



BEAR RIVER ELDERS ASSISTANCE POLICY

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. In addition, this policy recognizes that Elders may request financial assistance to address the needs to remain in their home and their community as they age.

ELIGIBILITY

This Policy applies to all enrolled Tribal members age Sixty (60) or 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.

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 Benefit 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.

DEFINITIONS

Next of kin- next of kin is defined in the following order: surviving spouse or registered domestic partner, child(ren), grandchildren, parent(s), sibling(s), niece and nephews, grandparents, aunts or uncles and cousins.

Designated Caregiver: an individual or agency that has been identified to provide care to the elder during the end of life.

Covered Expenditures:

- a. Medical bill expenses. Requires documentation from a qualified 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 qualified provider/facility. Invoice must be submitted within 30 days of treatment to be considered.
- c. Behavioral health expenses (including but not limited to counseling session, grief support, etc.). Requires documentation from provider/facility. Invoice must be submitted within 30 days of treatment to be considered.
- d. End of life care services/necessary equipment, designated caregiver and household items to ensure quality end of life care. Requires documentation from a qualified provider/facility. Other resources (such as but not limited to In Home Support Services, Hospice, and Palliative Care) must be contacted before using this line

item. If outside agencies have been contacted, services should not be delayed under this line item.

- a. Caregiver may be designated by the recipient or if recipient cannot designate a caregiver next of kin will be followed in collaboration with Social Services. Caregiving hours will be limited to 8 hours of care in a 24 hour period at rates to match In Home Supportive Services and not to exceed 40 hours a week.
- b. If an outside caregiving agency is used, approval for payment can be made by the Elder committee. (Payment amount can be adjusted with the approval of the Elder committee).
- e. 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 qualified provider.
- f. Dump run/House cleaning services necessary to ensure clean, sanitary household. Requires documentation and a contract with the service company with designated length of time for services.
- g. Items needed to maintain personal security. (Items may include but are not limited to: emergency beepers, LifeAlert, etc.)
 - a) Ring-like doorbell not including the subscription required.
- h. Hospitalizations; Elders who are hospitalized for 30 consecutive days may utilize this policy to pay the utilities needed to maintain a healthy home environment for them to return home including but not limited to; PG&E, propane, water, garbage, phone services, car payment and rent.
- i. Firewood- an invoice must be provided.
- j. Automotive payment for; automotive parts, automotive towing expenses and automotive repairs. Proof of registration for vehicle is required and must be in the name of tribal member/spouse.
 - a) Repairs are not to exceed 50% of the vehicles blue book value
 - b) Car insurance; up to one year coverage and registration fees
- k. Gasoline card in the maximum amount of \$150.00, once per quarter of each year. Receipts must be submitted within 30 days of receiving assistance to Bear River Social Services.
- l. Once Out-of-Area Medical Assistance policy has been exhausted, an eligible elder may access the \$400.00 assistance through this policy and must abide by requirements set forth in the Out-of-Area Medical Assistance policy.

Homeowners Only:

- m. Household items needed to maintain security of a residence (Items may include but are not limited to: window locks, security systems, etc.).
- n. Structural repairs to house that relate to safety. (Items may include but are not limited to: access ramps, safety rails, power washing, cleanliness, etc.)
- o. Homeowners insurance; up to one year coverage will be paid directly to vendor to ensure residence.

I. LIMITS OF ASSISTANCE

- a) This policy does not cover prescription medication.
- b) Documentation from qualified 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 or born on or before June 18, 1969 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.

Furthermore, if any part of the benefit is not accessed or used, it does not become a property right that can be passed down in Probate.
- 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 \$5,000.00 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.
- g) The amount of Elders assistance begins at the starting age of Sixty (60) with a maximum of \$25,000 between ages sixty (60) and seventy (70), then \$25,000.00 between the ages of seventy-one (71) and eighty-one (81) continued through each decade.

II. REIMBURSEMENTS

- a) All payments for services or items will typically be made to a third party vendor. In special circumstances, a reimbursement may be made directly to Tribal Members, but only with the approval of the Elder Committee.

III. APPEAL PROCESS

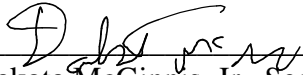
- a) Any Elder may submit a Social Services Appeal Form to the Elders Committee through a Bear River Social Services staff member.
- b) Elders must provide all needed documentation for consideration.
- c) The Elders Committee will convene and make a decision 14 days after receiving the Social Services Appeal Form and required documentation.
- d) All decisions made by the Elders Committee will be final.

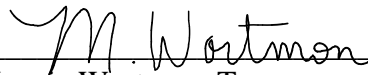
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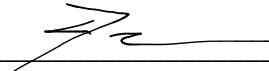
This is to certify that the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria Tribal Council duly assembled in Loleta, CA and adopted the foregoing policy on July 30, 2024 by a vote of 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions and 0 Absent.



Josefina Frank, Chairperson



Aileen Meyer, Vice-Chairperson


Dakota McGinnis, Jr., Secretary


Maggie Wortmon, Treasurer


John D. McGinnis, Member-at-Large 1


Edward Bowie, Member-at-Large 2


Derek Bowman, Member at Large 3