



Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council

Buddy Rocha, Jr.
Chairman
Charlie Baca, IV
Vice Chairman

Council Members: Thomas Beauty | Siera Russell | Jason Fullmer |
David Kwail | Genevieve Datsi | Frederick Sanchez | Matilda Cassadore

Re: Our Commitment to the People: Holiday Assistance and the Nation's Path Ahead

November 7, 2025

Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council Statement to All Members:

This year, the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council has approved Holiday Assistance of \$500 for all **adult Tribal Members**. The Council made this decision at a time when the Nation is under a **budget deficit**, meaning current spending to maintain operations and services is greater than the available funds. Despite this challenge, the Council chose to **reprioritize spending and adjust other areas of the budget** to ensure this year's Holiday Assistance could be increased from the originally planned amount of \$330. This action reflects the Council's belief that, even as we work to restore financial balance, **supporting our people must come first!**

In past years, larger assistance payments were made possible through **ARPA funding** that was available during the COVID-19 pandemic and other federal funding that has since gone away under the current Trump Administration. The Tribe is now operating solely on its own fiscal resources. This year's Holiday Assistance is funded entirely by **Tribal funds**, demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to act responsibly while continuing to provide meaningful support to our members.

The Tribal Council remains focused on the long-term stability and self-sufficiency of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. While direct financial assistance provides short-term relief, lasting security for our people comes from strong programs, sound planning, and sustainable economic growth. The Council continues to review operations, identify cost-saving measures, and pursue new economic opportunities that will strengthen the Tribe's financial position. These efforts are paired with continued investment in the programs and services that make a lasting impact.

Each of these areas represents more than a budget line; they are the foundation of independence and wellbeing for our members. By managing resources carefully today and planning for tomorrow, the Council is ensuring that the Nation can continue to provide essential services, expand opportunity, and protect future generations.

The Nation has faced challenges before and overcome them through unity, care, and determination. The Council believes that same strength will guide us through the current challenges we are facing, as we continue working to stabilize our finances and support our people.

We thank every member of our community for your understanding and trust as we move forward together. May this holiday season bring peace, stability, and connection to all our members and their families.

Respectfully,

Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council

Resolution No. 226-25

A Resolution Approving the Appropriation and Distribution of Funds to All Adult Members of the Nation as a Holiday Assistance Payment

The Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council approved the 2025 Holiday Assistance distribution in the amount of **\$500** for each eligible adult Tribal Member. Distribution will take place on **Friday, November 21, 2025**, at the **Yavapai-Apache Nation Middle Verde Gymnasium** between **6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

- **Photo ID is required** for pickup.
- If picking up for another Tribal Member, a **signed written authorization form** and valid ID are required.
 - To obtain the authorization form or for questions regarding check pickup, please contact **Lucinda Nahee, Enrollment Department**, at **lnahee@yan-tribe.org**
- Checks not picked up will be mailed the following week by certified mail.
- **Court-ordered deductions** (such as child support, restitution, and fees) will apply per policy.
- This payment is classified as **non-taxable general welfare assistance** and does **not need to be reported as income**.

For additional questions concerning deductions contact the **Tribal Court** at **(928) 567-1033** to inquire about any balances you may have.

RESOLUTION NO. 226-25 OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION

A Resolution Approving the Appropriation and Distribution of Funds to All Adult Members of the Nation as a Holiday Assistance Payment

WHEREAS:

The Yavapai-Apache Tribal Council ("Council") is authorized to represent the Yavapai-Apache Nation ("Nation") and act on all matters that concern the health and welfare of the Nation, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to the Constitution of the Yavapai-Apache Nation ("Constitution"), as provided by Article V (a) of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS:

The Council is authorized to manage all tribal economic affairs and enterprises and to appropriate and regulate the use of tribal funds, as provided by Articles V(i) and (k), respectively, of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS:

By Resolution No. 191-21 adopted on September 30, 2021, the Council established the Yavapai-Apache Nation Holiday Assistance Fund and designated non-gaming revenue sources to support and maintain the Fund from which the Council may appropriate future Holiday Assistance payments as determined by the Council in its discretion; and

WHEREAS:

By Resolution No. 205-22 adopted on November 3, 2022, the Council approved the Yavapai-Apache Nation Holiday Assistance Program ("the Program"), which formally memorialized the Nation's prior tribal custom and government practice of recognizing Holiday Assistance payments to the Nation's Members as a means of promoting the Nation's general welfare, culture and traditions, and as a means to provide financial assistance for basic household needs; and

WHEREAS:

Pursuant to the Program, the Council desires to appropriate funds from the Nation's Holiday Assistance Fund and General Fund to be distributed to all adult members of the Nation as a Holiday Assistance payment to be used for the Program purposes set forth in the Program Description and Guideline; and

WHEREAS:

The enrollment records of the Nation show that as of November 21, 2025, the date of distribution, there will be 2,022 adult Tribal Members on the Nation's membership roll; and

WHEREAS:

The Council has determined that Holiday Assistance in the total amount of \$1,010,993.94 shall be appropriated (\$668,816.94 from the Nation's Holiday Assistance Fund and \$342,177.00 from the Nation's General Fund), and said total amount shall be distributed on an equal basis to all adult Tribal Members of the Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, hereby appropriates the total amount of \$1,010,993.94 (\$668,816.94 from the Nation's Holiday Assistance Fund and \$342,177.00 from the Nation's General Fund), and directs that said appropriation be apportioned and distributed on an equal basis in the amount of \$500.00 to each adult Tribal Member enrolled in the Yavapai-Apache Nation as determined from the Nation's membership roll as of November 21, 2025, to be used for the Program purposes set forth in the Holiday Assistance Program General Welfare Assistance Program Description and Guideline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the distribution of the Holiday Assistance payment shall be made to each adult Tribal Member entitled to a distribution on November 21, 2025, and that such distribution shall be made by hand delivery of an individual check to the eligible Tribal Members at the Nation's Gymnasium in Middle Verde.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That notwithstanding the interpretation of any prior Resolution authorizing a "Christmas Bonus," "Holiday Bonus," or other "gift," the Tribal Council hereby declares that the appropriation of future Holiday Assistance, if any, from the Nation's Holiday Assistance Fund, shall be determined by the Tribal Council on a periodic basis depending upon the availability of funds in the Holiday Assistance Fund, and nothing herein, or in prior resolutions, vests, or is intended to vest, any Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Member with an entitlement to any future holiday assistance, bonus, gift or amount thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That per the Holiday Assistance Program General Welfare Assistance Program Description and Guideline, the Holiday Assistance payments shall be subject to deductions payable to the Nation's Tribal Court for all court-ordered payments such as restitution, court fees, child support, or any other court-ordered payments, but shall not be subject to deductions for debts owed to the Nation except as may be agreed to in written agreements between the Nation and an individual Tribal Member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That Holiday Assistance payments shall not affect eligibility under the Nation's Tribal Assistance Program for those Tribal Members receiving assistance payments.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or either of them, are hereby authorized to take such further action as deemed necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by an affirmative vote of the Tribal Council, with a quorum in attendance, presented for approval on November 6, 2025, by a vote of 9, 9 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the authority contained under the Constitution of the Yavapai-Apache Nation as cited above.

ATTEST:

Buddy Rocha, Jr., Chairman
Karla Reimer, Council Secretary

Approved as to Form:
Office of the Attorney General