FAQ for State CARES Act Funding Application

1) Where did the funding come from?
Funding comes from the state’s share of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.

2) How will the funding be allocated to individual tribes?
The funding will be allocated based on the funding requests from tribal governments and application responses. The total amount that can be requested per tribe is $2 million. The total amount of funding available for tribal governments is $28 million. Allocations will be determined based on the requests and answers to the questions in the online application. The applications will be scored and prioritized accordingly. If the total amount of applications exceeds the amount available distributions will be prorated.

3) Who will review the applications and make the determination?
The Department of Finance & Administration Capital Outlay Bureau along with the Tribal Liaison from the Local Government Division, and a representative from the Indian Affairs Department will review the applications and make the determinations.

4) What is the deadline for applications? Can this be extended or is this a hard deadline?
The deadline for application is July 24, 2020. The expenditure period covers March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. If the total funding requested by July 24 does not reach the total amount available, then the deadline may be extended.

5) What if not all tribes apply, will this increase the up to award amount?
If all eligible tribes do not apply by the deadline and funding remains, then those tribes that applied may be allowed to re-apply after the 24th to request more funds based on the new deadline given by DFA, however, priority may be given to those tribes that did not apply initially.

6) What can this funding be used for?
Please see the page 4 of Coronavirus-Relief-Funds-Guidance file attached with the application link that was sent out on Friday. It is detailed and lists what expenditures are eligible and not eligible.

7) Does this funding have the same restrictions as the CARES act funding that tribes have/will receive?
Yes, the restrictions are the same.

8) Why didn’t the state grant out the funds based on a formula or allocation instead of requiring tribes to fill out an application?
The need for tribal governments is tremendous and the state did not want to restrict tribal governments to a formula-based amount if they could get more through an awards-based process.

9) What is the estimated turnaround time for reimbursement?
The estimated turnaround time for reimbursement will be 10 business days.
10) Elaborate on the statement that, “Applicants must be aware that applying for this grant may result in not being eligible to apply for other federal grants.” The basis of that statement is to make the applicant aware that expenditures being considered for reimbursement can only be requested in one federal grant. Therefore, if expenditures are being requested for reimbursement in this CARES Act federal grant, the entity cannot request the same expenditures be reimbursed in another federal grant or program.

11) How is the state defining business interruption? The same as PPP or as defined by the insurance agencies? Or a mixture of the two? The state is defining business interruption as a period of time in which the tribal government could not provide essential government functions as they would be able to in pre-pandemic times.

12) How long will the state take to review tribal applications and make award determinations? The state will have award determinations within 10 business days from the application due date. The anticipated date for award letter distribution is Friday, August 7, 2020.

13) The amount is capped at $2 million. Will the state announce award amounts per tribe, or will each tribe be allowed to apply for reimbursement up to $2 million until the full $28 million is expended? Is this on a first come first served basis? Each tribe will be allowed to apply for reimbursement up to $2 million, until the funds are exhausted. Example: If all tribes apply for $2 million by July 24, 2020, a determination may be made to split the funds evenly amongst all tribes that applied, which would result in each tribe receiving roughly $1.2 million.

14) Can previous expenses be billed to the grant or will only those expenses made after the grant is awarded be eligible? Previous expenses will be eligible as long as they meet the guidelines in the Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Guidance file that was emailed with the online application link. The expenditure period has been identified as March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Please refer to the guidance document for more details.

15) Can the tribal government award other entities within the tribe as sub grantees such as the head start, day school, or corporation? No, the expenditures must be for the tribal government listed on the application. The proof of payment must also be for the tribal government receiving the reimbursement request and ultimately the goods and services.

16) How will the state determine eligibility of expenses? The state will receive the documentation and review the expenditures in accordance with the guidelines set forth within the Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Guidance file. If an expense is determined to be ineligible, the entity will be contacted to see if further documentation is needed.