

EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION

Community Services Block Grant CARES Act Supplemental Funds, Tribal Plan FY2020

The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation (EPTN) is a Connecticut state recognized Indian tribe. See CT General Statutes 47-59a https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_824.htm#sec_47-59a.

The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation reservation was established in 1683 in North Stonington CT and is one of the oldest Native American reservations in the country. The tribe has maintained and continuously exercised control over the reservation since 1683. The tribe consists of 1,246 members of which 521 reside in Connecticut.

The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation's mission is to protect our sovereignty, conserve and develop our tribal resources, and promote the self-sufficiency of our people and our descendants. The tribe continues to strive to meet these goals for a better life for the people.

The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation will operate an Emergency Assistance Program for tribal members in need pursuant to CSBG Act 45 C.F.R. sections 676 and 677 Part 96 and CARES Act Public law 116-36.

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation has a greater demand to provide emergency services for tribal members and their families. Many members are unemployed with insufficient funds for food, rent, electricity, heating, and medical/dental bills. With the CSBG CARES Act Supplemental Funds the tribe will certify member's low income eligibility according to CSBG poverty guidelines and provide financial assistance twice a year. The total amount available will be \$400 per applicant.

Once certified the Tribal Council will review the application and approve or deny the applicant. CSBG Tribal Administrator, Vice Chairwoman Brenda Geer will contact the applicant and mail to the service provider a check signed by two Tribal Council Officers. Remaining funds will be used to purchase food for the tribal Food Pantry. The tribe will also provide members in need \$100 in gift certificates to grocery stores.

The tribe will continue to operate the EPTN Emergency Food Pantry and provide nutritious food for tribal families in need with the assistance of CSBG CARES grant. Chairwoman Katherine Sebastian Dring will review the inventory with the Food Pantry Assistant and purchase nutritious food from a wholesale food center. The tribe will provide access to the Food Pantry once a month and provide gift certificates to grocery stores. The tribe will continue to support the community garden on the reservation to provide members with fresh fruits and vegetables. The tribe will inform and refer members to other services such as: Thames Valley Council for Community Action, CT's 211 Help line and CT Indian Council job training program. The CSBG Tribal Administrator will track the services provided to member families, download necessary funds and provide weekly reports to the Tribal Council and monthly reports to the membership.

EPTN submits this application for CSBG CARES funding to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Division of State Assistance for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) for Indian tribes to support an Emergency Assistance Program. EPTN extends our sincere gratitude for this opportunity and assistance. Kutaputush.