



GWYD DBP
CHEROKEE NATION®
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 • 918-451-5000 • cherokee.org

Office of the Chief

Bill John Baker
Principal Chief
ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ
ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ

S. Joe Crittenden
Deputy Principal Chief
ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ
ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ ᎠᎹ

Memo

TO: Jack Baker, Chair, Executive & Finance Committee
Meredith A. Frailey, Speaker of the Council

FROM: Bill John Baker, Principal Chief *BJB*

SUBJECT: LIHEAP Crisis

DATE: December 8, 2011

The Tribe is currently experiencing a major crisis with federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Our initial LIHEAP appropriation has been reduced by approximately 60% from our funding levels of the past three years.

This reduction means that only the elderly and disabled households are currently receiving LIHEAP services, and their benefits are being reduced by 25% over last year's payment levels. At this time all LIHEAP services have been discontinued for all households that are not considered elderly or disabled.

I am requesting that the Tribal Council appropriate funding to supplement our federal LIHEAP grant. It will require a minimum funding supplement of \$200,000 to re-open the LIHEAP application process for those households that are not classified as elderly or disabled, but do meet our low-income guidelines.

It should be noted that our initial LIHEAP appropriation was based on the current Continuing Resolution of the federal budget process that runs through the middle of December. If Congress should pass a federal spending bill that restores LIHEAP funding to an acceptable level, these supplemental funds requested may not be needed.

We all know how Congress works and we can not afford to wait for their decision, while our Tribal members suffer from the lack of resources to pay for keeping their families warm.

Your immediate attention in this matter is appreciated.

cc: Tribal Council Members