

**Karuk Tribe
Employee Slater Fire Disaster Relief Fund
Program Policy.**

Program Background: On September 8, 2020 the community of Happy Camp suffered catastrophic losses due to the Slater Fire which burned over 200 homes and took two lives. On September 15, 2020 the Karuk Tribe declared a disaster and on October 16, 2020 the federal government declared the Slater Fire a disaster. Numerous employees lost their homes in the fire.

Program Purpose:

The purpose of the Slater Fire Disaster Relief Fund Employee Program is to reimburse or pay reasonable expenses incurred for the repair or replacement of a personal residence to the extent that the need for such repair or replacement is attributable to the Slater Fire.

Applicants are not required to purchase modular homes nor are they required to use “stick built” construction methods. Applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from local nonprofit agencies but are not required to enter into an agreement with other local agencies.

Who may apply for this program:

Employees who were hired on or before September 9, 2017 and are still currently employed by the Tribe and were employed by the Tribe on September 8, 2020. Employee assistance under this program may qualify for tax exempt treatment as a disaster relief payment. Eligibility is limited to the homeowner/homebuyer who occupied and lost the home they seek to replace in the Slater Fire on September 8, 2020 and who is one of the following:

- Karuk Tribal Employee, including entities of KTHA and KCDC.
- Employee must be currently employed and has been continually employed by the tribe since on or before September 9th, 2017.

Who is NOT Eligible to apply for this program:

- Renters.
- Landlords.
- Individuals under contractual agreement with the Tribe, i.e. Consultants.

Assistance Can be used for:

- Architect & Engineering Services
- Permits.
- Construction of the residence.
- Purchase, delivery and set up of a modular home.
- Water, septic, or power service for the residence.

Requirements:

- Completed Application.
- Documentation that applicant is currently employed by the Tribe and was continually employed by the Tribe since on or before September 9, 2017.

- Deed
- Invoices or purchase agreements.
- Construction is to be completed by December 31st, 2023.

Income Guidelines:

- None.

Maximum amount of assistance:

Assistance is limited to a single allocation per household.

- Up to \$50,000.

Completed applications are processed on a first come first serve basis.

Total number of awards that can be granted: 10 @ \$50,000

Payments:

Due to the shortage of administrative and fiscal staff, every effort shall be made to reduce the number of payments made on behalf of an eligible applicant. For example, one check issued to a modular home vendor is preferable to multiple checks made to multiple vendors. Payments can be made by one of these methods:

- Direct payment to vendor or supplier supported by original invoices and approved in writing by the Applicant.
- Two party check made out to Owner and Contractor/Vendor or Supplier.
- Reimbursement to Owner for out of pocket costs, supported by original invoices (copies will be retained for the record).

Ownership of property:

The Applicant must be the landowner/homebuyer and used the property as their primary residence on September 8, 2020. No renters.

Repayment obligation:

Should Applicant sell the replacement home within one (1) year of the date of award, the grant is voided and the assistance provided for Applicant's benefit must be repaid by Applicant to the Karuk Tribe from sale proceeds. Should the Applicant sell the replacement home subsequent to the first year, Applicant may retain twenty five percent (25%) of the original grant amount **per year** beginning on the second (2nd) year, with the remaining amount of the grant to be repaid to the Karuk Tribe. If Applicant sells the replacement home five (5) or more years after grant award, no repayment of any part of the assistance need be made to the Karuk Tribe.