

REDDING RANCHERIA TRIBAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Chapter TP 7-350

Tribal Member Household Assistance Program



December 8, 2015

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SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Redding Rancheria Tribal Member Household Assistance Program is to promote the general welfare of the Redding Rancheria by providing support to enhance the habitability of member housing and for the improvement of living standards for Redding Rancheria member households, by helping to ensure that member households are safe, sanitary and can be properly heated, cooled and maintained.

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND AND INTENT

(a) Promotion of the General Welfare / Addressing Tribal Needs and Goals

This program is designed to promote the general welfare of the Redding Rancheria and to address specific tribal needs and goals. This program was developed taking into account specific facts and circumstances of the Redding Rancheria, including needs and goals unique to the Tribe's culture, history, traditions, and demographics. Ensuring the well-being of tribal members, and their families is important to the economic, cultural, health and social welfare of the Redding Rancheria community. Safe, sanitary, well heated/cooled and appropriately maintained homes are important to the well-being of adults, and the healthy development of Tribal children.

The maintenance of a household as a major financial burden on families, taking into account rent or mortgages, utilities, maintenance and furnishings. The intent of this program is to provide assistance to member households to defray these costs, particularly during the time of year when utility bills rise due to winter and summer temperature variations.

(b) Coverage under the Redding Rancheria General Welfare Ordinance

This program and its associated benefits are authorized pursuant to the Redding Rancheria General Welfare Ordinance and Chapter TP 1-1100 of the Redding Rancheria Tribal Governmental Policies, as the same may be amended from time to time, and shall be administered in accordance and compliance therewith. Program benefits are intended to constitute Indian tribal general welfare benefits excluded from taxable income under Internal Revenue Code Section 139E. Program benefits modeled after the IRS "safe harbor" rules are also intended to qualify for tax free treatment under IRS Revenue Procedure 2014-35 and Notice 2015-34, as the same may be amended, which are looked to as good faith guidance by the Tribe in applying Code Section 139E pending the issuance of final regulations thereunder. All assistance provided in accordance with this policy is intended to qualify for favorable tax treatment to the fullest extent permitted at law.

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The provisions of Chapter TP1-1100 of the Redding Rancheria Tribal Governmental Policies are hereby incorporated by reference and shall apply to the implementation and benefits authorized by this policy.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

Terms utilized herein shall have the same meaning as defined within the General Welfare Ordinance.

SECTION 4: DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the authority to implement the program and appropriate procedures and activities to implement this policy in accordance with General Welfare Implementing Policies – Chapter TP 1-1100 of the Redding Rancheria Tribal Government Policies..

SECTION 5: AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- (a) There is hereby authorized general housing assistance to adult members of the Redding Rancheria for amounts and purposes as set forth herein.
- (b) The amount and schedule of housing assistance payments shall be as determined by the Tribal Council pursuant to Tribal budget, or as otherwise set forth by Tribal Council resolution.
- (c) The purpose of general housing assistance shall be to assist members in maintaining a principal residence and ancillary structures that are not used in any trade or business, or for investment purposes, to include:
 - (1) Assistance in making mortgage payments, down payments, rent payments (including but not limited to security deposits) for principal residences;
 - (2) To enhance habitability of housing, such as by remedying water, sewage, sanitation service, safety (including but not limited to mold remediation), or heating or cooling issues;
 - (3) Provide basic housing repairs or rehabilitation (including but not limited to roof repair and replacement); and
 - (4) Assist in paying utility bills and charges (including but not limited to water, electricity, gas, and basic communications services such as phone, internet, and cable).

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- (5) Assist in paying property taxes and homeowners or renters insurance associated with the principal residence.

SECTION 6: ELIGIBILITY

Tribal members who are age 18 or older as of the date of any authorized payment shall be eligible to receive assistance payments under the program.

Program benefits are available to any member who satisfies these guidelines subject to budgetary constraints. This program does not discriminate in favor of members of the governing body of the Tribe.

SECTION 7: PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- (a) Based on the amount of resources available, the program will prioritize assistance payments at times of year when household expenses are expected to rise, placing additional burden on household income.
- (b) The program is expected to contribute to the expenses of maintaining a household, but is not expected to provide for all such costs. The recipient of program benefits is required to report and return to the Redding Rancheria any excess assistance that is not used or needed for a qualifying program purpose. The recipient must also retain receipts and records to be provided to the Tribe as needed to demonstrate and confirm program compliance, as well as complete such certifications and forms as may be adopted from time to time to ensure compliance with program and tax requirements.
- (c) Program benefits may not include any expenses that are lavish or extravagant under the facts and circumstances.

Legislative History:

Adopted by Tribal Council Resolution #064-11-19-13, dated November 19, 2013.

Amended by Tribal Council Resolution #084-12-08-15, dated December 8, 2015.