



Kiowa Tribe

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Executive Branch

From the desk of Kiowa Tribal Chairman Matthew M. Komalty

April 1, 2020

Hello everyone. My name is Matthew Komalty, Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe.

I would like to visit with you about what the tribe and casinos are doing in light of the novel coronavirus or COV-19. The virus is a serious threat to our people and our communities. So I would like to take this time to report to you the assistance we have been providing since our closure on March 19, 2020.

The Kiowa Tribal Administration on Aging, (AOA) has been fully staffed during this pandemic and averaging about a dozen volunteers every day delivering hot meals. No in house meals have been served. To date, 1,686 meals have been delivered with the help of Transportation and the casinos providing vehicles and drivers.

AOA has also been blessed enough to help our neighboring tribes; Apache, Fort Sill Apache, and Comanche tribes with its elder's programs. Those amounts are included 1,686 elder's meals delivered that I mentioned earlier.

Our tribal legislators received ten-thousand dollars apiece to be used at their discretion and offered to its constituents. The monies came from the legislative budget and to date, more than 5-hundred vouchers have been written to be given to those who signed up for assistance.

The intent of this emergency fund allocation to the legislature was to help Kiowa members who become vulnerable during this crisis. There was cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches in reaching this arrangement.

To maintain a transparent finance trail, our finance department has created a separate accounting code for the monies spent during this pandemic. This will assist with record-keeping for future audits. The finance team is also working very hard to compile a summary of the losses that the tribe and its commercial enterprises have suffered during this crisis.

Tax Commission remained open until March 25, 2020, and it served clients curbside or mailout to 64 tribal members.

Food distribution also remains open serving groceries curbside to more than 68 homes and an additional 77 individuals served. The Transportation Department has also been accommodating in this area delivering food items. The casino has made additional drivers available if the need arises.

Both tax commission will reopen, curbside only in the coming days.

Child Care and Head Start have been closed since March 19. At the child care center, 35 families living outside Anadarko, Okla., were assisted through continued assistance and 13 child care providers throughout 22 counties.

At Head Start, 53 families were delivered food bags and given learning packets to help foster continued education during this downtime.

CHR's remain on call and have responded to more than a dozen transports.