



Samish COVID 19 Emergency Housing Financial Assistance Policies

The purpose of this program is to financially assist tribal citizens experiencing housing instability or homelessness due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID 19. The funding source for this program is the funds received by the Tribe under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The Tribe is required to follow the U.S. Treasury’s Guidance on the permissible use of the CARES funds in its use of the Tribal CARES funds. This policy is designed to comply with the guidance issued by the United States Treasury Department’s Guidance.

The Tribe determined providing financial assistance to tribal members under the terms of this policy fits the criteria for expenditure of funds under the CARES Act. In enacting this program, the Tribe evaluated the need of its citizens and determined our citizens have experienced financial loss due to loss of jobs, decreased income, changes in household composition and other financial losses caused by the health care crisis with respect to the COVID 19. These financial losses have hampered their ability to pay monthly housing costs, caused loss of housing, or required our citizens to live in over- crowded housing.

The Samish Tribal Council has approved \$300,000 for this program. The number of citizens who receive funds is limited by the amount available for this Program. The Housing Department will process applications in the order that applications are received. Once the funds appropriated are awarded, no additional applications will be accepted by the Housing Department.

1. Responsibilities

- a. The Tribal Housing Department is responsible for administering this program and will develop the necessary application forms; assist Tribal citizens in completing the application; evaluate the applications; determine eligibility for the award on each application; and provide the necessary documentation to the Tribal Accounting Department to issue the award to the Samish citizen.
- b. The Tribal Accounting Department will be responsible for distribution of the funds based on the Housing Department’s determination of eligibility.
- c. The Tribal Citizen is responsible for completing the application, providing the necessary documentation to the Housing Department for the application and staying in contact with the Housing Department in order to answer or provide additional information needed on his or her application.

2. Eligibility:

An applicant must provide information demonstrating that they meet all of the criteria of the program in order to qualify for emergency assistance housing funding. The following are the eligibility criteria for the program:

- a. Samish Tribal Citizen:
Each applicant must provide proof of citizenship in the Samish Indian Nation.
- b. Housing Instability due to the public health emergency due to COVID 19
 - 1) Samish families with or without children who are living temporarily with friends, relatives or households who are facing eviction.
 - 2) Samish families with or without children who at risk of losing their housing due to inability to pay mortgage payments due to COVID 19.
 - 3) Families whose housing has been disrupted due to COVID 19.
- c. Residence of the United States as of March 1, 2020
- d. Documentation of the need for assistance
Applicant must provide all documentation no later than demonstrating the need for assistance to maintain or obtain housing.

3. Assistance provided:

- a. Rental Assistance
Financial assistance for rent up to 80% of amount owed may be provided to eligible citizens experiencing homelessness or housing instability related to COVID 19 as funding allows. Documentation of need will be required.
- b. Mortgage Assistance
Financial assistance for mortgage payments up to \$15,000 of the amount owed may be provided to eligible citizens experiencing housing instability due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID 19 as funding allows. Documentation of need will be required.

4. Documentation for Eligibility

Housing Department Staff are responsible for verifying and documenting the eligibility of all households prior to providing financial assistance. They are also responsible for maintaining this documentation in the Citizens' Housing files.

5. Right to Appeal:

If a citizen is denied assistance under this Program based on the decision that they do not meet the criteria set forth in Section 2 of this policy, they have the right to appeal the denial as provided in the Samish Indian Nation's Tenant Based Rental Assistance Policy §13.007.

