



Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

March 18, 2020

To: Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

Re: Native American Youth and Family Center COVID-19 request and response

The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) has services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. We support a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs. Ours is a vulnerable community, and in times of crisis Native Americans in Oregon experience impacts disproportionately. On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), we are requesting the following actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. We request the State of Oregon to allow the flexible use of clients' Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for emergency uses. IDA's provide financial opportunities to our community members and individuals statewide, and with flexibility, IDA funds could support low-income Oregonians as they manage this crisis.
2. We request the increased support for Employment Related Daycare in order to adequately compensate childcare workers. We are requesting an increase in the standard rate and the enhanced rate for non-licensed childcare providers.
3. We ask the State of Oregon to place a moratorium on evictions, rent, mortgage, car payments, and foreclosures until the COVID-19 crisis subsides.
4. We request the highest level of flexibility for non-profit staff to utilize unemployment benefits by removing the requirement of being "able and available to work," and to maximize paid sick leave for employees who need it the most.
5. We ask the State of Oregon to provide \$30,000 to NAYA in order to support our food insecure community members while we are closed to the public. Funding would be used to purchase food and packaging to deliver food boxes to 120 NAYA clients over the next 3 weeks.
6. We request \$100,000 to undertake staff realignment, as we reassign 10 staff members to food production and delivery for 1 month.
7. We ask that the State of Oregon supplement projected revenue losses as a result of NAYA's closure. Without our high school fundraiser, we project \$95,000 in lost revenue in addition to \$55,000 of lost revenue given the closure of Portland Public schools.

8. We ask that the State of Oregon advocate for non-profits at the federal level. The federal legislation in response to COVID-19 provides tax credit relief for businesses but does not support non-profits.
9. As the State of Oregon develops a disaster relief package, we ask that specific support for community nonprofits such as NAYA is included.
10. We are asking the State of Oregon to indemnify social service agencies from liability during this crisis. As an agency, our ability to serve is contingent on the ability to have the resources to serve. We must work toward reduction in liability to agencies, like NAYA, in order to continue providing services to those who need it most.

NAYA Family Center will continue to monitor the ongoing conditions of COVID-19, while working to meet the needs of our community members. Financial support from the State of Oregon to agencies like the Native American Youth and Family Center are imperative in achieving this. Thank you for your attention and for your support as we navigate this national emergency.



B. Paul Lumley
Executive Director

Cc: Tina Edlund, Health Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kate Brown
Jackie Yerby, Deputy Health Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Kate Brown
Coline Benson, Health Policy Assistant, Office of Governor Kate Brown
Patrick Allen, Director, Oregon Health Authority
Oregon Health Policy Board