

February 25, 2021

Shannon Christian, Director of OCC  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Mary E. Switzer Building  
330 C ST SW, 4th floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Mrs. Christian,

The Penobscot Nation Planned Use of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)  
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA)  
Funds is as follows:

**Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)**

The Penobscot Nation Children's Center will use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services to essential workers, such as health care providers, emergency management personnel, and other essential workers as identified by Penobscot Nation administration.

**Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices**

CRRSA funds will be used to purchase PPE, supplies, and classroom materials to ensure the tribally operated center is ready to reopen while remaining in compliance with CDC and State of Maine Licensing requirements.

**Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers**

At this time, there are no plans to use CRRSA funds to provide grants or assistance other than subsidies.

**Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic**

Due to using CCDF funds solely to maintain our tribally operated center, rather than to providers, Penobscot Nation will need additional guidance to meet this requirement.

**Other**

Penobscot Nation Children's Center will use funds for staff retention and professional development. Currently our tribally operated center is closed due to COVID. To ensure we are prepared to reopen, we will continue to pay staff while they work from home. We will provide additional assistance to staff through purchasing online courses and CDA materials for them to receive their certifications upon reopening, when the in class observations can be completed by the CDA examiner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Naomi Neptune  
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Indian Island, ME 04468