

# DOI SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education

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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Tara MacLean Sweeney  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 4660  
Washington, DC 20240

## **Re: CARES Act Tribal Allocation Must Include Contract Support Costs**

Dear Assistant Secretary Sweeney:

On behalf of the Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC), I am writing to request that the Department of the Interior (DOI) not use any portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocation to pay contract support costs (CSC). As noted in your Dear Tribal Leader Letter of April 13, 2020, "Tribes participating in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contracting or compacting will receive these one-time, non-recurring non-base funds through modifications to their existing ISDEAA agreements." We therefore expect to receive full payment of CSC and request that you provide Congress with the amount the agency needs to fully pay CSC for the CARES Act allocation to Tribes.

Since 2014 Congress has fully paid CSC in a separate line item to Tribes to cover the costs of providing services to their citizens under contracts and compacts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We do not want to revisit what was a long and exhaustive thirty-year effort to recover the costs of doing business on behalf of the United States. We have turned that corner and ask that you support the intent of Congress to cover these costs by letting them know the CSC debt while there are impending spending legislative opportunities to submit the request.

While DOI may think that Tribes could come back after the fact to request full funding of CSC, Tribes are concerned that it would delay funding needed **now** to meet their immediate and urgent needs. A delay in requesting the CSC from Congress, will lead to other consequences that Tribes must not and should not have to endure. It is our hope that DOI understands the gravity of this request and will not delay requesting the CSC funds in the next COVID spending bill.

Finally, we urge that you consider a Tribal consultation session to discuss this matter and hear first-hand from Tribal Leaders. If SGAC can assist in this outreach please

contact Jay Spaan, Executive Director, SGCE at [jays@tribalselfgov.org](mailto:jays@tribalselfgov.org) or (918) 370-4258. Thank you.

Sincerely,



W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO  
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe  
Chairman, SGAC

Cc: Sharee Freeman, Director, Office of Self-Governance  
Mark A. Cruz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic  
Development  
Carol L. Brown, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of AS-IA, DOI  
SGAC and DOI Self-Governance Tribes