



## **BEAR RIVER ELDERS ASSISTANCE POLICY**

### **I. MISSION STATEMENT**

The Elders Assistance policy reflects recognition by the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria that Tribal Elders may at times require financial assistance to address their health and wellness needs.

This Policy applies to all enrolled Tribal members age sixty (60) and over or born on or before June 18, 1969 and defines the services, limits, and process established by the Tribal Council for accessing Elders Assistance.

### **II. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

A Tribal Elder who is applying for financial assistance for health and wellness needs must submit a Benefit Service Request Form to the Tribal Benefits Coordinator or Social Services in advance of receiving a service or starting repair work. Elders must provide all needed documentation prior to consideration for payment.

#### **Covered Expenditures:**

- a. Medical bill expenses. Requires documentation from a licensed provider/facility. Invoice must be submitted within 30 days of treatment to be considered.
- b. Holistic treatment medicine expenses (including but not limited to acupuncture/massage, physical therapy, etc.). Requires documentation from a licensed provider/facility. Invoice must be submitted within 30 days of treatment to be considered.
- c. End of life care services/necessary equipment and household items to ensure quality end of life care. Requires documentation from a licensed provider/facility.
- d. Items needed to maintain personal health and wellness, including items that are purchased from a medical supply store. (Items may include but are not limited to: hygienic needs, specialty food items, walkers, etc). Requires documentation from a licensed provider.
- e. Dump run/house cleaning services necessary to ensure a clean, sanitary household. Requires documentation and a contract with the service company with designated length of time for services.
- f. Items needed to maintain personal security. (Items may include but are limited to: emergency beepers, LifeAlert, etc.)
- g. Automotive payment for; automotive parts, automotive towing expenses and automotive repairs. Proof of registration for the vehicle is required and must be in the name of tribal member/spouse.

- h. Emergency gasoline reimbursement, once per quarter of each year. Receipts must be submitted within 30 days of purchase to Bear River Social Services to be considered. Proof of registration for the vehicle is required and must be in the name of tribal member/spouse.

**Homeowners Only:**

- a. Household items needed to maintain security of a residence (items may include but are not limited to: window locks, security systems, etc.).
- b. Structural repairs to a house that relate to safety. Defined as repairs to foundation, roof, load-bearing wall, floor joist, chimney, electrical plumbing or staircase.

**III. LIMITS OF ASSISTANCE**

- a. This policy does not cover prescription medication.
- b. Documentation from a licensed provider/facility should include the name of the product as well as the number of items and the duration of time needed.
- c. An eligible Tribal Elder age sixty (60) or over may receive Elder Assistance funds up to a maximum amount of \$5,000.00 annually and no more than \$25,000.00 in a 10 year period. If a limit is not reached in any decade (10 year period), the unused portion cannot be banked or carried over to a subsequent ten year period of an Elder's life.
- d. Approval on requests cannot be made by any individual processing the request.
- e. Any request that exceeds \$5,000.00 must be submitted to Tribal Council for approval.
- f. If a Tribal Member Elder exceeds their \$5000 yearly allotment due to large item approvals, the Tribal Member must sign a document saying that they are aware that they have exceeded their yearly amount and that the \$25,000.00 amount per decade maximum still applies.

An example:

i.e., a maximum of \$25,000.00 between the ages of sixty (60) and sixty-nine (69), \$25,000.00 between the ages of seventy (70) and seventy-nine (79), etc.

- g. Any additional work and cost shall be approved by the Tribal Council. Additional approval amount is not to exceed the approval limits set forth in the Procurement Policy.

**IV. REIMBURSEMENTS**

- a. All payments for services or items shall be made to a third party. Emergency gasoline reimbursements will be accepted and made payable to the Elder Tribal Member but only with the approval of the Elder Committee.

**V. APPEAL PROCESS**

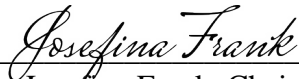
- a. Any Elder may submit a Social Services Appeal Form to the Elders Committee through a Bear River Social Services staff member.
- b. Elders must provide all needed documentation for consideration.

- c. The Elders Committee will convene and make a decision 14 days after receiving the Social Services Appeal Form and required documentation.
- d. All decisions made by the Elders Committee will be final.

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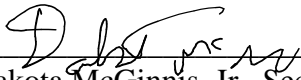
This is to certify that the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria Tribal Council duly assembled in Loleta, CA and adopted the foregoing policy on June 18, 2024 by a vote of 6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions and 1 Absent.



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Josefina Frank, Chairperson

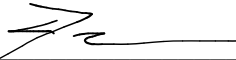


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Aileen Meyer, Vice-Chairperson



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Dakota McGinnis, Jr., Secretary

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Maggie Wortmon, Treasurer



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John D. McGinnis, Member-at-Large 1



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Edward Bowie, Member-at-Large 2



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Derek Bowman, Member at Large 3