October 27, 2023

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Thomas D. Wooten
Tribal Chairman
Samish Indian Nation
PO Box 217
Anacortes, WA 98221-0217

Subject: Pandemic Grant Status Assessment – Expenditure and Closeout Assistance

Dear Chairman Wooten:

At this point in the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) and Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and FY 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) grants' lifecycle, the HUD Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is assessing project completion, the progress of expenditures, and pandemic grant closeout. This assessment aims to identify grants experiencing progress delays, offer technical assistance to amend and complete the projects, and encourage expeditious expenditure.

Pandemic Grant Funding Status:

You are receiving this letter because you have a CARES or ARP grant with 50% or more funds remaining in a pandemic grant. The chart below shows the available or undisbursed funds remaining for each grant.

Grant Number	Program	$ Contracted	$ Disbursed	$ Available	% Available	POP End
21AH5313870	IHBG-ARP	$624,608	$0	$624,608	100%	9/30/2026

Our office will schedule a call within the next two weeks to discuss grant status, identify causes of progress delays, and offer assistance to complete and close out each grant. In preparation for the discussion, consider the following resources and references on amendments, technical assistance, and program guidance.

Grant Amendments

As pandemic recovery progresses and circumstances change, you may find it necessary to amend your grant to meet your current needs. Amendments can be submitted to NwONAP at any time but should be submitted prior to the end of the period of performance.

- **IHBG-CARES/ARP Amendments**: If you are unable to start or complete the planned activities, you can amend your current abbreviated IHP to change the scope or activities to more feasible eligible activities. Refer to the following resources:

- Notice PIH 2020-06: IHBG-CARES Implementation Notice
- Notice PIH 2021-11: IHBG-ARP Implementation Notice
- Notice PIH 2021-14: COVID-19 Regulatory and Statutory Waivers
- IHBG-ARP Training Slides
- Abbreviated IHP/APR Guidance
- Amended Abbreviated IHP/ARP for IHBG-CARES/ARP form.

- **ICDBG-CARES/ARP Amendments**: If you are unable to start or to complete the approved activities by the Period of Performance (POP) end date, you can request an amendment to change the scope or activities to more feasible eligible activities. Amendments to extend the timeline are also available with reasonable justification. Refer to the following resources:

  - Notice PIH 2020-11: ICDBG-CARES Implementation Notice
  - Notice PIH 2021-14: COVID-19 Regulatory and Statutory Waivers
  - Notice PIH 2021-22: ICDBG-ARP Implementation Schedule
  - Notice PIH 2022-12: Process for Amending ICDBG-CARES/ARP Grants.

Training and Technical Assistance (TA)

TA to assess and amend your grants is always available through your Grants Management Specialists (GMS) in your Area ONAP. National training is continually offered; check the ONAP's Calendar of Events and Training Opportunities on Codetalk for upcoming virtual and in-person training. You may also request direct TA from an ONAP TA Provider using the Technical Assistance Request Form found in the ONAP Codetalk Training webpage. ONAP is also developing new Training and TA in response to Tribal feedback on the development difficulties experienced by many grantees.

The following are some Training and TA resources that may be particularly helpful for pandemic grants:

- **Force Accounts:** ONAP offers Force Account Training and direct TA for developing and managing force account labor teams for construction, rehabilitation, and infrastructure projects. Contact your Grants Management Specialist for assistance in requesting direct TA.

- **Request for Proposal (RFP) Procurement Training and Technical Assistance:** ONAP is working with a TA provider to develop a new training and TA module focused on assisting grantees in improving procurements and, more specifically, RFP writing. ONAP anticipates that the training will be available for all ONAP regions in early 2024.

- **Longer Development Technical Assistance Engagements:** The option for longer TA engagements is not new but Tribal feedback identified it might better for assisting grantees in achieving their project goals during the development process. Rather than addressing development needs on a topic-by-topic basis, ONAP is encouraging requests for direct TA assignments of a more extended duration, even

throughout the entire development process. Contact your Grants Management Specialist for assistance in requesting longer term direct TA.

- **Resiliency Tool Kits and Best Practices:** ONAP has tasked a TA provider to work with grantees, Area ONAP staff, and other sources to collect best practices and share or create tools that could be available to all grantees. It is hoped that efforts can educate, explain, and replicate solutions addressing challenges ONAP grantees face as they navigate the planning and development processes. These Tool Kits and Best Practices will be collected and posted to the ONAP Code Talk COVID Recovery webpage and the ONAP Codetalk Best Practices webpage.

In the rare occurrence that a project has been determined to be unfeasible, and no other eligible use of the funding can be found, you may return the remaining funds to HUD, end your responsibility for the compliant use of funds, and close out the grant. This is discouraged, since there is a wide range of eligible activities under the Pandemic Recovery programs, but it is available as a last resort option.

NWONAP looks forward to working with you to ensure the successful completion of the projects and services funded by pandemic grants and closing these grants as recovery concludes. Please watch for announcements on Codetalk.

If you have any questions, or if NwONAP can be of assistance, please contact Sandel Ferguson, Lead Grants Management Specialist, at (206) 220- 6673, or by email at Sandel.Ferguson@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

for

Thomas H. Carney
Administrator

cc: Mr. Justin Krupa, Housing Director, jkrupa@samishtribe.nsn.us
    ICDBGARP@hud.gov