



## The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

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May 23, 2020

Caddo Nation Tribal Members,

The Caddo Nation applied for COVID-19 funding through the Treasury Department Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The funding amount allocated to the Nation was \$8.7 million, which will enable our tribe to continue functioning during the pandemic while permitting us to enact protective measures in order to avoid further spread of the COVID-19 virus among our Caddo people.

Enacting protective measures for our people would include the acquisition of personal protective equipment and other supplies necessary to aid our people who continue to shelter in place or who have experienced a dramatic reduction of income during this exceedingly difficult time but still must continue to provide for individual families with food and shelter. The CARES Act assistance may be appropriated to pay utility bills, rent or mortgage payments for your home, or towards vehicle repairs. Please note: accounts that are considered PAST DUE or PENDING will be considered for assistance.

The CARES Act funding may be utilized for documented needs that fall between the dates of March 1 - Dec. 31, 2020. The Caddo Nation Council has deemed a \$1,000 cap per household, for each enrolled Caddo Nation head of household. The topic of allowing each individual tribal member to receive a "stimulus" or "per capita" payment had been mentioned but based on the CARES Act distribution guidelines, through the U.S. Treasury Department, the tribe would be liable to repayment of the funds to the U.S. Treasury Department based on negligent use should this method be considered.

While several local, state, and federal governments are opening the economy at this time, we must remain vigilant in our actions to protect ourselves, families, and community because it is now known that infected individuals can be asymptomatic but still capable of spreading the virus unknowingly. This means, ANY INTERACTION with people who are considered part of the at-risk population: our elders, anyone who has an underlying medical condition, and those with weakened immune systems; can allow the virus to be unknowingly be spread to these individuals.

Precautions such as social distancing, use of personal protective equipment (facial masks and gloves), and hand washing must be adhered to. Taking these extra steps is not only beneficial to individual health but is a crucial sign of respect to ensure longevity of life to our most vulnerable members of our Nation. This may seem like common sense, yet there are still so many that are not taking this pandemic seriously and, thus, the spread is continuous and on-going. Be the person setting the example by taking precautions and placing value on the lives of others as much as your own.

Please use the attached link to download the form, fill out, attach all needed documents, and send to the tribe: <https://mycaddonation.com/f/covid-19-assistance-application>. The tribal offices will tentatively reopen June 3rd. My prayers are with each of you and your families. Stay safe and continue to take care of each other.

Respectfully,

Tamara Francis  
Caddo Nation Chairman