Family Services has the following plans in place, which is all dependent on the essential staff staying well and with other departments we work closely with – safety will be the first priority and being able to keep access to supplies.

Essential Staff will work in the:
- Elders’ Program
- ICW
- TANF
- Food Bank
- Crime Victims and Advocacy, Community Healing
- Domestic Violence
- Childcare Payments
- Financial work and reporting

ELDERS PROGRAMS

Elder staff will continue to work to prepare meals for all elders, not just homebound elders and vulnerable adults. This will be the same 4 days a week, Monday – Thursday. For the homebound elders only, on Friday deliveries of shelf-stable and frozen meals will be distributed for the weekend. If we can widen the delivery of these we will, we are working with the grantors to see what our options are. If there are extra needs for those elders, or vulnerable adults, not normally served outside of the Monday – Thursday meals, due to the current situation, please let us know. Jamie Queen can be reached on 360-545-2570.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

ICW will continue with investigations only, based on reports received from community or other agencies/Tribes. Therefore, no supervised visits or home studies will occur. If communication with the court is necessary, this can be done telephonically and electronic documentation too.

TANF PROGRAMS

TANF staff will still be able to get the usual payments into the system, providing the finance system continues operating, a day and hours will be given for picking up checks and other incentives at the office. People will need to arrive to collect at the times we will announce, since the office will not be open outside these hours. We will determine starting new clients on a case-by-case basis, based on safety for both clients and staff. The focus will be on housing and food.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank will still operate on Fridays and pre-made boxes/bags will be prepared to go directly to your car, rather than any gathering or more contact than is needed.
CRIME VICTIMS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

Crime Victims, advocacy, Community Healing and Domestic Violence services will provide resources wherever possible related to food, bills and communicating with other agencies to advocate for telephonic hearings, for example. We cannot transport to other areas, or any transportation for the time being.

Childcare Payments for those who are working still will continue to be paid.

We will be submitting all required paperwork, etc. to Finance at both the Tribe and SPIPA to get payments and other incentives out. Some gas voucher and clothing assistance are for appointments for children, work, classes and other usual activity and transportation that are cancelled for now. There will be fewer distributions of gas vouchers for this reason, since we will have to meet the grant requirements for funding.

If you live off-reservation and have been receiving services, these would continue, although what can be done electronically will be. Any potential new clients, please call and we will assess your needs with you.

The following essential staff will have calls to their desks go directly to their cell phones, this includes the front desk/main number, hopefully effective on Monday, March 16, 2020:

Charlene Abrahamson  
Marcella Cooper  
Adirian Albizar  
Jamie Queen  
Jolene Peters  
Lyssa Wier

We will also be regularly checking our e-mails and attending meetings mainly by webinar or telephonically.

Charlene Abrahamson 360-432-3914  
cabrahamson@squaxin.us