, reduced work, or furlough
 - g. Denial letter for unemployment insurance benefits
 - h. Denial for other entitlement programs (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Social Security, etc.)

Section Five: Waivers applied to P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance Recipients

1. Job seeking activities are temporarily suspended for recipients that meet the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance criteria.
2. The requirement to establish an employment strategy in an Individual Self-Sufficiency Plan or an assessment of the individual applicant's job readiness is temporary waived.
3. Job training is temporarily waived for six (6) months from the date of the approved application.

Section Six: Term of Eligibility for relief funds will be available

1. The P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance is for six (6) month period that start from an approved application unless provided otherwise in this Guideline.
2. Applicant may re-apply for continued assistance based on continued impact as provided in Section One of this Guideline.
3. The P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance will end on the date the applicant receives his/her first pay check.
4. If an Applicant receives and accepts a job offer from a prior job search, the Applicant must contact, in writing, a NFAS Senior Caseworker to inform the NFAS Senior Caseworker that the Applicant has accepted the job offer.

Section Seven: Additional Assistance

For partially employed (part time less than twenty hours per week) individuals the P.L. 93-638 COVID 19 General Assistance will cover the expense of the DSR payment standard to include an additional \$50 per week per individual applicant, and \$50 for each qualifying child.



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Section Eight: Appeal Process

If an application is denied, a written appeal for reconsideration must be submitted to the NFAS Senior Program and Project Specialist (SPPS) within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of the denial letter. The written appeal shall outline the reason(s) why the Applicant is disputing the denial of an application and should include supporting document(s) if any. The NFAS SPPS decision will be final.