This Nooksack Tribal CSBG Tribal CARES Act Plan is being made available on the Nooksack Tribal Web Page for public review and comment. CSBG Care Act Funds will be used to support individuals and families with urgent needs for food, shelter, energy assistance, and college educational supplies. Please send comments and suggestions to Heidi Davis at hdavis@nooksack-nsn.gov. Thank you!

What are the policies and/or procedures for determining eligibility?

To find out whether they are eligible, Tribal Members shall notify the Social Service Department when a specific need(s) arises. The Eligibility Criteria which are the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2018 will be applied to determine financial need during the application process. If all requirements are met, the applicant shall then receive assistance prioritizing the lowest-income and most urgent needs.

The families and individuals who meet the 2018 poverty guidelines will be served in terms of food, shelter, energy assistance, and college educational supplies, as needed.

Individuals must first notify the Social Services Department of their needs:

- An application will need to be filed.
- Staff will then review the application along with financial verification;
  - The applicant must meet 2018 Poverty guidelines;
  - The applicant must have verification of the immediate need;
  - For educational supplies the applicant must be enrolled and actively participating in college.

Other resources available through the Social Services Department, and any other governmental and private groups with which Nooksack Social Services Department collaborates, are also addressed with the client.

If there is a time delay before other services can be put in place and the need is urgent:
- Other tribal resources are first used to address the crisis;
- CSBG funds are used after other tribal resources have been exhausted.

**What are the policies and/or procedures when individual income verification is not possible or practical?**

Families or individuals are required to submit income verification with their applications to determine eligibility for services. If income verification is not possible by the applicant, they can request a staff member to assist by signing a release of information that will allow staff to contact employers and request that income verification be sent through email or fax. Staff also works closely with our local Whatcom County Department of Social and Health Services who can assist in verifying income if necessary.

**How will Nooksack Tribe ensure that services target and benefit low-income communities, for those services that provide a community-wide benefit?**

The Nooksack Social Services Department will assist impoverished families or individuals in urgent need, including those belonging to the working poor, with CSBG funding according to the 2018 Poverty Guidelines. This allows us to assistance our lowest-income and those with the most urgent needs as priorities.

**Here is the description of activities that will assist low-income Nooksack families/individuals in removing obstacles to self-sufficiency.**

The Nooksack Social Services Department will assist low-income families and individuals by providing emergency assistance with food through vouchers, shelter, and energy assistance. Support to families or individuals for increasing self-sufficiency will be provided through the Social Services Department. Tribal members and families that are working towards self-sufficiency will be able to access the named emergency services as they gain independence, enhancing self-sufficiency and increasing positive self-esteem.

**Here are the activities that will address the needs of youth in the Nooksack community.**
Lack of education in today’s world is one of the most serious limitations that prevents meaningful employment for young people. The Nooksack Social Services Department provides a General Education Degree (GED) program with its own GED Classroom in the Social Services Department. Poverty and despair have led to minimal enrollment in this program, so the Social Services/Temporary Assistant Needy Families (TANF) Department will encourage individuals to enroll in the GED program or completion of High School Diploma program, promoting the assistance we can provide with job applications, interview training, computer training for youth, and other resources.

*Here are the activities that will coordinate with other programs communities related to the purpose of the CSBG Act and this funding.*

CSBG is housed under the Nooksack Social Services Department which allows staff to work closely to ensure families or individuals are able to access other programs or resources through additional Federal and State-funded programs if needed. Some of these programs include: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Native Employment Works (NEW), Western Washington Indian Employment Training Program (WWIETP), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), & Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

*This is how funds will be utilized to develop linkages to fill identified gaps in services.*

When a family/individual is not eligible through the CSBG program, our staff will send a referral and work closely with other programs such as: Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), TANF, Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), The NEW Program, and Opportunity Council, to ensure the families/individuals needs are met.