



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

Questions for Consideration  
Treasury Tribal Consultations on the Tribal Coronavirus Relief Funds  
under the American Rescue Plan of 2021  
March 31 and April 1, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided \$31.2 billion in emergency funding to Indian Country. The Tribal Consultations on March 31 and April 1 will focus on the \$20 billion allotted for Coronavirus Relief Funds for federally acknowledged Tribes. One billion of this funding will be distributed equally among all Tribes. Of the remaining \$19 billion, the Secretary of the Treasury is charged with determining how the funds will be distributed to Tribes. Treasury wants to ensure that these funds reach Tribes quickly, and that each Tribe has the flexibility to use these funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Treasury would like your thoughts and recommendations about the formula that should be used to determine each Tribe's share of funds, the components of the methodology and allowable expenditures for funds distributed to each Tribe.

We have broken our questions into three categories: 1) allocation of funds; 2) compliance and reporting; and, 3) communications, training and technical assistance.

### **1. Allocation of Funds**

- The Department of the Interior may collect self-certified tribal enrollment data and make that information available to other federal agencies. Should Treasury rely upon self-certified tribal enrollment data to determine how much to distribute funding to Tribes? If yes, what portion of the overall funding to Tribes should be based upon enrollment data?
- If you do not want Treasury to rely upon self-certified enrollment data, what other population-based factors should be used to determine how much funding to distribute to Tribes?
- Should Treasury consider the “negative economic impacts” of COVID-19 on Tribes? If so, how should Treasury measure or account for the negative economic impacts COVID-19 has had on Tribes? Is your Tribe able to provide updated data as to the amount of their increased expenditures in 2020 as compared to fiscal year 2019?

- Are there any other factors that should guide how Treasury determines how much funding to distribute to each Tribe?

## **2. Compliance and Reporting**

- Based on your experience with CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds, what kinds of documentation challenges do you anticipate having to overcome in the ARP round of funding? Do you have any recommendations for how Treasury might reduce or eliminate these barriers?
- Are there remaining guidance issues that are still concerns for Tribes in spending funds in accordance with Congressional intent?

## **3. Communications, Training and Technical Assistance**

- How would Tribes like to receive training and technical guidance and assistance regarding use of the Tribal Coronavirus Relief Funds?
- What is the best method for Treasury to communicate with Tribes regarding questions and concerns during implementation of the American Rescue Plan?
- What Treasury guidance or direction worked to help Tribes make the most impactful spending decisions in the CARES Act round of funding?

We hope that these questions will help set fruitful conversation during this consultation.