



# DISASTER RELIEF FUND PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions



### 1. What is the Disaster Relief Fund?

The Disaster Relief Fund provides financial resources for PBCI Tribal Members and their households during crisis situations caused by major natural disasters as identified by a declaration of a “State of Emergency”; or by a declaration of a “Federal Disaster Area”; or by household fires not caused by arson.



### 2. How do I access this program?

Contact the Family Services Department at (251)-368-9136, ext. 2600; or you may fill out and submit electronically the Family Services application that can be found on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians website.



### 3. What financial resources may I be eligible for through this program?

An initial distribution of \$2,000.00 that can be electronically transferred to the bank account you have on file with the Tribal Member Benefits Department, or you can choose to receive these funds through the mail in the form of cash cards. If you need to change your banking information, please contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department at (251)-368-9136, ext. 2209.



An additional distribution of up to \$5,000.00 depending upon an assessment of the needs that will be completed by the Family Services Department. The Family Services Department will present their assessment of your needs to a Disaster Relief Team comprised of representatives from the Family Services Department, Emergency Management, the Housing Department, the Accounting Department, and the Tribal Council.



### 4. What if I am in a major natural disaster and I am not able to contact the Tribe?

Always reach out to the emergency management services in your area for your immediate protection and the immediate protection of your family. The Tribe may not be able to reach you until the major natural disaster response efforts have changed from rescue to recovery. It may take time even after recovery efforts have begun before first contact can be established.



### 5. Do I have to report any financial assistance I receive to FEMA and other agencies responding to the major natural disaster?

Yes. Not reporting these financial resources to these agencies is considered fraud and is a prosecutable offense.



### 6. Does the Tribe offer other programs that may be of assistance to me during this difficult time?

Yes. The Family Services Department has other programs that may be of additional services to you. These programs include the Tribal Assistance Fund, the Tribal Crisis Fund, and the Crisis Loan Program. The Family Services will assess for these needs while they are working with you. The Housing Department does have rental units that may be available to you depending upon the occupancy rate when the major natural disaster occurs. The Tribal Council may elect to provide additional services depending upon the needs presented.

