



Kiowa Tribe

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Executive Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiowa Legislator's Budget is Misleading

CARNEGIE, Okla. – The Kiowa Tribe Legislature's annual budget is up for a vote on August 22, 2020. But the Tribal Chairman and Executive Branch say it's misleading and insensitive to its tribal members.

If the legislator's budget passes it will leave the tribe in shambles and scrambling to survive, and tribal members will be left to struggle with nowhere to turn.

The legislators have already shut down all expenditures of the \$21.8 million of CARES Act federal assistance. That means no money to assist kids and students with distance learning.

There's no change in the amount the elderly will receive. No increase considered.

Because the CARES Act money has been stopped, the COVID-19 Response Center has been shut down. That means no one will get any financial assistance during these trying times. Because the money is frozen, many of the checks awarded have bounced, throwing the service fees on the individual. The daily service fees will add up forcing more hardship on tribal members.

Ceasing the federal assistance has also attacked those who have been affected by the virus. There have been reports of entire households that have tested positive. With the tribe not able to utilize that money, the tribe is not able to properly sanitize these homes. If someone passes away or falls ill due to the coronavirus, the tribe is not able to offer any extra assistance such as hospital bills, special needs equipment, medication, etc.

According to Kiowa Tribe records, it shows at least forty tribal members have currently tested positive with the virus. It is Chairman Matthew Komalty, tribal executive staff's hope that it can bring this assistance back to the people.

Make your voice heard and vote on August 22, 2020.