Dear Tribal Health Leader:
This email is in regards to a previous email (included below) and provides information on funding for elder meals and considerations for protecting the wellbeing of elders as programs respond to Coronavirus (COVID-19). Of the $250 million appropriated to the Administration for Community Living (ACL), there is $10 million in Tribal set aside that has been distributed to current Title VI grantees using existing funding guidelines – these funds were distributed earlier today.

Tribes should contact their states to ask if additional funds can be made available for the remainder of the $250 million. ACL anticipates that Tribes who already receive Title III funds will likely be included in the state’s allocation.

ACL is also working on developing a list of shelf-stable and frozen meal vendors that will be sent to Title VI programs tomorrow, March 26th. It is also recommended that Tribes contract with local restaurants to help with meal preparation or delivery. Tribes can expect a webinar sometime next week on meeting nutritional needs during COVID-19. NIHB will share the webinar information when it becomes available.

As a reminder, Title VI funds for the 2020-2023 project period will be released on April 1, 2020. Tribes should note that the number of grantees has increased slightly – as a result, Tribal grantees will see a 6% reduction so that all grantees can receive funding. Current grantees with unexpended balances will be granted a no-cost extension through December 31, 2021 and should contact ACL. No-cost extensions may be used for COVID-19 response.

During this time of public health emergency, there is flexibility from Tribal Title VI programs to use part C (family caregiver) funds on nutrition (Part A) to serve caregivers and their frail elders. ACL has also relaxed requirements regarding separate congregate and home-delivered meals clients by allowing programs to provide curb-pick-ups and home-delivered meals to all eligible clients. Programs that wish to use the new flexibilities should maintain separate records for frail home-bond clients and for other seniors who would be regular congregate meals clients.

Additional considerations for Tribal Elders:
- Title VI funds can be spent on activities, and some programs are delivering emergency kits to elders with tea, books, magazines, socks, food, cleaning supplies, etc.-for example, a program could purchase fabric and have their elders sew their emergency bag kit;
- Now is a good time to think about protecting Tribal Elders from abuse and neglect during this crisis;
- Often elders are caregivers for younger children and may be at risk if children are left to care for grandchildren, some may even be fearful of receiving visitors;
- Some elders may be the only family members receiving income as more businesses close;
- Program staff may be unavailable to make home visits, is the food/supplies reaching the elder and remaining in their home?
Dear Tribal Health Leader:

Please see the message announcing $250 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help provide meals to elders during this time of public health emergency. Efforts to stop the spread of Coronavirus have increased the need for delivered and packaged food so that elders can continue receiving meals. Please see below for the announcement from ACL.

Funding has been provided to states, territories, and Tribes for subsequent allocation to local meal providers. Grant amounts are population-based formulas as identified in the Older Americans Act.

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programs work together to help millions of older adults each year stay healthy and continue living independently.

“The network of community-based organizations that provide Older Americans Act services has an exceptional capacity to coordinate services, bring together service providers, and adapt to overcome challenges, and they are employing innovative solutions to continue meal services,” said ACL Administrator Lance Robertson. “This additional funding will help communities across the country provide older adults, especially those at greatest risk, with the healthy meals they need.”

Funding has been provided to states, territories, and tribes for subsequent allocation to local meal providers. Grant amounts are determined based on the population-based formulas defined in the Older Americans Act.

Older adults who need assistance can contact the Eldercare Locator to find services available in their community. The Eldercare Locator can be reached at 1-800-677-1116 or eldercare.acl.gov.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit CDC’s website. For more information about the Older Americans Act nutrition programs, please visit ACL.gov.