



Pueblo of Zuni

2021 COVID-19 Direct Financial Assistance Program

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

❖ *What is 2021 COVID-19 Direct Financial Assistance?*

The 2021 COVID-19 Direct Financial Support Assistance Program is designed to provide *non-taxable* economic relief to Zuni Tribal enrolled members with additional resources to maintain adequate housing, transportation, food, water, medication, medical care, utilities, and basic life necessities to help alleviate the financial hardships endured from loss of income and/or increased costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for the program is supported by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) received by the Zuni Tribe. This Direct Financial Assistance Program is designed to comply with the ARPA requirements and guidance issued by the US Department of Treasury.

❖ *Do I have to re-apply if I received the 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Financial Assistance?*

Yes, all Zuni enrolled tribal members who received assistance in 2020 **are required** to submit an application. This will help in updating information (such as mailing address) and to meet ARPA funding guidelines.

❖ *I received the 2020 COVID-19 CARES Emergency Financial Assistance, do I need to resubmit my census enrollment information and state-issued ID/DL?*

No, unless you legally changed your name; otherwise you will only need to complete, sign and submit the application.

❖ *I did not apply last year because I missed the deadline, can I apply?*

Yes, you are considered a NEW APPLICANT and must complete/sign and submit application with required documents (Zuni Tribal Census Card or Zuni Enrollment letter **and** state issued ID/DL).

❖ *I just turned 18 years old and I am an enrolled member of Zuni, can I apply?*

Yes, you are considered a NEW APPLICANT and must complete/sign and submit application with required documents (Zuni Tribal Census Card or Zuni Enrollment letter **and** state issued ID/DL). Note: An enrolled tribal member can apply as long as they turn 18 by Dec 1, 2021.

❖ *If I did not apply last year and apply for 2021 Direct Financial Assistance, will I also get the first and second stimulus issued in 2020 under the COVID-19 CARES Financial Assistance?*

No, you will only be eligible for the 2021 COVID-19 Direct Financial Assistance. These funds are different from CARES funding allocated to the tribe in 2020.

❖ ***Who is eligible to apply?***

- Zuni Enrolled Tribal Member (residing on or off the reservation) who will be 18 years old as of December 1, 2021. Once you turn 18 years old, you can submit an application.
 - (Example: My son turns 18 years old on October 31, 2021, can he submit an application in September 2021? No, he has to wait until October 31, 2021 to submit an application)
- Applicant must be enrolled with the Zuni Tribe as of December 1, 2021; and
- Has experienced a financial hardship due COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ ***If I live out of state, can I apply?***

Yes, as long as you are an enrolled Zuni tribal member and 18 or older.

❖ ***How do I apply for this service?***

- ✓ **Option 1: STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** -Complete and submit the on-line application at the following link: [POZ COVID-19 Direct Financial Assistance](#) via cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop (must have a valid email address to receive confirmation that application was submitted); online link will also be available at www.ashiwi.org or;
- ✓ **Option 2:** Complete PDF Fillable application and email with supporting documents (as applicable for NEW APPLICANTS) to: Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org
 - Download application at www.ashiwi.org or;
 - Email Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org to request for an application
- ✓ **Option 3:** Paper applications will be available at local stores and ZECDC office. Completed paper applications will be accepted at the ZECDC office located at 01 Twin Buttes Rd during regular business hours: Monday - Friday between 930 am- 4 pm; closed for lunch from 12pm - 1pm.
****Masks are required when dropping off application.**

❖ ***Will I get my check faster if I submit online vs. paper application?***

To increase efficiency with review, online applications are STRONGLY encouraged. Staff will have immediate access to online applications resulting in a faster review process and will process as received by date.

❖ ***Will I receive financial assistance IF I do not submit an application?***

No, ALL individuals are REQUIRED to submit an application to ensure program is in compliance with funding and audit requirements. Please submit an application.

❖ ***When is the deadline to apply?***

December 1, 2021

❖ ***Can I apply more than once?***

No, only one application is required for 2021 COVID-19 Direct Financial Assistance.

❖ ***What happens if I am a NEW APPLICANT and did not receive a confirmation email if I applied on line?***

Staff will contact you to verify your mailing address and request for lacking documents, if applicable.

❖ ***If I received assistance in 2020, will I receive a phone call to verify my information after I submit my application?***

No, we will accept your application as true, complete and accurate and process payment.

❖ ***What if I can't upload my documents on the online application portal if I am a NEW APPLICANT?***

You can email your census card, census enrollment verification or CIB with state issued ID to Covid.Assistance@ashiwi.org or you can drop off your documents at the ZECDC office.

❖ ***What if I do not have a state issued ID or Driver's License?***

If you absolutely do not have any sort of picture ID; then we strongly encourage you to obtain a state issued ID or Driver's License OR schedule an appointment with Zuni Tribal Census to purchase a Census Picture ID. The maximum cost for Tribal Census picture ID is under \$10.

It is better to obtain a state issued ID or Driver's License so you will not have a difficult time cashing your check if you do not have a bank account.

❖ ***What if I do not have my census card or do not remember my census number?***

You will need to contact the Zuni Tribal census office and obtain an enrollment letter, or picture census card. You will be required to submit enrollment verification.

❖ ***Can I apply if I have been working throughout the pandemic?***

Yes. If you meet any of the justifications listed on the application, you can apply.

❖ ***NEW APPLICANTS: What happens if I miss a call from the staff that are verifying applications?***

If you miss a call and still have outstanding documents, your application will be in pending status.

If you submitted all verification documents and your application is fully complete; staff will verify your mailing address with your census card/enrollment letter and move forward with processing payment authorization.

❖ ***NEW APPLICANTS: What if I entered my information inaccurately on my online application?***

You will need to answer the call from staff to verify your information. Staff will call to verify from a 782 phone number.

❖ ***Do I need to resubmit my online application if I did not receive a confirmation email?***

No – you **do not** need to resubmit another online application. If you do not receive a check four (4) weeks after submitting your on-line application – We strongly encourage you to call the ZECDC office at 505-782-5998. Do not wait until after the December 1, 2021 deadline.

❖ ***NEW APPLICANTS: What happens after I receive a phone call for verification?***

If your application is fully completed, the staff will approve and process a payment authorization. It will take up to 3 weeks for you to receive your check via mail. Based on the applications received, it might take staff longer to complete the entire verification and payment process. Please be patient.

❖ ***Why is there a denial option on the OFFICE Use section?***

If an applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria of 1) enrolled Zuni tribal member by December 1, 2021; 2) did not meet the age requirement by December 1, 2021 3) or are incarcerated or does not meet any of the justification statements, the applicant will not be eligible for the financial assistance.

❖ ***Can I get direct deposit?***

No. As an effort to meet the demand, ONLY checks will be processed and disbursed by POZ Finance department. We encourage you to cash your check immediately upon receipt.

❖ ***What can I do to help those that do not have access to the internet?***

You should make every effort to assist those individuals in applying online. The online application requires the applicant's signature. They must sign for themselves. Remember to practice social distancing and wear your mask.

❖ ***I can only access Facebook, I do not have access to the internet; how do I apply online?***

You can only access Facebook if you have internet services. Click on link posted on Pueblo of Zuni Facebook page and apply. 😊

❖ ***Can I apply on behalf of a relative who is incarcerated?***

No, the individual will need to apply on their own when they are released. If you apply on their behalf, you can be charged with forgery. The deadline to submit application is December 1, 2021.

❖ ***Is the financial assistance check taxable?***

No, the financial assistance is non-taxable. If it was taxable you would have been required to complete a W-9 Form. It is NOT taxable.

❖ ***When will I receive my assistance check?***

With the enormous amount of application expected to be received, POZ staff will be working diligently to process applications. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your check to be released. Your check will be mailed to the mailing address provided on your application. We appreciate your patience. 😊

❖ ***What happens if my check is lost, stolen or destroyed?***

Contact the ZECDC program. Staff will submit a stop payment form and will wait if check was cleared. If check was not cleared, the check will be re-issued. This process can take up to 3-4 weeks.

❖ ***How long is my check good for?***

Your check expires 60 days from the date of check. Please deposit or cash your check immediately upon receipt.

❖ ***Can I do a mobile deposit?***

If your financial institution provides mobile banking, then you can deposit your check via mobile deposit. **PLEASE** ensure you indicate “MOBILE DEPOSIT” on the back of your signed check.

❖ ***What can I use these funds for?***

Limitations: The following is a non-exhaustive list of items that financial relief under this program may be used for:

- i. Groceries, food, meals, and nutrition assistance costs necessary to sustain health and well-being;
- ii. Materials associated with Zuni Tribal preservation activities to include but not limited to ceremonial and prayer activities, jewelry making, pottery making, painting, weaving, the making of regalia and fetish carving;
- iii. Personal care items such as face masks, sanitizer, hand cleaner, hygiene products, and special clothing necessary to maintain personal health and safety of oneself and others;
- iv. Utility costs for the added expenses incurred to stay at home, isolate or adhere to public health and Tribal government mandates and recommendations, including electricity, gas, propane, firewood, water, sewer, waste disposal, internet, and phone.

- v. Dependent care, including childcare services and added costs for care and feeding of children not able to attend school;
- vi. Unreimbursed medical and health-related expenses, in addition to costs of in-home care, prescriptions, supplements, wellness, and counseling;
- vii. All expenses related to online learning and expenses to maintain and support the education needs of school-age children, including post-secondary school
- viii. Costs incurred to improve or create teleworking capabilities.
- ix. Housing assistance to avoid foreclosure or eviction;
- x. Housing maintenance including cleaning supplies and cleaning services necessary to maintain sanitary and safe living conditions.