

NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
APPLICATION FOR 2021-2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nooksack Indian Tribe's Reservation is located in Deming, Washington. Most tribal members live rurally in Whatcom County in remnants of their historic lands. Poverty exceeds eighty- percent (80%) for this tribe. Of those who work, sixty four (64%) remain poverty.

Prevention of starvation and malnutrition as well as provision of assured habitable shelter is essential needs for the majority of the tribal members. Achievement of self-subsistence for these individuals requires continued assurance they will have shelter and nourishment as well as direct assistance with efforts towards work readiness and completing the essential GED.

Past Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds have been essential to the survival of a number of our people. The dramatic increase in Service Area population to 1890, however, has pressed Social Services to prevent starvation and lack of shelter or warmth for all in urgent need. Of this, no more than five percent (5%) will address administrative costs. Of the balance, fifty percent (55%) will go to energy assistance, twenty five (25%) percent will go to shelter assistance and fifteen percent (15%) each will go to food assistance and job readiness assistance.

Through coordination with Nooksack tribe and other local agencies (State, County, Private), the above problems are addressed. Work First, Salvation Army and Goodwill offer employment readiness. Food commodities, food bank, food vouchers and limited rental assistance are also available. DHHS (Washington) offers long-term relief with food stamps, rental assistance, medical and other essentials. Many of these processes are too slow for urgent situations. Often, tribal resources for food, shelter and energy assistance are depleted prior to the end of the fiscal year. The additional funding through Community Services Block Grants is increasingly essential to prevent starvation and homelessness or malnutrition and lack of heat for impoverished Nooksacks. Those achieving employment mostly enter the world of the working poor where the risk of malnourishment, homelessness, and exposure to cold become, in fact, higher risks than when they were totally dependent. It is essential to prevent the despair and severe hardships felt by the working people, in order to assure continued shifts towards self-subsistence through education and employment. Thus, the Nooksack Social Services Department will serve as a coordinator, directing and assisting individuals to appropriate services, as well as preventing duplication of services. With the 2018 Poverty Guidelines, the Nooksack Social Services Department will assist impoverished individuals, including those belonging to the working poor, in urgent need with CSBG funding. Throughout, the Department will provide encouragement and direction towards self-subsistence, including the use of CSBG funds to supplement supplies or life essentials for those in the GED program, any other training program, or low wage employment.

In compliance with the State Model for CSBG applications, we address the required issues as per the provided outline organizational structure provided on subsequent pages.

NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE CSBG APPLICATION

I. Federal Fiscal Year of Years Covered by this Tribal Plan or Application

Application for FY 2021 and 2022

II. Executive Summary

A. CSBG State (here Tribal) Legislation

The Nooksack Indian Tribe was recognized by the Federal Government in 1973, as an outcome of the Bolt Decision. As a Federally recognized tribe we meet the criteria for CSBG application. Our constitution is based on the standard document authorized by the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Tribal governing body (Council) consists of 8 members elected to four year staggered terms. Elections are held in March. Tribal business is conducted on a resolution basis. The Tribal General Council is comprised of the total membership who are 18 years or older.

B. Designation of Lead State (here Tribal) Agency to Administer the CSBG Program

As per Section 676(a) of the Act, the Tribal Chairman (in lieu of State Chief Executive), designates the following Tribal Department: Program, and Director for Administration of the Community Services Block Grant. (Letter of Designation attached).

Designated Tribal Lead Department and Program:

Department Social Services

Director of Designated Department:

Mrs. Heidi Davis

III. Federal and CSBG Assurances.

These are attached to this application as required.

DESCRIPTIVE BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTED AMOUNT

The CSBG budget is presented here both on a percentage basis and in dollars. This is because the allotment is indefinite, based on totals first awarded to States.

Federal regulations allows us five percent of the allotment be utilized for administrative (indirect) purposes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Nooksack Indian Tribe has invited the public to participate in all matters presented before the Council. A digital **Plan Description** for this grant (Community Services Block Grant) was presented to the public for a period of ten days

PLAN DESCRIPTION

A STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

The goal of the Nooksack Indian Tribe is to provide essentials and an improved life style for those Tribal Members that are in the most need with the Community Services Block Grant funding. In doing so, we will be addressing appropriately the Program and Administrative Assurances required in agreement.

OBJECTIVES

The Nooksack Indian Tribe has the objective of ensuring, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.

The programmatic and administrative assurances will be clearly in compliance, which will be addressed by the Tribe with the terms of funding.

The Tribe will provide reports as required, including addressing criteria and methodology for distribution of funds.

The Tribe will continue to focus on implementing, providing assistance to low-income families and individuals including elders, and those attempting to re-enter the job market.

NEED

Each year, the Nooksack Indian Tribe continues to increase. With this increase, the Social Services Department encounters greater needs for community member assistance. Therefore, we are requesting an allocation for FY 2021-2022.

USE OF FUNDS

Funds distribution will be maximum of five percent (5%) administrative costs and the remainder of the allotment is for direct relief to individuals requiring food, shelter, energy/water assistance, or job re-entry assistance.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

The Tribal Member shall notify the Social Service Department when a specific need(s) arises. The Eligibility Criteria as per HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2021 shall be applied to determine financial need by application process. If all requirements are met, the applicant shall then receive assistance with lowest-income and urgency as priorities.

INFORMATION ON THE SPECIFIC TYPES OF ACTIVITIES TO BE SUPPORTED TO CARRY OUT BOTH PROGRAMMATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSURANCES.

PROGRAMMATIC ASSURANCES

Required Implementation

- 1) Funds made available through this grant or allotment will be used to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will assist low-income families and individuals through the provisions of emergency assistance with food through vouchers, shelter and energy assistance. Support towards self-sufficiency will be provided through the Social Services Department. Tribal members that are in the process of advancing forward towards self-sufficiency will be able to access the named emergency services as they move from dependence, through working towards self-sufficiency and positive self-esteem.

- 2) Secure and retain meaningful employment;

For the tribe, meaningful employment is a critical concern. Of the allotment, 15% of the dollars are assigned to assisting Tribal members for job readiness, whether it is food or another barrier to job readiness.

- 3) To attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving skills of the low-income families in the community.

Educational deficiency in today's world is the greatest limitation preventing meaningful employment for these individuals. The Nooksack Indian Tribe Social Services Department provides a General Education Degree (GED) program with its own GED Classroom in the Social Services Department. Poverty and despair have prevented greater enrollment in this program. The Social Services/Temporary Assistant Needy Families (TANF) Department will work with individuals to encourage their enrollment in the GED program or ABE program. Social Services through our various programs can provide assistance with resume building, job applications, interview training and introduction to computer training if needed.

- 4) To make better use of available income;

At least two programs per year will be provided for demonstrating Economical cooking with commodities and meal preparation: the Nooksack Diabetes Program, the Nooksack Tribal SAMSHA Program and Nooksack Tribal TANF Program.

- 5) To obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;

Twenty five percent of the allotment is designated for shelter assistance. This includes providing urgent shelter for the homeless and includes providing urgent assistance for clients who have shelter, but need emergency assistance in making it fit for human habitation. This assistance can be utilized one-time per life time, if financial need is met and is above the energy assistance provided.

Through additional Federal and State funding Social Services coordinates and/or has helped implement TANF, Native Employment Works (NEW), SPIPA, tutoring, GED program through the Social Services Department, access to Child Care resources, after school care, and summer program for children of clients.

Other Applicable Programmatic Assurances:

Emergency food services

It is the goal of the Nooksack Indian Tribe to provide on an emergency basis to identify and provide through our Social Services program services that include food vouchers, commodities and food bank.

Prevention of duplication of services

As an assurance that the State (here Nooksack Indian Tribe) works closely with Whatcom Opportunity Council in relationship to our Nooksack Tribal Membership to avoid duplication of services. Within the Nooksack Social Services Department are various programs such as; CSBG, LIHEAP, TANF, ERAP, Child Care and NEW Program in which we coordinate to avoid duplication of services to clients.

Energy crisis intervention

An assurance that the State (hereafter Nooksack Indian Tribe) has an emergency response department to assist tribal members/clients during an emergent or crisis situation.

Federal investigations

An assurance that the State (hereafter Nooksack Indian Tribe) The Nooksack Indian Tribe agrees to permit and cooperate with the Federal government or its authorized agent in any legal investigation of records or procedures. The Tribal government views all records connected with federal funds to be of public record and therefore, will allow records to be reviewed by any person(s) interested, including federal agents.

Coordination of programs and partnerships

The CSBG program will work closely with Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), ERAP, N-TANF, Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), The NEW Program and Opportunity Council. When funds have been exhausted from these Programs we will expend funds from the CSBG Program.

In an effort to simplify the application process, all programs will utilize the same application format.

Establish Procedures

An assurance that the State (here Nooksack Indian Tribe) will require each program within the social services department of the Nooksack Indian Tribe to establish procedures which serves low-income individuals.

Community Action Plan

An assurance that the State (here Nooksack Indian Tribe) in *coordinating its' programs to have clear plans as per the 2020 Nooksack Strategic Plan.*

Accountability

Current accountability is provided through Social Service records and financial records.

APPLICABLE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSURANCES

Application

To submit an application to the Secretary containing information and provisions that describe the programs for which assistance is sought under the Community Services Block Grant program prepared in accordance with and containing the information described in Section 676 of the Act.

This, and the remainder of this enclosure fulfill the application requirements for the Nooksack Indian Tribe.

Administrative Expenses

The Nooksack Indian Tribe agrees not to spend more than five (5) percent of the total allocation for administrative cost. These administrative costs will be those costs which normally are considered as indirect costs and include expenses for planning and accounting services, auditing, space rental, telephone and utilities, etc.

Public Meetings on proposed use of funds

That the lead agency will hold at least one hearing in the State (here Tribe) with sufficient time and statewide (here tribal) distribution of notice of such hearing, to provide to the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed use and distribution of funds to be provided through the grantor allotment under Section 675A or 675B for the period covered by the State (here Tribe) plan.

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will provide an opportunity for the community with notice and posting of this plan permitting access to and comments by all tribal members during the comment period.

Designation of appointee in tribe to carry out services

The Council Chairman assigns the duties of carrying out Community Services Block grant activities to the Social Services Department Director.

Public Inspection of plans

Plans are presented to the community through digital access, or tribal members may choose to see plan in person at the Social Services Department.

Fiscal Controls and Audit

To establish fiscal controls, the tribal accounting department will maintain accounts according to standard accounting procedures and will retain supporting fiscal records adequate to audit and otherwise verify that the assistance payments and administrative costs claims meet federal requirements. Records of expenditures of amounts transferred to carry out the purposes of the CSBG Act will be made available as required. Annually, an audit will be conducted by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm/organization as required by 2 CFR 200, according to generally accepted accounting principles and OMB Circular A-133. Monthly budget to actual reports are prepared and reviewed by Finance and the Director. To date reports detailing program expenditures and accomplishments are prepared quarterly. The reports are examined for determination of appropriate addressing of goals and objectives of the program. Both the Director and the Tribal Chairman receive the quarterly reports. The last audit was completed September 30, 2020 for the 2019 fiscal year.

Repayment

The Nooksack Indian Tribe agrees to either repay to the United States amounts not expended in accordance with the Act or at the discretion of the Secretary have such funds offset against future entitlements for the CSBG program.

Reporting

The Nooksack Indian Tribe will submit an annual performance report.

Prohibition against construction

The Nooksack Indian Tribe agrees not to use any CSBG funds for purchase of land, construction or repair except in the case of providing essential weatherizing and energy related repairs for low-cost residences of clients.

Political activities

The Nooksack Tribal Constitution and by-laws prohibits the usage of federal funds for political activities including transporting voters to the polls, voter registration or election campaigns.

Prevention of Discrimination

All Nooksack Tribal Members in the Service Area meeting the financial eligibility requirements have equal access to programs assisted by the Community Services Block grant funding.

AREAS AND CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED

The Nooksack Indian Tribe is located in Northwestern Washington with the Reservation located in Deming, WA. Our current enrollment is 1890. Our service area is Whatcom County.

The families and individuals meeting the 2021 poverty guidelines are who will be served in terms of food, shelter, energy assistance and college educational supplies.

CRITERIA AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- Individuals must first notify the Social Services Department of their needs;
- An application if filed;
- The Social Services Department performs a review of financial verification of eligibility;
 - The applicant must meet 2021 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 Programs and the governmental and private groups with which it collaborates are addressed
- 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.

ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENT

CSBG funds have provided Nooksack Indian Tribe the opportunity to offer; Adequate Housing, Emergency Assistance, Employment Readiness and Educational Benefits to our tribal members by

- 1) Emergency Food, Energy & Water Assistance (1) not eligible for other programs or (2) above/beyond normal circumstance such as:
 - a. emergency food vouchers to homeless tribal members
 - b. families in crises (death in family, displaced due to fire etc.)
 - c. change of circumstances in the household (loss of job/foster child etc.)
- 2) Emergency Shelter Assistance
 - a. Temporary shelter assistance for the homeless during extreme weather
 - b. Temporary shelter assistance for displaced individuals due to; fire, home repair, extended heating or electrical issues
 - c. Fit to Live; mainly the elderly with repair to faulty hot water heater, septic issues or oxygen tanks
- 3) Education,
 - a. college students with basic classroom supplies

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

AUDIT STATEMENT

The last audit was completed September 30, 2020 for the 2019 fiscal year.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications follow the text of this proposal.

Applications should be mailed to:

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Division of State Assistance
Community Services Block Grant Program
330 C Street, SW, 5th Floor
Mail Room 5424

Washington, DC 20201