



477-Self Sufficiency Program still providing essential services amid COVID-19

The 477-Self Sufficiency Program (SSP) is open and providing essential services to eligible families and individuals residing in the Tribe's 11-county service area.

Due to Covid-19, all Tribal offices are closed to the public. We still accept applications and conduct appointments over the phone and through email. SSP has prioritized the following services:

- **Pre-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Pre-TANF)/Non-Recurrent**

Short-Term Benefits: Siletz families below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) may be eligible for short-term financial assistance that doesn't exceed four months. The financial assistance is meant to provide basic needs and address short-term emergent needs.

- **Regular Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:** Siletz families below the countable income limits and FPL may be eligible for monthly grant assistance to meet basic needs

- **General Assistance for Single Adults:** Siletz single adults below the countable income limits and FPL may be eligible for monthly grant assistance to meet basic needs
- **Emergency Assistance:** Siletz families or single adults may be eligible for support services to prevent eviction or utility shut-off. Income guidelines apply.
- **Classroom Training:** The program is still providing financial assistance (tuition, stipends and support ser-

vices) to eligible American Indians attending GED, Higher Education or Vocational/Occupational Training.

If you recently lost your employment due to Covid-19 and need assistance to meet your basic needs, please contact your local Tribal office for an application. Additional eligibility criteria apply.

SSP staff will reach out to you by phone or email. You can also email 477SSP@ctsi.nsn.us for more information. Please include your name, phone number and the city/county in which you reside.

Important school closure announcements on COVID-19 education response efforts

The Tribal Education staff wants families to know that while this is a scary time, it's important to know:

1. Check your student's school or district website regularly for updates to distance learning, Chromebook/laptop checkout processes and meal distribution sites. The Tribal website (ctsi.nsn.us) updates school links as information comes in.
2. Oregon schools had until April 13 to implement distance learning for their students. Some schools may have gotten this up and running sooner. Distance learning is required learning and is important for your student.
3. Districts are providing Chromebooks/

laptops for students to use at home – contact your school for checkout options and pickup sites. Many schools are also helping with access to the Internet. Many Internet providers are eliminating or reducing their fees. Check with your carrier.

4. Districts are also providing paper packets for students who do not have access to the Internet or have other barriers to digital learning For Supplemental Learning - more information to come on distance learning options.
5. Respond to your districts promptly if they reach out to you regarding your needs. They need to hear from you so they can better serve every student.

If you experience any barriers to communicating with your student's school or accessing distance learning for your student, please reach out to your area education specialist. We are all in this together.

Contact your Tribal education specialist if you need help connecting with your child's school:

Siletz Area: Alissa Lane-Keene, alissal@ctsi.nsn.us
Salem Area: Sonya Moody-Jurado, sonyamj@ctsi.nsn.us
Portland Area: Katy Holland, katyh@ctsi.nsn.us
Eugene Area: Nick Viles, nickv@ctsi.nsn.us

CTSI – COVID-19 Pandemic Response

This month's edition of *Siletz News* is full of information and resources regarding the pandemic and what programs and services may be available to you. Tribal staff continues to work primarily from home and only a handful of staff is actually in the office at any given time.

Our goal is – and remains – to continue to provide quality essential services in new creative ways. Things change on a daily basis and we work hard to respond to those changes.

In addition to providing services by telephone and email, we developed a phone tree for the Tribe's main switchboard. Callers can select program services from the menu and we have staff to respond during the regular work day. If you get a message, please leave your name and number and someone will get back to you.

The Community Health program developed a resource line for Tribal members to call if they need help accessing essential services – 541-444-9613. Elders receive calls weekly or bi-monthly, based on their preference, and staff are working hard to help elders meet their needs while keeping them safe at home.

If you are an elder who has not received a call, it means we do not have a current telephone number for you. Please contact the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1258, to update your information.

A drop box was installed at the back of the Tribal administration building in Siletz for Tribal members to drop off applications or payments. It is checked daily and information received is routed to the appropriate program for processing.

Students are impacted by the pandemic and school closures. Our Education staff continues to provide support and assistance to help students continue their education through virtual platforms.

Staff developed a youth Facebook page and offer daily activities. By the time you read this, they will have helped sponsor a virtual pow-wow. Please sign onto the page at www.facebook.com/CTSIyouth.

We recognize that many of our graduating seniors will not have the opportunity to participate in the usual activities – senior prom, graduation, eagle feather ceremonies and more. We want to do a special tribute to our graduating seniors and would like families to send us a photo along with the name of the school from which the student is graduating and brief information about their future plans. Send it to CTSI, Graduating Seniors, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, OR 97380-0549.

Please stay safe at home and let us know how we can assist.

Tina Retasket, Acting GM
tinar@ctsi.nsn.us; 541-444-8210;
800-922-1399, ext. 1210



Courtesy photo by Joyce Retherford

Members of the Siletz Valley Fire District continue to serve their community by volunteering to help the Tribe's USDA food distribution program pack 183 food boxes, feeding 228 people in need. Those involved include fire district volunteers Alex Yoder, Zack Fluhr and Amber Fluhr; and board members Patti Skauge and Rick Olsen.

CTSI Resource Call Line

To help connect Tribal members and their families to local resources. This could include things such as food, housing, and other essentials.



Call us at 541-444-9613.

We will be taking calls Monday through Friday between 9am-3pm.