



# AAIP

## Association of American Indian Physicians

### **AAIP members,**

As if a pandemic and subsequent economic upheaval were not enough, our relatives in California, Oregon and Washington are now experiencing a record breaking number of uncontrolled fires burning through their states and communities. Even those not immediately affected by loss of home and property are suffering from the health threats of terrible air contamination. Many of us are searching for ways to help our Western colleagues and Native communities, knowing that it isn't safe or feasible to travel to help with immediate and long-term recovery. Dr. Shaquita Bell and I have begun to compile a list of donation sites/services for those of you who want to help in any way you can. Please consider sharing this list with others. Our relatives are going to need as much help as we can give because the impact of these fires, like the pandemic, will be felt for years to come. I am also including a list of services for community members to contact. These are very cursory lists and please feel free to share more sites with our AAIP office and we'll post them on our FB page and/or a section on our webpage.

### **Donation contact sites and services:**

#### **1. Klamath:**

Kindly go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/chiloquin-community-rebuild-from...>  
to make your payment directly

Also, you can pay directly through an electronic transfer to the Project Account contact:

Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services  
(800)552-6290 or (541)882-1487

**2. Colville:** Chief Financial Officer William Nicholson II is accepting monetary contributions for the tribes at 509 634-2857 or [billy.nicholson.act@colvilletribes.com](mailto:billy.nicholson.act@colvilletribes.com)

#### **3. Karuk:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T6wryTUfhRqgDPkJphy6sRZgetD2RlkViZ\\_q5Oi\\_Gqs/htmlview#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T6wryTUfhRqgDPkJphy6sRZgetD2RlkViZ_q5Oi_Gqs/htmlview#gid=0)

### **Services for community members:**

#### **Replacement SNAP benefits:**

SNAP recipients that have lost food or had food spoiled due to the wildfires, evacuations, and/or power outages are able to replace up to a full month of benefits for your household size to cover the lost food. To do this, a SNAP recipient needs to connect with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) within 10 days of the food loss. This can happen by calling a local ODHS office (note that some offices may be closed due to the fires - anyone can be served by any office in Oregon) or submitting a written request.

ODHS will ask for documentation regarding the food loss, this includes a signed statement, a list of lost or spoiled food, and the amount paid for the food. When someone speaks with an ODHS eligibility worker, the worker will provide more details on the documentation needed.

**Replacement EBT cards:**

If a SNAP recipient has lost their EBT card due to evacuating or their card has been destroyed in a fire, they are able to get a replacement card. Typically card replacement happens through the ODHS card replacement hotline (1-855-328-6715, M-F 8:30am-4:30pm), however for cards destroyed in a fire and/or a delay in receiving an EBT card would impact a household's health and safety, replacement cards can be given by a ODHS branch office - find your local ODHS office here (note that some offices may be closed due to the fires - anyone can be served by any office in Oregon).

**Meals for Children 1-18**

School districts and community organizations across the state are still serving meals to children ages 1-18 ([summerfoodoregon.org/map](http://summerfoodoregon.org/map)). There is a chance due to poor air quality and fire conditions, that some areas may temporarily pause or alter the way meals are being served. The best way to find out up-to-date information is to contact your local school district to see what has changed around meals in your community due to the fires. If your school district has temporarily paused it's meal service, children are able to access meals at neighboring school districts or community sites. Eligibility to receive a meal through the summer meal program is not tied to school or school district enrollment.

If you are a school or community organization that usually serves school or summer meals and are concerned about meeting food access needs in your community due to the fires, please reach out to your local county officials or ODE Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Owen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary Owen, MD  
President, AAIP