



Kiowa Tribe

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EXECUTIVE BRANCH

May 24, 2020

Dear Kiowa Tribal Member,

I am reaching out to each tribal member individually to update you on what the Executive Branch is doing to develop a proper spend down plan for the Coronavirus Relief Funds allocated to the Tribe recently. There are many strings attached to the use of this money and the Kiowa Tribe must be able to justify all expenditures that may occur with the use of this relief money. Unfortunately, there is talk on social media and by certain actions being promoted by the Legislators about paying out \$1,000 to every tribal member from these funds. This is not permissible under the current guidance issued by the US Treasury.

Both the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA) have expressed concern with Tribes taking this coronavirus relief money and issuing out a per capita style payment to its tribal members without first securing further guidance from the US Government. In a NAFOA national phone call with member nations on May 16, 2020, per capita payments to tribal members was not recommended. Both NCAI and NAFOA are requesting the US Treasury to provide specific guidance and some leeway in administering these funds.

The Kiowa Tribe does not have an approved Revenue Allocation Plan to consider going down this route. A RAP plan must first be approved the Secretary of the Interior. Our constitution mentions a per capita payment, but it is currently not the law of the land. The Legislative Body has been working on a RAP for an exceedingly long time and nothing has been produced to date for the Kiowa constituency to consider. We cannot disguise a flat payment of the relief funds to everyone to circumvent the current rules in place.

The Executive Branch of the Kiowa Tribe will not run the risk of having to pay this money back. The Kiowa Tribe cannot be put in a position to jeopardize its operations because of a misinterpretation of the current rules or guidance by certain elected officials. These rules are changing by the day and we must remain on top of the changes.

I also want to remind Kiowa tribal members that the federal government has already taken steps to assist its citizens with the Coronavirus pandemic by issuing \$1200 checks directly to individuals as well as providing enhanced unemployment benefits to those who are jobless by paying out \$600 extra per week over an individual's regular unemployment benefit.

Unfortunately, we are receiving U.S. taxpayer dollars and it will not sit well with the overall constituency if Tribes take this pandemic money and allocate this directly to its tribal members when this was not the intent. The Kiowa Tribe cannot double dip in any shape, way, or form. Other local governments including cities and counties are not issuing payments to their constituencies.

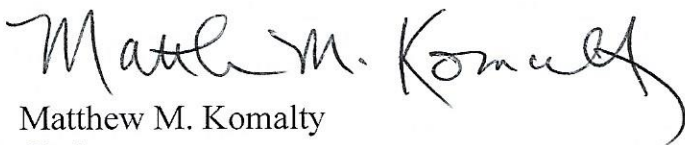
The Executive Branch is taking the necessary steps to safeguard all tribal members interests during this pandemic. On Tuesday, May 26th, we are scheduled to meet with the Legislators to discuss at least 23 potential uses of the coronavirus relief funds. The focus is on response, recovery, and preparedness. These uses have been carefully vetted and compared to what other Nations across the country are doing to ensure compliance with the use of these funds.

We have a good plan in place for the Kiowa People which includes an emergency assistance program that will help tribal members who are experiencing financial distress. Of course, the emergency assistance program will come with certain income guidelines as well as the requirement to furnish documentation to prove a hardship. It cannot be any other way. The Office of Inspector General for the US Government is charged with making sure we comply with the rules.

As your elected Chairman, I want to assure you that the Executive Branch is working very diligently to address this pandemic with our tribal members. Your wellbeing is my number one priority. Unfortunately, there are others in government who feel differently and want to place the Tribe in financial jeopardy. I am taking a cautious approach to the administration of these important relief funds. If the rules change, I will be the first to make direct payments to every tribal member.

May our Dawkee continue to watch over the Kiowa People and provide us with the right guidance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew M. Komalty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Matthew M. Komalty
Chairman