

# QUECHAN TRIBE OF THE FORT YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION

## COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAM

The Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation received funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which was enacted on March 27, 2020 by the Department of Treasury. The Tribal Council has deemed it necessary to use a portion of these funds to establish a small business relief program to reimburse tribal member owned businesses, as well as business enterprises wholly owned by the Tribe, for business interruption costs incurred due to COVID-19 required closures. This relief program is not associated with the CARES Act Payroll Protection Plan.

### Program Guidelines

#### Eligibility

All small businesses owned by enrolled members of the Tribe, and business enterprises wholly owned by the Tribe, that were in existence and operating prior to January 1, 2020, that have experienced business interruptions *caused by required closures or a voluntary shutdown due to COVID-19, in accordance with the U.S. Treasury CARES Act guidelines regarding Small Businesses.*

#### Assistance Amounts

Four tiers of relief assistance are available, with up to (1) \$1,500.00 for artisans, food vendors, etc., without permanent locations, (2) \$3,500.00 for small businesses operating from a storefront or commercial space, (3) \$25,000.00 for larger businesses formally organized as LLC's, C- or S-Corporations, etc., and (4) \$500,000.00 for business enterprises wholly owned by the Tribe.

#### Application Process

Any business that meets the eligibility criteria may submit a completed application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The application requires the following information:

- Name of business and contact information, date that business was established or formed, identification of business legal structure and percentage of ownership owned by an enrolled member of the Quechan Tribe;
- Date that business closed and whether the business plans to reopen again or the date that business has reopened;
- Estimated cost of expenditures and associated line items from business interruption caused by required closure due to COVID-19, and other unforeseen expenditures incurred during the period of March 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - The cost of preparing business for social distancing measures, such as disinfecting premises, purchasing sanitizer or masks for employees, installing sneeze guards, etc.; or
  - The cost of meeting legal obligations to pay rent, utilities, insurance, etc., to retain premises or equipment required by the business during this period.

Only expenditures that are consistent with the U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines for the CARES Act may be reimbursed by the Quechan Tribal Administration.

To request an application or for assistance with the application, please contact Brian Golding, Sr., EDA Director, at [b.golding@quechantribe.com](mailto:b.golding@quechantribe.com) or (760) 572-5270. As questions are answered, a Frequently Asked Questions document will be developed and posted on the Tribe's website ([www.quechantribe.com](http://www.quechantribe.com)), under Departments/Economic Development. If EDA finds an application to be incomplete, EDA will contact the applicant to provide assistance in completing the application. If the applicant cannot be reached or is non-

responsive after ten business days from date EDA made its initial attempt to reach the applicant, EDA will return the incomplete application to the applicant, and the application will not be considered for award. The applicant may complete and resubmit the incomplete application, or submit a new application, but it must be received by the deadline. All applications received after the deadline shall be returned to the applicant and will not be considered for award.

### **Awarding Process**

The Tribal Council shall make the final determination in awarding grants to eligible businesses, after the review process is completed by EDA. The Tribal Council will take into consideration the dates of business closure and the cost of expenditures from the business interruption, while weighing the funding available through the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund. The Tribal Council reserves the right to award a smaller award than requested by the business. Monies from the COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund used for purposes of this program shall only be available through October 30, 2020, or until funds made available for this program are exhausted.

### **Timeline to Apply**

Applications must be postmarked or submitted by **October 30, 2020**. Awardees will be notified by once the review and approval process is completed.