



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

RESOLUTION NO. 14-19

of the

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe, its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965;

WHEREAS, under the Constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of the tribal members, and with protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe;

WHEREAS, The Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe possessing reserved powers, including the powers of self government;

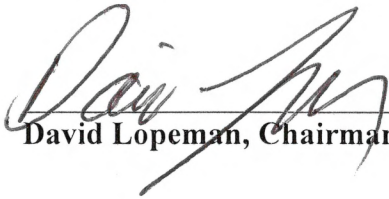
WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education, and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe;

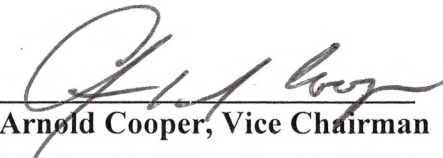
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds it necessary to adopt the General Assistance (GA) Program in order to provide financial assistance to eligible Squaxin Island Tribal Members for essential needs of food, clothing, shelter and utilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Tribal Council adopts the attached General Assistance Policy.

CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, held on this 27 day of March, 2014 at which time a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 6 for and 0 against with 0 abstentions.


David Lopeman, Chairman


Arnold Cooper, Vice Chairman


Pete Kruger, Sr., Secretary

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE
General Assistance Policy

1. Introduction

The purpose of General Assistance (GA) is to provide financial assistance to eligible Squaxin Island Tribal Members for essential needs of food, clothing, shelter and utilities. Applicants who have any type of monthly income are not eligible for GA.

Eligible applicants are enrolled Squaxin Island Tribal members who have no access to Temporary Assistance to Native Families (TANF), do not meet eligibility criteria for TANF, or have exceeded the lifetime limit for TANF.

The General Assistance program is funded through the BIA and follows the rules of 25 CFR Part 20. The GA program is designed to be secondary in nature. Therefore, otherwise eligible Squaxin Island Tribal Members will be assessed, screened and referred to apply concurrently to other public assistance programs through which they might receive direct financial assistance before they are eligible to receive GA funds. Examples of direct financial assistance are Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance, medical assistance and state-operated general assistance programs.

The goal of General Assistance is to increase self-sufficiency. This is accomplished through specific steps an individual will take to increase self-independence as outlined in his/her Individual-Self Sufficiency Plan (ISP) created in coordination with the GA Representative. A General Assistance recipient must develop and sign an Individual Self Sufficiency Plan (ISP) to meet the goal of employment. The plan must outline specific steps the individual will take to increase independence. Eligibility will be reviewed every three months, six months, or whenever there is a change in status that can affect eligibility. Recipients must immediately inform the GA Representative of any such changes. If a client refuses employment, or quits a job, they will be sanctioned and cannot receive services for a period of at least 60 days, but not more than 90 days.

2. Application

All applicants must complete an application to be considered for funding. An application includes but is not limited to: Application for Assistance, Individual Success Plan, Employability Assessment, Job Search, Release of Information and an Eligibility & Reporting Requirements and Rights forms.

All applicants will sign and receive a copy of the Eligibility and Reporting Requirements and Rights of Applicants. This form includes a statement of the federal law governing fraud.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

3. Eligibility

Because of limited funding, General Assistance (GA) is available only to Squaxin Island Tribal Members who meet eligibility requirements as per 25 CFR Part 20. All applicants must provide required documentation of eligibility. Eligibility documents include but are not limited to: verification of enrollment in the Squaxin Island Tribe, photo identification and verification of residency.

4. Terms and Conditions

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirement, GA recipients must meet the following conditions:

- document the lack of sufficient resources to meet basic needs,
- assist the GA Representative in developing and following the Individual Success Plan,
- be actively seeking employment,
- apply for a job in the Tribe's application pool as well as two other jobs (total of 3 job applications) per month,
- seek assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation for job placement assistance within 10 days of application
- volunteer or do community service for 20 hours per month

Clients must perform successfully in activities related to community service, training, treatment and counseling services, and job readiness. Volunteer or community service hours will be documented by the community service coordinator at Law Enforcement. If a client does not complete the required 20 hours of community service, or volunteer, they will not be eligible for GA in the next month until the hours have been completed.

Clients who receive GA longer than 6 months (excluding per capita months) shall get an evaluation from the Tribe's Behavioral Health Program and will follow the recommendation of the evaluation.

4. Appeal Process

If a client is denied GA because of income they may appeal to the GA Representative's Supervisor. If the client is not satisfied with the decision of the GA Representative's Supervisor they may appeal to the Department Director. If the client is not satisfied with the Department Director's decision they may appeal to the Tribal Administrator. The decision of the Tribal Administrator is final.

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The client has 20 days after notification of denial, or ineligibility, to contact each person in the appeal step. Each tribal representative in the appeal process has 20 days to respond to the appellant.

5. Funding

General Assistance funding is limited. If a client is denied GA due to funding limitations there will be no right to appeal.