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Nooksack Housing Press Release March 17, 2020

Nooksack Indian Housing Authority (NIHA)- The COVID-19 outbreak is affecting all social and economic activities for the families in the NIHA housing sites and scattered sites. We (NIHA) understand the hardships from the effect of the *Declaration of Emergency* for the families, examples are traveling, social distancing and the closures of businesses, in which effect all lives in our community. During this time, NIHA with guidance from the General Manager and Tribal Leadership will implement:

- No late fees will be charged to the family household accounts
- No family household accounts will be moved into delinquency for non-payment
- No family households will be placed into Eviction, due to non-payment

The following implementations are only in effect during the time of the COVID-19 outbreak. The tenant MUST call the NIHA office to communicate their inability to make their payment on time. NIHA hopes to support and work with our family households in our housing sites. The household accounts will still be charged monthly for Rent and tenant related charges. We will work together with the family households to find reasonable and mutually agreeable strategies to deal with the effects of the current situation.

This action is authorized by Nooksack Indian Tribal Council Resolution #20-30, dated March 7, 2020, titled: Declaring a public health emergency for COVID-19. "14. Effect of Declaration of Emergency, the Parties recognize that tribal, state or federal declarations of emergency, or orders related thereto, may supersede the arrangements made or actions taken for rendering Assistance pursuant to this Agreement. In the event any party declares an emergency or evokes emergency powers it shall promptly notify all other parties to this Agreement of such declaration".

If there are any concerns or questions, the Housing Department is open from 10am until 3pm, Monday through Friday (unless the current situation changes).

Appreciated,

Darryl Gray Housing Director