PENOBSCOT NATION’S EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

April 1, 2022

The Penobscot Nation’s ERA Program published a notification in March of 2022 regarding the status of the remaining Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds the Tribe received from the US Department of Treasury. This federally-funded program is still set to end on September 30, 2022, unless the Penobscot Nation’s program runs out of funds before that date.

Although the PN ERA Program has been taking steps to seek out sources of additional ERA resources, to date we have not been able to secure any additional ERA funds. This has forced the PN ERA Program to make some difficult decisions. We are very mindful that COVID-19 has had tremendous economic impact on our Tribal members and families, and many of those needs continue today.

The PN ERA Program may provide a tribal member applicant with rental and/or utility assistance for up to twelve (12) months. If, after the 12 months have expired, the applicant still needs assistance, they can apply for an additional three (3) months of assistance. If the applicant’s household income is at or below 80% of the Average Median Income (AMI) for the county of their residency, and they meet the other eligibility requirements, the PN ERA Program was providing an additional 3 months of assistance.

The additional 3 months of assistance was conditioned on whether the PN ERA Program had available funds. As of today’s date, we must begin to limit those requests for the 3 additional months and will only consider applicants whose household income falls at or below 50% of the AMI.

Please be advised that states and many tribes have also received ERA funds, and Penobscot Nation tribal members may be able to apply for those programs, as opposed to the PN ERA Program. If an applicant believes they may eligible for another tribal ERA program, they are encouraged to contact that program in advance as most tribal programs have limited-service areas and like the PN ERA Program, have depleted funds.

State ERA programs may also be another resource for rental and utility assistance. Often times their programs do have funds available, and have similar income eligibility requirements. They
also may have the flexibility to provide applicants with ERA assistance for up to eighteen (18) months. If a PN Tribal Member is currently receiving, or has received ERA assistance in the past, those months of assistance from the PN ERA Program will be deducted from the number of months the state program may be able to provide.

All states have their program eligibility requirements on their websites, and in many cases, the option for people to submit an application electronically. If a person is unable to access or otherwise apply online, applications can be printed off or an applicant can apply in person. If a person is living in the state of Maine, they can request and apply for state ERA assistance at their local CAP office.

We will provide the Penobscot Nation’s community with updated program status on a regular basis.

Individuals and families are also encouraged to reach out to the ERA staff to identify resources that may be available to assist during this challenging time. We can be reached at 207-817-7396 or by email at Jayden.Love@penobscotnation.org and Alexis.Ireland@penobscotnation.org.