

Item 6: Department of Administrative Services

Grants to Oregon Tribes

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Establish a General Fund appropriation by allocating \$9,000,000 from the Emergency Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for grants of \$1,000,000 each to Oregon's nine federally recognized Native American Tribes for needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic hardships.

Description: At its May 15th, 2020 meeting the Emergency Board authorized the expenditure of \$15,000,000 of federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for grants to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). DAS reports that payments to reimburse CRF eligible costs have been made to those tribes applying and that, as of the end of September, 77% of the allocated CRF funding had been distributed. Five of nine tribal governments received their maximum allotment of the CRF funding. The additional General Fund grants are intended to help the state's nine federally recognized Native American Tribes continue efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with the resulting economic hardships.

Recommendation: The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend establishing a General Fund appropriation by allocating \$9,000,000 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board during the 3rd special session of 2020 for COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency response to the Department of Administrative Services for grants of \$1,000,000 each to Oregon's nine federally recognized Native American Tribes for needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic hardships.

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Department of Administrative Services
Ball

Request: Allocate \$9 million from the State Emergency Fund to provide grants of \$1 million to each of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Recommendation: Approve the request with the following modification: Allocate \$9 million from the special purpose appropriation made the Emergency Board for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

Discussion: This request is to provide additional funding to each of the nine federally recognized tribal governments in Oregon. Previously, the Emergency Board allocated \$15 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds (on a reimbursable basis) for eligible expenses associated with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this additional funding, the Department of Administrative Services will provide a grant of \$1 million to each tribe to address needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic or the economic hardships caused by it within each tribe.

Legal Reference: Allocation of \$9,000,000 from the State Emergency Fund, set aside by the Special Purpose Appropriation under section 2, chapter _____, Oregon Laws 2020 (third special session) (Enrolled Senate Bill SB 5731), to the Department of Administrative Service, for grants to tribes, for the 2019-21 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Administrative Services

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

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December 30, 2020

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons,

Nature of Request

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) respectfully requests \$9,000,000 General Fund to provide grants of \$1,000,000 to each of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Agency Action

On May 15th, the Emergency Board allocated \$15,000,000 in Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments. Direct payments have been made to the tribal governments that have applied for reimbursement of CRF eligible expenses. As of September 30th, 77% of the \$15,000,000 has been distributed with five of the nine tribal governments already reaching their maximum allotment.

These additional funds are to address needs arising from COVID-19 or the economic hardships caused by it within Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Action Requested

Allocate \$9,000,000 in General Fund as requested.

Legislation Affected

None.

Sincerely,

Katy Coba

DAS Director | Chief Operating Officer

CC: Dustin Ball, Department of Administrative Services
Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office