

KBIC Members Residing in Baraga & Marquette Counties

There will be a **General Welfare Support Program** payment for those members who are residing in Baraga and Marquette Counties as of **September 1** and who are 18 years & older and who meet the eligibility requirements. The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to Adult Tribal Members to assist them in providing for their education, housing, transportation, child care, medical care, non-prescription drugs or other medicines not covered by insurance or public health programs, temporary meals and lodging in connection with obtaining medical care, health insurance deductible payments, and similar needs to allow them to live full and productive lives to the best of their ability. In accordance with the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-168, 128 Stat. 1883 (codified at 26 U.S.C. § 139E) and Internal Revenue Service guidance documents Revenue Procedure 2014-35 and Notice 2015-34 these benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax and shall not be includable as income by any government agency.

The deadline to submit all address verifications will be October 30. No information will be taken or considered after that date. The following Guidelines to determine eligibility are listed below. **Please read them carefully.**

I. Program Eligibility Requirements.

- A. *Eligibility.* Benefits provided from the Program shall be available to Adult Tribal Members.
- B. *Definition of Adult Tribal Member.* For purposes of determining benefit eligibility for the Program, an “Adult Tribal Member” is a Community member who:
 - 1. is age 18 years or older as of December 31st; and
 - 2. resides in Baraga or Marquette Counties as of September 1st and retains said residency as of the date Program benefits are paid.
 - 3. If a Member will be 18 years old as of December 31st, but is not at the time of payment of Program benefits, their benefit check will be held in the Enrollment Department until said Member’s 18th birthday for pick up.
- C. *Definition of Reside.* “Reside”, “Residence”, or “Residency” is defined as:
 - 1. the address where an Adult Member lives which is said Member’s true, fixed home and principal place of living, and
 - 2. the address which said Member intends to return whenever absent for a very short term.
- D. *Single Residence Requirement.* For purposes of receiving Program benefits, an Adult Tribal Member has only one residence, regardless of the number of houses that may be owned or maintained by the Member. In determining which of a Member’s houses is their residence for Program benefits, consideration must be given to where the Member works, where their children (if any) attend school, and if the Member is married, where the spouse works.
- E. *Adult Tribal Members in College or University.* If an Adult Tribal Member is a college or university student, they must be (1) a full-time student on September 1st until the payment of Program benefits and (2) currently maintaining a residence in Baraga or Marquette Counties.
 - 1. The address that an Adult Tribal Member in college or university utilizes for Federal Financial Aid shall be the address of residence for said students. A copy of said FFA form may be requested as proof. Said Member must provide a course schedule or certification from their college or university proving that they are maintaining a full-time course load.
- F. *Adult Tribal Members in the Community’s Housing.* If an Adult Tribal Member indicates that their residence is within a Community Housing Department unit, they must be a party to the lease as evidence that said address is their residence.
- G. *Proof of Residence.* An Adult Tribal Member seeking Program benefits must provide acceptable documentation as proof of residence in either of the approved counties as of September 1st through the date of Program benefit payment.
 - 1. Acceptable documentation shall include:
 - a. Utility bills,
 - b. Mortgage documents or other proof of home ownership,

- c. School records, including receipts, class schedules, and report cards,
 - d. Rental or lease agreements,
 - e. Payroll records,
 - f. Current homeowners or automobile insurance bills or other proof of insurance,
 - g. U.S. Postal Service change of address confirmation form,
 - h. U.S. or Michigan State social welfare institution letter or statement indicating applicant is a client or resident of the facility,
 - i. U.S. or Michigan State tax return,
 - j. Michigan State driver's license or identification card,
 - k. Claiming of a Homestead Tax Credit for a certain residence.
2. Notes and letters from family members are not acceptable documentation for proof of residence.
- H. *Military Residence.* Adult Tribal Members who are presently serving in the military who were residing in either county before joining are eligible. This also includes Members who have a spouse in the military and meet the same requirements. Verification such as an Active Duty Military ID or a copy of their current Military Orders may be required. Children whose parents are currently serving and are over the age of 18 are also eligible, if they are either in high school or attending college.
- I. *Elder Residency.* Members who have moved out of Baraga or Marquette County for reasons beyond their control to a nursing home or adult foster care home for example, will be eligible for Program benefits.
- J. *Address Consistency.* If the member has made application to any Community program, the address, as well as the residents listed, must be consistent. Open service cases such as DHS, WIC, the Housing Department, LIHEAP, GA, TSS or Probation will also be considered as proof of residency.
- K. *Incarcerated Members.* Incarcerated Adult Tribal Members are eligible for Program benefits under certain circumstances. If an Adult Tribal Member is currently in jail, their residence as of September 1st will be where it was prior to their incarceration. However; if said Member is in prison they are ineligible for Program benefits due to the fact that needs are being satisfied by the prison.
- L. *Homeless Members.* "Homeless" will be defined as an individual who lacks housing, including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations, who is a resident in transitional housing, or may live on the streets; stay in a shelter, mission, single room occupancy facility, abandoned building or vehicle; or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation. The individual may be considered homeless if, due to economic conditions, they are forced to stay with a series of friends and/or extended family members. If an Adult Tribal Member is currently homeless, to be eligible they must verify their circumstances and be working with the Community Assistance Program Director or the Social Services Department, or the Housing Department.

Withholdings will be treated as such:

- A. Voluntary Withholding agreements will be honored if the Adult Tribal Member owes money to a Community(Tribal) Business or Governmental Entity only. Any eligible Member wishing to do this must see the Manager/Department Head of the business or entity to complete the necessary authorization forms.
- B. First priority for withholdings will be to honor Court Orders. Sixty-five (65) percent of the total benefit amount will be subject to Child Support Orders and Fifty (50) percent of the total benefit amount will be subject to all other Court Orders.

Please contact the Enrollment Office with address changes. At least two forms of verification will be required. 353-4111 or 4114.