



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Please Give To Our Native American Relief Fund

Fund Will Support Tribal and Pueblo Communities in New Mexico and Surrounding Regions  
in Responding to COVID-19

**Fundraising Goal: \$3 million for the Native American Relief Fund**

#### About the Native American Relief Fund

This fund provides emergency grants to tribal communities and organizations to bring food, water, and other emergency supplies to some of the hardest-hit families and communities impacted by COVID-19 across the Navajo, Apache, and Pueblos of New Mexico and beyond.

The New Mexico Foundation, in collaboration with the Santa Fe Community Foundation, Navajo-Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund, and a growing list of funding partners, nonprofits, and government partners, has launched *The Native American Relief Fund* to help get resources to the communities most in need. We are seeking contributions of all kinds, including corporate, individual gifts, grants, and bequests.

"This fund will help our Pueblo and Tribal communities respond to the incredible challenges posed by responding to COVID-19, including helping to get critical supplies of food, water, and other supplies to families" said JoAnn Melchor, President and CEO of the New Mexico Foundation. "The New Mexico Foundation is proud to host this fund and work with our Tribal, state, and philanthropic partners to help ensure we can get critical resources to communities and support their long-term recovery and resilience."

#### How to Make a Donation

Tax-deductible donations to the Native American Relief Fund can be mailed to:  
New Mexico Foundation  
8 Calle Medico  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

For more information, please contact JoAnn Melchor at the New Mexico Foundation at (505) 356-4110 or [jmelchor@newmexicofoundation.org](mailto:jmelchor@newmexicofoundation.org)

#### Why This Relief Fund and Your Help are Desperately Needed

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting tribal communities in uniquely challenging ways and many of our communities are facing urgent needs in accessing food, water, medical supplies, and household items. A number of communities are experiencing the rapid spread of COVID-19, including parts of the Navajo Nation and several Pueblos including Zia, Zuni, and San Felipe, leading to emergency situations on the ground. Many communities are far from urban centers and lack easy access to basic supplies, making emergency response extraordinarily difficult and further putting families at risk.

Our tribal and state government are working diligently to respond. But, we need your financial assistance to get families emergency supplies, including food, water, baby food, diapers, toilet paper, hand soap, sanitizer, and other essentials, along with support to assist Native communities in their recovery efforts over the long term.

“The Santa Fe Community Foundation is proud to work in partnership with our sister Foundation and other community-lead entities for the deployment of these crucial dollars” said Bill Smith, President & CEO of the Santa Fe Community Foundation. “Leveraging the help of our philanthropic and nonprofit partners will enable us to respond rapidly to meet the immediate needs of our families and also protect our communities from further exposure.”

Many of the challenges that tribal communities already face, such as lack of access to running water and electricity, food insecurity, poverty, and a maze of bureaucratic systems are exacerbating emergency response. Additionally, lack of cell phone service and broadband access slows the spread of information. Many community members must drive many miles to in order to receive service for updates and to other communities to buy water and groceries.

In some communities, tribal water services and meal programs have been forced to close to protect the public health, causing additional hardships, especially for elderly, disabled and low-income individuals. Many people are having to drive hours roundtrip in order to fill water barrels and obtain food. And, some community members are forced to rely on non-potable water for drinking and household use. Protecting our communities and meeting their needs requires a rapid, thoughtful, and well-coordinated response supported by resources that are not currently readily accessible through other channels.

### Call to Action — How You Can Help

That is why we are calling on funders, individuals and others to contribute to the Native American Relief Fund at the New Mexico Foundation. The Foundation will work with its advisory committee and partners to administer and move dollars quickly to those on the ground that can provide emergency relief, including tribal governments, the New Mexico State Indian Affairs Department, tribal organizations, food banks and other entities providing assistance. We are seeking donations and gifts to fund all of the items listed below.

Item	Description (Example of What Funding Will Support)	Amount
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of bulk potable water supplies</li> <li>• Transportation and hauling of water to communities via truck and container</li> <li>• Acquisition and delivery of bottled water to 23 Tribes and Pueblos, including 51 Chapters of the Navajo Nation</li> </ul>	\$1,000,000
<b>Food, Medical, &amp; Personal Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition and delivery of food items at the bulk and community level in partnership with food suppliers, food banks, and meal programs</li> <li>• Acquisition and delivery of groceries, medicine, and household items to families</li> <li>• Emergency medical, PPE, and other supplies</li> </ul>	\$1,000,000
<b>Community and Individual Relief and Recovery Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds for communities to support emergency response, including medical and emergency response infrastructure and services</li> <li>• Relief funds for communities and families facing extreme economic hardship and needs</li> </ul>	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Need</b>		<b>\$3,000,000</b>

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### About the New Mexico Foundation

The mission of New Mexico Foundation is to steward community resources, build partnerships, and create opportunities that transform lives throughout the state.

### **About the Santa Fe Community Foundation**

The Santa Fe Community Foundation was founded in 1981, designed to bridge philanthropy and nonprofits. The SFCF's mission is devoted to building healthy and vital communities in the region where:

- Racial, cultural, or economic differences do not limit access to health, education, or employment
- Diverse audiences enjoy the many arts and cultural heritages of our region
- All sectors of our community take responsibility for ensuring a healthy environment