



Securing today
and tomorrow

Dear Tribal Leader,

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. The CARES Act provided several types of assistance due to COVID-19. This law established the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Tribal Governments to assist Tribal communities to obtain critical resources. Then, on December 27, 2020, the President signed into law the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021” (CAA), Public Law 116-260, and on March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” (ARPA), Public law 117-2. The CAA and ARPA provided extensions and additional funding to several of these pandemic assistance programs and authorized several new programs. **Financial assistance provided from Tribal Governments to assist Tribe members due to COVID-19, funded by the Coronavirus Relief Fund or Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and ARPA, does not count against Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility and payment amounts.**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is committed to serving the American Indian, Alaska Native communities as we navigate through these unprecedented times. We ask that you help us spread the word and alert Tribal communities about our guidance on how we treat, for SSI purposes, COVID-19 related assistance payments issued by Tribal Governments. For more information on the effect of COVID-19-Related Financial Assistance on SSI Income and Resources, visit our [American Indians and Alaska Natives](https://www.ssa.gov/people/aian) webpage (www.ssa.gov/people/aian).

If you are aware of Tribal payment(s) that may have been incorrectly counted as income or resources among your Tribe members, your members do not need to do anything in most cases. If we need any additional information to restore payments or to take a claim, we will contact them. Please advise your members to call their local Social Security office with any questions. **They can find their local office phone numbers conveniently online on our [Social Security Office Locator](#) and can speak with a representative Monday through Friday.**

While so many continue to be affected by COVID-19, we want to let you know that SSA remains committed to providing vital services to Tribe members. Despite the challenges government and businesses face at this time, we want Indian Country to know that you can conduct most Social Security matters online or over the phone. We remain ready and able to help.

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