

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

May 20, 2020



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Peter Gaynor
FEMA Administrator
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20472

RE: FEMA Cost Share Waiver and Adjustment

Dear President Trump and Administrator Gaynor,



Gary Batton
Chief

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, an organization comprised of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations representing 790,000 tribal citizens throughout the United States, respectfully requests a cost-share waiver and adjustment of disaster funding distribution for all federally recognized tribes under the coronavirus (COVID-19) national emergency declaration that was issued on March 13, 2020. In accordance with section 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5151-5207, eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance program.



David Hill
Principal Chief

There is currently a non-federal cost share of 25 percent for Category B Public Assistance and the funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Both the 25 percent non-federal cost share and the reimbursement process have prevented many tribes from taking essential actions such as ordering lifesaving supplies, hiring emergency management personnel, and reaching out to FEMA for assistance.



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

The Five Tribes have been on the front lines of this crisis from day one. We have continued to provide essential services to our citizens including health care, food, housing, public safety, education and other critical services. In many instances, we have even expanded these programs despite incurring a tremendous loss of revenue due to tribal business closures. In this time of increased expenditures and shrinking budgets, it is vital that we are afforded the necessary resources to manage our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

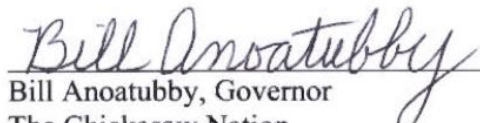
In order to uphold the federal government's trust responsibility and protect the health and safety of our tribal employees and citizens, it is imperative that the 25 percent non-federal

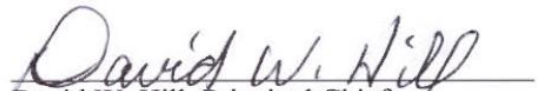
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES


match be waived and funding be provided in advance as opposed to on a re-imbusement basis. This will help provide our tribes with additional resources to sustain efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and care for our most vulnerable citizens.

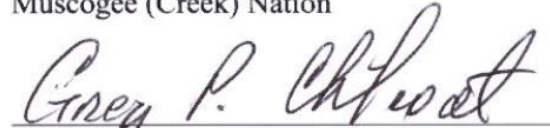
Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can provide further information to you or your staff, please contact Kim Teehee at: kim-teehee@cherokee.org or (202) 615-9505.

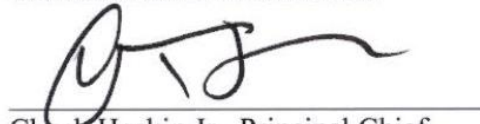
Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

CC:

T. Fish, Executive Director of the White House Council on Native American Affairs;
P. Gaynor, FEMA Administrator, Federal Emergency Management

Agency;

Senator Jim Inhofe;

Senator James Lankford;

Congressman Markwayne Mullin;

Congressman Tom Cole;

Congressman Frank Lucas;

Congressman Kevin Hern;

Congresswoman Kenra Horn;