

Walker River Paiute Tribe
Aid to Tribal Members Assistance Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
June 3, 2020

Where can I get an application for the Aid to Tribal Members Assistance Program?

Enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe 18 years and older can obtain an application by:

- Visiting www.wrpt.org and clicking on the red COVID-19 Info and Resources link and selecting Aid to Tribal Members Assistance Program. Instructions and a pdf fillable application will open that can be completed, signed and submitted via email to wrptcares@wrpt.org
- Requesting an application via U.S. Mail. The Tribe has mailed paper applications to all enrolled tribal members 18 years and older who have current addresses on file.
- Calling 775.773.2306 to request assistance with completing the application over the phone.
- Applications will also be available outside the Tribal Administration by the drop box located on the east side of the building during business hours.

Who is eligible to apply for the Aid to Tribal Members Assistance Program?

All enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe 18 years and older are eligible to apply to the Aid to Tribal Members assistance program.

Where can I get assistance with completing my application?

Assistance is available by calling 775.773.2306 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. Due to high call volume please leave a message and your call will be returned within 24 hours. You may also request assistance by emailing wrptcares@wrpt.org with your name, number and brief message requesting assistance with completing the application.

Where can I get my questions about the Aid to Tribal Members assistance program answered?

The fastest way to get your questions answered about the Aid to Tribal Members assistance programs to submit them to wrptcares@wrpt.org . If you do not have access to email please

call 775.773.2306 to request assistance. We monitor the email and phone messages on a regular basis and are able to provide a response within 24 hours.

How often can I apply and are there deadlines?

Enrolled tribal members 18 and older may submit an Aid to Tribal Members assistance application for June, July and August.

The application deadline for June 2020 assistance has been **extended to June 10, 2020**. Applications must be submitted by email or telephone no later than June 10, 2020. Applications submitted via U.S. Mail must be postmarked on or before June 10th to be considered for June payment. The Walker River Paiute Tribe will issue and mail assistance checks to tribal members with an approved application on June 15, 2020. All checks will be sent via U.S. Mail, in person pick-up will not be available.

The application deadline for July and August are as follows:

- July Application Deadline: July 6, 2020 Checks mailed: July 15, 2020
- August Application Deadline: August 5, 2020 Checks mailed: August 15, 2020

Applications submitted after the established deadlines will not be considered for payment.

Can I hand deliver my application to the Tribal Hall?

The tribe has placed a locked drop box on the east side of the tribal hall near the picnic tables. Tribal members wishing to deliver their application directly to the tribe are asked to utilize the drop box during regular business hours. Due to the tribe's efforts to mitigate the ongoing pandemic and in an effort to maintain confidentiality hand delivery to tribal staff will not be accepted. The box will be checked on a regular basis during normal business hours.

How will I know my application has been received?

If you submit your application via email you will receive confirmation of receipt via email. Due to the high volume of applications being received please allow at least 48 hours for confirmation of receipt.

If you submit your application over the phone and provide an email address you will receive confirmation via email. Otherwise you will receive a verbal acknowledgement and a follow up letter via U.S. Mail at the time of submission.

If you submit your application via U.S Mail or to the locked drop box located at the Tribal Administration Building and provide an email address you will receive confirmation via email. Otherwise you will receive an acknowledgement letter via U.S. Mail at the time of submission.

How long will it take to process my application or get my questions answered?

Applications and questions are processed in the order received. Due to the extremely high volume we are experiencing it may take up to 48 hours to receive a response. Please be assured we will respond to you as quickly as possible. It is our goal to ***use email language here.***

How much assistance can I receive from the Aid to Tribal Members assistance program?

Enrolled members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe 18 years and older, who have applied by the established deadlines are eligible to receive assistance in the amount of \$1,000 per month for the months of June, July and August 2020 up to a total amount of \$3,000. Payment will be issued by the 15th of the month to members with approved applications.

How will I know my application has been approved?

Applicants who apply via email will receive notice of approval via email.

Applicants who submit an application over the phone or via U.S. Mail who provide an email address on their application will receive notice of approval via email. If no email address is provided you will receive an approval letter in the mail.

What is the process for reviewing and approving applications for the Aid to Tribal Members assistance program applications?

The tribe has contracted with an independent third party to assist with the development, implementation and management of the Aid to Tribal Members program. The use of an independent third party insures that each application is evaluated using the established criteria outlined in the application material for each application received. The independent third party is required to adhere to the tribe's confidentiality policy at all times.

The tribe selected an independent third party with extensive experience in the development, implementation and monitoring of both entitlement and grant funded public benefit assistance programs, such as the Aid to Tribal Members program. The contractor's familiarity and experience with developing and implementing programs that are in full compliance with federal funding guidelines is an added benefit to insure the tribe is using its CARES Act monies appropriately and will not risk having to repay funds in the future.

How will my information be stored? Is it secure?

The Walker River Paiute Tribe takes the privacy of its tribal members very seriously. Applications and supporting documentation are stored on a secure server that is protected by industry standard, HIPPA compliant network security. Access to the applications is restricted to the few individuals directly supporting the Aid to Tribal Members program.

The Aid to Tribal Members program is funded entirely by funds the tribe received through the CARES Act. As a result, the tribe must comply with federal law and retain all records associated with the program such as applications, supporting documentation, records of payment and other program materials for the time period required by law, usually 3 years.

If I receive payments from the Aid to Tribal Members is it considered taxable income?

The Aid to Tribal Members program was established as a public assistance program as part of the Walker River Paiute Tribe's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under normal circumstances entitlement programs and public assistance programs are not considered taxable income. Tribal leadership has requested assistance from the Nevada Congressional delegation, the National Congress of American Indians and the U.S. Treasury Department in obtaining clarification on this and other questions. As of the date of the FAQ's the Tribe has not received a response from either entity. The FAQ's will be updated if a response is received.

If I receive assistance through the Aid to Tribal Members program will it affect my eligibility for other public benefits programs such as SNAP, welfare, SSI, etc?

The Aid to Tribal Members program was created as a short-term public assistance program to assist tribal members directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as allowed under the Coronavirus Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) approved by Congress on March 27, 2020. The Aid to Tribal Members program is not intended to replace assistance received from other program but rather to provide tribal members with assistance for unexpected expenses incurred as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Tribal members who receive other public assistance benefits should contact the respective agency to determine if the tribe's assistance program will affect their long-term benefits.

Over the past two weeks, Tribal leadership has requested assistance from the Nevada Congressional delegation, the National Congress of American Indians and the U.S. Treasury Department in obtaining clarification on this and other questions. As of the date of the FAQ's the Tribe has not received a response from any entity. The FAQ's will be updated if a response is received.

Are there other types of assistance available to tribal members?

The tribe understands the COVID-19 pandemic has affected each member in different ways. The Aid to Tribal Members program is a public benefit program that can provide financial, technology and assistance to participants of the tribe's Indian Housing Program. We understand that members may have a need for additional types of assistance not covered by the Aid to Tribal Members program. A Resource List is available on the tribe's website at www.wrpt.org by clicking on the red COVID-19 Info and Resources link and selecting Resource List.

You are also encouraged to include a confidential request for referral for additional assistance on your application in the mandatory section on page 4