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**Sitka Tribe of Alaska to provide \$1,000 in financial assistance to its citizens in 2024  
Individual payments to supplement other Tribal pandemic recovery programs**

All Sitka Tribe of Alaska enrolled citizens, regardless of age and community of residence, will be eligible for a one-time payment of \$1,000 in 2024 to address the ongoing financial impacts of the COVID -19 pandemic. The application period for the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program opens on January 22 and closes on March 31. Links to the online applications and frequently asked questions and answers are available on the STA webpage, [www.sitkatribes.org](http://www.sitkatribes.org). Individuals eligible for enrollment in STA have until March 4 to submit enrollment paperwork to be eligible for this program. Payments will be made by checks mailed to STA citizens on May 15.

“When the pandemic started almost four years ago, Sitka Tribe of Alaska was on the front lines providing relief for our citizens and community,” says Tribal Chairman Lawrence “Woody” Widmark. “Over time, our efforts have expanded from emergency food distribution in Sitka to major investments in our long-term capacity to meet Tribal and community needs,” he continued. “Individual financial assistance distributions in 2024 are a recognition that our people are still struggling with the economic impacts of Covid. We are here to help.”

The Tribal citizen payments will be made with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The American Rescue Plan Act, approved by Congress and signed by the President in 2021, acknowledged that all Native people were



disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and allocated \$20 billion to Tribes to fight the pandemic, maintain vital public services, and invest in long-term growth and opportunities for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska received more than \$22 million in U.S. Treasury ARPA funds in 2021. A small portion of this funding was used to address immediate health and safety needs, and cover shortfalls in operations due to the pandemic. The Tribal Council has budgeted the remainder of the funding to address longer-term pandemic-related needs in accordance with the Tribe's 2022 strategic plan. More than 20 percent of the funding has been committed to providing direct cash assistance to Tribal citizens. Other uses of these funds include but are not limited to educational initiatives for Tribal youth, investment in infrastructure to develop new housing for Tribal citizens, new social services staff to assist vulnerable Tribal citizens, support for recovery of the Tribe's tourism operations and traditional foods program, information technology, and communications.

In addition to the U.S. Treasury ARPA funding, STA received other pandemic-related federal assistance for specific purposes. For example, in 2023, the Tribe made \$322,049 in grants to licensed childcare facilities in Sitka with federal ARPA funds.

A clinic to help Tribal citizens with applications for the APRA SLFRF program will be held on Saturday, February 10 from 12pm - 4pm at 204 Siginaka Way in Sitka. Staff will also be available to assist with applications at the Elder Coffee Time on February 13 from 11:30am - 1:30pm at Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka. Anyone with questions about the program may email [arpa@sitkatriben-sn.gov](mailto:arpa@sitkatriben-sn.gov) for more information and assistance or call 907-747-3207; email is preferred.

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Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) is a federally recognized Tribal government under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act that serves more than 4,583 citizens of Tlingit, Haida, Aleut, Tsimshian and other Tribal heritage. STA operates within the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska.