March 19, 2020

As a Tribe we need to unite within our Tribal Government functions to be proactive against this crisis. We will effectively work as long as we are collaborating our efforts than being in opposition. I declared a State of Emergency on behalf of the Kiowa Tribe to assist us in seeking State and Federal in a timely and efficient manner.

The Executive Branch will be networking and providing assistance with the funding we have allocated in the Tribal budget and Federal funding. The Tribe has submitted request for Federal and State aide and once we receive notification of funding being made available we will have plans developed to get those resources out to the Legislative Branches.

At this time, we are ensuring basic needs for our elders and children are provided with daily meals made available by the AOA and Head Start Programs. Programs who offer health related services are open to assist with referrals and contact information with local, State and Federal resources. In addition, all administrative staff are on call to provide assistance as issues and concerns arise. We have a list of all tribal programs on our Tribal web-site with contact information.

Our CFO Adam Valdez, has identified tribal resources to receive funding to each of the Legislative Branches in the amount of $10,000. Requests can be made in your district and will be processed by Social Services guidelines. If you have needs, contact your legislature for assistance.

In regards to the funding at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) through our 20% percent allocations we are obtaining information about those allocations and we will make the decision if we are going to request funding from those accounts. Once areas of need are identified by the Legislative Branches. These funds have regulatory requirements that must be followed in the distribution of these funds and policies and procedures will need to be developed before these funds can be requested and allocated.

One of the goals of the Kiowa Tribe during this Corona Virus pandemic is to ensure contacts and emergency sources are available to our Kiowa people; one that is as comprehensive as possible through the utilization of state, federal and finally resources of the Kiowa Tribe. Your service area Legislators are your functional areas of support. You will find contact numbers for your Legislators for each of your jurisdictions publicly announced should you have a need to be addressed.

The important thing to remember is we have a framework for responding as efficiently as our governmental structure allows. I thank you and ask that each of you demonstrate support, solidarity, and cooperation in your communities and ensure you communicate as factually as possible. Remember, we are resilient.

Respectfully,

Chairman Matthew Komalty