



KIOWA TRIBE
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OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATURE

KIOWA TRIBE LEGISLATURE ENACTMENT NO. KL-CY-2026-0XX
THE KIOWA TRIBE GENERAL WELFARE ACT OF 2026

PREAMBLE AND FINDINGS

WHEREAS, the Kiowa Tribe is a sovereign, federally recognized Indian Tribe possessing inherent governmental authority over its internal affairs and the welfare of its people; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe, effective April 17, 2017, is the supreme governing law of the Tribe and divides governmental authority among the Kiowa Indian Council, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 6(a) authorizes the Legislature to make laws and resolutions in accordance with the Constitution, with legislative actions embodied in written law or resolution; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 6(b) authorizes the Legislature to act upon annual budgets and budget modifications, including the power to accept budget proposals presented by the Chairman or develop its own budget proposals, and further provides authority to raise revenue and appropriate funds for expenditure as provided by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 4 vests Executive power in the Chairman and directs the Chairman to execute, administer, and enforce the laws, to develop and present the annual budget, and to administer the expenditure of monies appropriated by law and included in an approved budget; and

WHEREAS, the Kiowa Tribe presently operates programs serving Tribal citizens and families through Social Services, Education, Career Development, Administration on Aging, Housing, Child Care, Language, Veterans, Victim Services, and other governmental programs, some supported by Tribal funds and others by restricted federal or other funding; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has enacted and administered Tribal assistance measures including Emergency Assistance, Burial Assistance, the Emergency Response Fund Act of 2025, and the Direct Aid to Kiowa Families and For the People Funds Act of 2025; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014, codified at 26 U.S.C. § 139E, confirming an exclusion from federal gross income for qualifying Tribal General Welfare Benefits; and

WHEREAS, final Treasury and Internal Revenue Service regulations at 26 C.F.R. § 1.139E-1 recognize broad Tribal governmental discretion to determine whether benefits promote general welfare, allow benefits without individualized financial need, allow uniform or pro-rata benefits, recognize multiple program categories, and impose requirements concerning specified guidelines, availability, governing-body neutrality, reasonable benefit levels, and compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that a comprehensive Kiowa General Welfare framework will strengthen sovereignty, improve consistency and transparency, reduce unnecessary administrative fragmentation, protect Tribal citizens' information, and permit the Tribe to respond to the welfare needs of Kiowa people through lawful governmental programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the Kiowa Tribe that the following law is established.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The foregoing Amended Resolution KL-CY-2026-00X was duly voted upon by the Legislature on _____, 2026, at Legislative Special Session I-(1), with a vote of (4) in favor and (0) opposed, (0) abstaining, and (3) absent, according to the authority vested in the Legislature by the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe.

Michael Q. Primus II
Speaker of the Legislature

FOURTH AMENDED LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION KL-CY-2026-00X

Sponsors: Michael Q. Primus II, District 2.

Co-Sponsors:

LEGISLATORS	YES Hàu	NO Hàu:né	ABSTAIN Háun á	ABSENT Héñgyádàu
Ronnie Satepauhoodle District 1				
Michael Q. Primus II District 2				
Jolene Beartrack District 3				
Cole DeLaune District 4				
Tiya Rosario District 5				
Ben Wolf District 6				
Warren Queton District 7				

DELIVERY OF THE RESOLUTION AND LAW TO THE CHAIRMAN

Amended Resolution No. KL-CY-2026-00X was presented to the Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe on _____, 2026, pursuant to the Article VI, Section 8(a)(iv) of the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe, and will become effective after signature by the Chairman or veto override by the Legislature, and as otherwise required by the Constitution.

Michael Q. Primus II
Speaker of the Legislature

CHAIRMAN’S ACTION:

☐ APPROVED

☐ VETO - RETURNED TO LEGISLATURE WITH EXPLANATION:

On this ____ day of _____, 2026.

David B. Sullivan
Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe

Presented by the Chairman to the Legislature on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

LEGISLATURE’S ACTION:

Override of Chairman’s veto:

☐ YES

☐ NO

LEGISLATIVE OVERRIDE ORDER: KLO-CY-2026-0XX

LEGISLATORS	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ronnie Satepauhoodle District 1				
Michael Q. Primus II District 2				
Jolene Beartrack District 3				
Cole DeLaune District 4				
Tiya Rosario District 5				
Ben Wolf District 6				
Warren Queton District 7				

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The foregoing Legislative Order, KLO-CY-2026-00X was duly voted upon by the Legislature on _____, 2026, at a Legislative Override Order Session with a vote of _____ in favor and _____ opposed, and _____ abstaining, _____ Absent. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Legislature by the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe.

Michael Q. Primus II
Speaker of the Legislature

TITLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01. Short Title.

This enactment shall be known and cited as the "Kiowa Tribe General Welfare Act of 2026" or "General Welfare Act."

Section 1.02. Purpose.

The purposes of this Act are to establish a comprehensive Tribal-law framework for General Welfare Programs; authorize program categories that may be activated by law and appropriation; preserve and coordinate existing Kiowa programs; implement the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 139E and applicable regulations; protect the distinction between general welfare benefits and taxable compensation or per-capita distributions; establish transparent administrative, financial, privacy, and appeal procedures; and promote the health, safety, education, economic security, culture, language, family stability, housing, and general welfare of the Kiowa community.

Section 1.03. Construction.

This Act shall be construed liberally in favor of the sovereign authority of the Kiowa Tribe and the governmental purposes stated herein. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive sovereign immunity, alter constitutional powers, convert restricted funds into unrestricted funds, or guarantee any benefit absent an available appropriation and satisfaction of applicable Program Guidelines.

Section 1.04. Federal Tax Intent.

The Tribe intends that benefits designated as Kiowa Tribal General Welfare Benefits satisfy 26 U.S.C. § 139E and applicable federal regulations when the facts and administration of the program meet those requirements. This Act does not guarantee the tax treatment of any payment that is administered contrary to law or whose treatment depends upon facts outside Tribal control.

Section 1.05. Applicability of Final Federal Regulations.

The Tribe may apply 26 C.F.R. § 1.139E-1 in its entirety for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2027 to the extent legally available and administratively adopted. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, the Tribe shall administer qualifying programs consistently with the regulation then in force, subject to later federal amendments.

TITLE II. DEFINITIONS

Act. the Kiowa Tribe General Welfare Act of 2026, as amended.

Benefit. money, property, services, reimbursement, vendor payment, voucher, assistance, subsidy, or another item of value provided to or on behalf of an individual.

Chairman. the Chairman of the Kiowa Tribe under Article VII of the Constitution.

Executive Branch. the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive departments, and subordinate offices or instrumentalities as established by the Constitution or Tribal law.

General Welfare Administrator. the Executive officer or office designated under this Act to coordinate Tribal General Welfare Programs.

Indian Tribal Government Program. a program meeting 26 U.S.C. § 139E and applicable regulations.

Kiowa General Welfare Benefit. a Benefit provided to or on behalf of an eligible Tribal Program Participant under an established Kiowa General Welfare Program and intended to qualify under § 139E.

Legislature. the Kiowa Tribe Legislature established by Article VI of the Constitution.

Program Guidelines. the specified written eligibility, benefit, administration, documentation, and compliance standards governing a program.

Restricted Funds. federal, state, compact, grant, contract, trust, settlement, or other funds subject to legally binding use restrictions.

Tribal Member. an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe as determined under the Constitution and Kiowa enrollment law.

Tribal Program Participant. an individual who may receive a benefit under § 139E, applicable federal regulations, this Act, and the relevant Program Guidelines.

TITLE III. CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOVERNANCE

Section 3.01. Legislature.

Consistent with Article VI, the Legislature shall:

- enact and amend this Act and other laws governing General Welfare Programs;
- authorize program categories and establish or approve qualifying parameters by law;
- appropriate Tribal funds through the annual budget, budget modification, or other constitutionally permissible appropriation;
- conduct the public legislative process required by Article VI, Section 8;
- receive reports and exercise legislative oversight without administering individual applications; and
- avoid involvement in individual benefit determinations except through generally applicable law, legislative oversight, or an appeal role expressly authorized by law that does not create prohibited favoritism.

Section 3.02. Chairman and Executive Branch.

Consistent with Article VII, the Chairman shall execute, administer, and enforce this Act and shall cause Executive departments to administer funded programs according to enacted law, approved budgets, Program Guidelines, and applicable funding restrictions. The Chairman shall include proposed General Welfare funding needs in the annual budget process and shall not expend funds absent constitutional authorization, appropriation, and inclusion in an approved budget.

Section 3.03. Finance.

The Finance Office shall maintain accounting classifications that distinguish General Welfare Benefits from payroll, contractor compensation, per-capita distributions, loans, grants, reimbursements, restricted program expenditures, and ordinary vendor payments. Finance shall maintain an auditable record of program, participant or payee, authorization, funding source, amount, date, and payment method.

Section 3.04. Program Departments.

Executive departments may administer General Welfare Programs assigned by law or executive administrative order consistent with law. Program departments shall not alter legislatively established eligibility classes, benefit purposes, or appropriated maximums through informal practice.

Section 3.05. Legal and Tax Review.

Before a new program schedule is activated, Tribal legal counsel and a qualified tax professional or Finance tax-compliance officer should review the schedule for consistency with Tribal law, § 139E, funding restrictions, and information-reporting requirements. Failure to obtain advisory review shall not by itself invalidate an otherwise lawful enactment.

TITLE IV. FEDERAL §139E QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

Section 4.01. Established Program.

Each program shall be established by Tribal law, resolution, regulation, written Program Guidelines, or other governmental action recognized by § 139E.

Section 4.02. Specified Guidelines.

Each program shall operate under specified guidelines identifying purpose, eligibility, benefits, administration, documentation, and payment standards.

Section 4.03. General Welfare Determination.

At establishment, the Tribe shall determine that authorized benefits promote the general welfare. Individualized financial need is not required unless the Tribe chooses to require it or a funding source requires it.

Section 4.04. Availability.

Benefits shall be available to all eligible Tribal Program Participants who satisfy the applicable guidelines, subject to appropriations, lawful priority rules, and exhaustion of funds.

Section 4.05. Governing-Body Neutrality.

No program shall discriminate in favor of members of the governing body because of their official status. Officials otherwise eligible shall be subject to the same rules and documentation as similarly situated participants.

Section 4.06. Not Lavish or Extravagant.

Benefits shall be reasonable under the totality of facts and circumstances, considering program purpose, market cost, geography, emergency conditions, household circumstances, accessibility, culture, inflation, and other relevant factors.

Section 4.07. No Compensation.

A General Welfare Benefit shall not be compensation for services, except to the extent federal law specifically treats qualifying cultural or ceremonial items, reimbursements, or honoraria differently.

Section 4.08. Funding Source.

The source of funds shall not by itself disqualify a program under § 139E; however, every funding source remains subject to its own Tribal, federal, grant, compact, trust, RAP, or other restrictions.

TITLE V. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING KIOWA PROGRAMS

Section 5.01. Preservation.

Existing Kiowa programs remain in force unless expressly amended or repealed. This Act shall not be construed as an implied repeal of the Emergency Response Fund Act of 2025, the Direct Aid to Kiowa Families and For the People Funds Act of 2025, existing Social Services Emergency Assistance or Burial Assistance, Higher Education, Career Development, AOA, Housing, Child Care, Veterans, Victim Services, or other programs.

Section 5.02. Program Mapping.

Within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date, the Executive Branch shall prepare, and transmit to the Legislature, a General Welfare Program Inventory identifying each existing assistance program; funding source; eligibility rules; administering department; whether the program is proposed for treatment under § 139E; and any recommended statutory amendments.

Section 5.03. Restricted Programs.

A federally or otherwise restricted program shall continue to follow its controlling funding requirements. Where this Act authorizes broader Tribal benefits than a restricted program permits, the broader benefit may be funded only from a legally available source and shall not be charged to the restricted award.

Section 5.04. No Double Payment.

Program Guidelines may prevent duplicative payment of the same expense by multiple Tribal programs while allowing complementary benefits serving distinct governmental purposes.

TITLE VI. AUTHORIZED GENERAL WELFARE PROGRAM CATEGORIES

Section 6.01. Housing and Home Stability.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing rent, mortgage, deposits, homelessness prevention, home repair, rehabilitation, weatherization, accessibility, storm safety, household establishment, essential appliances, and related housing stability.

Section 6.02. Utilities, Food and Essential Needs.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing energy, water, sanitation, communications, food, clothing, hygiene, household necessities, and emergency subsistence.

Section 6.03. Education and Student Support.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing K-12, higher education, vocational/technical training, tuition, fees, books, technology, internet, tutoring, educational travel, graduation recognition, and other educational assistance.

Section 6.04. Employment, Workforce and Entrepreneurship.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing job-start costs, uniforms, tools, licensing, transportation, training, retraining, relocation, individual entrepreneurship and small-business development assistance permitted under federal law.

Section 6.05. Health, Wellness and Medical Access.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, preventive wellness, insurance-related costs, medical equipment, accessibility devices, and medical travel.

Section 6.06. Children, Youth and Family Stability.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing child care, newborn/infant needs, foster and kinship support, youth development, sports, leadership, family stabilization, and protective or reunification support.

Section 6.07. Elders and Independent Living.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing elder assistance, nutrition, transportation, respite, accessibility, home support, equipment, lawn/light repair services, and other independent-living support.

Section 6.08. Emergency and Disaster Response.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing natural disasters, government shutdown impacts, displacement, fire, flood, tornado, severe weather, emergency shelter, food, transportation, utilities, and other unforeseen threats to health or safety.

Section 6.09. Funeral, Burial and Bereavement.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing funeral-home costs, burial or cremation, cemetery, headstone, meals, flowers, transportation, lodging, and culturally appropriate bereavement support.

Section 6.10. Culture, Language and Ceremony.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing language preservation, cultural education, traditional arts, regalia and culturally significant items, ceremonial participation, cultural travel, and qualifying reimbursements or honoraria.

Section 6.11. Veterans and Military Families.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing supplemental assistance, transportation, burial support, education, housing, wellness, recognition, and family support.

Section 6.12. Victim Safety, Legal Aid and Reentry.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing emergency shelter, relocation, safety costs, counseling support, qualifying legal aid, documentation, transportation, and community reintegration.

Section 6.13. Transportation Access.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing essential transportation, vehicle repair, public transit, mileage, ride services, and transportation connected to a recognized welfare purpose.

Section 6.14. Disability and Accessibility.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing assistive technology, mobility equipment, home/vehicle accessibility, transportation, caregiving support, and other disability-related welfare assistance.

Section 6.15. Special and Future General Welfare Programs.

The Tribe may establish and fund programs providing additional programs established by law or Program Guidelines when the Tribe determines the benefits promote general welfare and all applicable requirements are satisfied.

TITLE VII. APPROPRIATION AND FUNDING

Section 7.01. Authorization Does Not Equal Appropriation.

Program authorization under this Act does not itself appropriate money. No funds shall be expended unless authorized and appropriated according to the Constitution and included in an approved budget or budget modification as required by law.

Section 7.02. General Welfare Fund Accounts.

Finance may establish one or more accounting funds or cost centers titled 'Kiowa General Welfare Programs' to segregate appropriations and expenditures by program and funding source. Restricted revenues shall remain separately identifiable.

Section 7.03. Model Appropriation Language.

For use in an annual budget or modification, the Legislature may employ substantially the following language:

"There is hereby authorized and appropriated to the Kiowa General Welfare Programs, for Fiscal Year _____, the amount of \$_____ from [IDENTIFIED LAWFUL REVENUE SOURCE], allocated among the program schedules identified in Exhibit ____, subject to the Kiowa Tribe
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General Welfare Act, approved Program Guidelines, availability of funds, and all restrictions applicable to the source of revenue. No expenditure may be made for a purpose not authorized by law and included in the approved budget."

Section 7.04. Exhaustion of Funds.

Program Guidelines may provide first-qualified/first-served administration, categorical priority, waiting lists, pro-rata reductions, or suspension upon exhaustion of funds, provided the method is neutral and published.

Section 7.05. Gaming Revenue and RAP.

If net gaming revenues are used, Finance and legal counsel shall verify consistency with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, any Department of the Interior-approved Revenue Allocation Plan then in effect, Tribal gaming law, and applicable federal tax rules. A payment identified as a per-capita payment shall not be relabeled as a General Welfare Benefit.

TITLE VIII. ADMINISTRATION

Section 8.01. General Welfare Administrator.

The Chairman shall designate an Executive office or qualified officer to coordinate implementation. The designation does not transfer legislative authority to the Executive Branch.

Section 8.02. Duties.

- maintain the master program inventory and approved schedules;
- coordinate program departments and Finance;
- publish applications and guidance;
- maintain aggregate expenditure and utilization data;
- coordinate annual compliance review;
- recommend amendments;
- ensure privacy and data-protection controls;
- provide quarterly implementation reports to the Legislature without disclosing protected applicant information.

Section 8.03. Applications.

Applications shall request only information reasonably necessary to establish eligibility, document the authorized purpose, prevent duplication or fraud, and satisfy funding-source requirements. Enrollment verification may be obtained directly from the Enrollment Office with appropriate authorization rather than repeatedly requiring applicants to submit documents already held by the Tribe.

Section 8.04. Direct Vendor Payment.

Programs may use direct vendor payment when administratively appropriate. Vendor W-9 or other tax documentation may be required without converting the participant benefit into vendor compensation to the participant.

Section 8.05. Decisions.

Written approval or denial notices shall identify the program, decision, approved amount if any, and reconsideration rights. Denials should identify the controlling eligibility or documentation reason.

Section 8.06. Appeals/Reconsideration.

Unless a program law provides otherwise, an applicant may request administrative reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days. Reconsideration shall be decided by an officer who did not make the initial denial where practicable. Judicial review, if any, shall exist only to the extent expressly provided by Kiowa law; nothing herein waives sovereign immunity.

Section 8.07. Fraud and Recovery.

Material misrepresentation may result in denial, suspension, repayment, referral for investigation, or other remedies authorized by Tribal law. Good-faith applicant error shall be distinguished from intentional fraud.

Section 8.08. Record Retention.

Program and Finance records shall be retained under applicable Tribal records law, grant requirements, audit standards, and tax requirements. A uniform retention schedule should be adopted by regulation.

TITLE IX. DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

General Welfare applicant and participant data are Tribal governmental data. Access shall be role-based and limited to authorized governmental purposes. The Tribe shall not sell or commercially exploit applicant information. External disclosure shall require lawful authority, participant authorization where appropriate, or a Tribal data-sharing agreement. Contracts involving applicant data shall include confidentiality, cybersecurity, breach-notification, return/destruction, subcontractor, and Tribal ownership/control provisions.

Nothing in this Title limits an individual's constitutional right to access his or her own personal information maintained by the Tribe, subject to lawful safeguards.

TITLE X. REPORTING, AUDIT AND PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The Executive Branch shall provide the Legislature at least annually an aggregate report showing appropriations, expenditures, number of participants served by program, unexpended balances, identified compliance issues, and recommended amendments. Reports shall not publicly disclose protected personally identifiable information.

General Welfare Programs are subject to applicable Tribal audit, internal control, and legislative oversight requirements. The annual review shall specifically test compensation classification, governing-body neutrality, funding-source restrictions, reasonableness of benefit levels, and adherence to specified guidelines.

TITLE XI. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Executive Branch may issue administrative procedures necessary to implement this Act, provided no regulation may expand or narrow an eligibility class, create an appropriation, waive a statutory requirement, convert a per-capita payment, or conflict with enacted law. Material regulations shall be transmitted to the Legislature and publicly posted.

Program schedules attached to this public-comment draft are proposed specified guidelines. Upon final enactment, schedules may be adopted as part of the Act, by separate law or resolution where constitutionally permissible, or by regulation when the Act expressly delegates the administrative detail.

TITLE XII. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY; SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 12.01. Sovereign Immunity.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Kiowa Tribe, its branches, entities, officers, employees, or instrumentalities.

Section 12.02. No Vested Entitlement.

Unless expressly stated by law, no applicant acquires a vested right to future benefits. Benefits remain subject to eligibility, appropriation, lawful program priority, and availability of funds.

Section 12.03. Severability.

If a provision is held invalid by a tribunal with lawful jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in effect to the fullest extent possible.

Section 12.04. Conflicts.

A specific Kiowa law governing a particular program controls over this Act to the extent of an irreconcilable conflict, unless the later enactment expressly provides otherwise. Federal funding restrictions control the use of restricted federal funds.

Section 12.05. Effective Date.

This Act shall take effect in accordance with Article VI, Section 8 of the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe after completion of the required legislative process, presentation to the Chairman, signature or veto override as applicable, and any further constitutional requirement. No benefit may be paid until funded through a constitutionally valid appropriation and approved budget.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

The following regulations are proposed for public comment and may be adopted with, or following, the Act.

R-1 Program Establishment

Each active General Welfare Program shall have a Program File containing legal authority, governmental-purpose determination, eligibility, benefit description, benefit calculation, application, documentation, decision authority, funding source, accounting code, privacy classification, appeal process, and annual review.

R-2 Benefit-Level Review

Before each fiscal year, the administering department shall review benefit levels against current market conditions and program purpose. Proposed increases exceeding an enacted cap require legislative amendment or budget authority as applicable.

R-3 Officials and Employees

Elected officials and Tribal employees may not receive preferential treatment. Eligibility arising solely from employment or official service shall be processed as compensation or another proper classification, not GWE.

R-4 Household Rules

Where a program is household-based, the schedule shall define household, duplication rules, responsible applicant, treatment of enrolled minors, and whether non-member household costs may be included when the benefit is provided to or on behalf of an eligible Tribal Program Participant.

R-5 Minors

Benefits for minors may be paid to a parent, guardian, vendor, educational institution, service provider, or restricted account as the program requires.

R-6 Emergency Processing

Emergency programs may use expedited verification and provisional approval where delay threatens health, safety, housing, utilities, food security, or disaster recovery. Missing documentation may be cured after payment when authorized by the schedule.

R-7 Direct Payment/Reimbursement

Schedules shall identify whether cash payment, reimbursement, direct vendor payment, voucher, property, service, or a combination is permitted.

R-8 Tax Classification

Finance shall review payment coding before information returns are issued. A payment shall not be reported as compensation merely because it is paid in cash; nor shall a payment be treated as tax-excluded merely because it is labeled GWE.

R-9 Restricted Funds

When restricted and unrestricted funds support similar services, the department shall document which funding rules govern each payment.

R-10 Data Minimization

Departments shall not collect Social Security numbers, income records, medical records, or other sensitive data unless necessary for eligibility, payment, legal compliance, or a funding-source requirement.

R-11 Annual Certification

Each administering director shall annually certify that the program was administered under its specified guidelines and disclose material deviations to the Chairman, Finance, and Legislature.

R-12 Public Guidance

Current Program Guidelines, non-confidential eligibility standards, application instructions, benefit limits, and contact information shall be publicly accessible.

PROGRAM SCHEDULES — PROPOSED SPECIFIED GUIDELINES

These schedules consolidate major program categories for public comment. Dollar amounts are intentionally left for legislative appropriation or program-specific enactment unless an existing Kiowa program already establishes a limit.

Schedule A. Housing and Home Stability

Governmental Purpose: To prevent displacement and promote safe, habitable housing.

Eligibility: Enrolled Kiowa members and other Tribal Program Participants expressly authorized by the final schedule.

Authorized Benefits: Rent; mortgage; deposits; arrearages; emergency lodging; home repair; accessibility; weatherization; storm safety; essential appliances; household establishment.

Benefit Method: Actual verified cost up to an annual or event-specific maximum established by law/appropriation; direct vendor payment preferred for major repair.

Minimum Documentation: Proof of eligibility; residence/ownership/lease as relevant; bill/estimate; duplication-of-benefits certification.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule B. Utilities, Food and Essential Needs

Governmental Purpose: To maintain essential household services and subsistence.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa individuals/households under the schedule.

Authorized Benefits: Electric, gas, propane, water, sewer, essential communications, groceries, clothing, hygiene, household necessities.

Benefit Method: Fixed, actual-cost, voucher, or categorical benefit as appropriated.

Minimum Documentation: Current bill or expense verification when cost-based; household certification where relevant.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule C. Education and Student Support

Governmental Purpose: To increase educational attainment, training, and opportunity.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa students, trainees, and qualifying minors.

Authorized Benefits: Tuition, fees, books, supplies, computers, internet, tutoring, testing, educational travel, vocational costs, graduation recognition.

Benefit Method: Term, annual, or event-based benefit; may supplement existing Higher Education/AVT awards without charging restricted funds contrary to grant rules.

Minimum Documentation: Enrollment/acceptance; cost documentation; academic status when relevant.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule D. Employment and Entrepreneurship

Governmental Purpose: To promote employment, skills, self-sufficiency, and individual business development.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa jobseekers, workers, trainees, and individual entrepreneurs.

Authorized Benefits: Job-start transportation, uniforms, tools, licenses, training, relocation; individual business planning, equipment, licensing, technology, startup/development costs permitted by federal law.

Benefit Method: One-time, milestone, or annual benefit; direct vendor payment may be used. Benefits intended for an individual shall not be paid to a separate corporation/partnership when federal rules do not permit that structure.

Minimum Documentation: Employment offer or training documentation where relevant; individual business plan/cost estimate for entrepreneurship.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule E. Health, Wellness and Medical Access

Governmental Purpose: To improve access to health, wellness, treatment, equipment, and medically related travel.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa Tribal Program Participants.

Authorized Benefits: Medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, insurance-related costs, equipment, supplies, accessibility devices, preventive wellness, travel/lodging.

Benefit Method: Actual-cost or schedule-based benefit; may be payer of last resort when chosen by program policy.

Minimum Documentation: Invoice/estimate or provider documentation; medical necessity only when relevant to the benefit.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule F. Children, Youth and Family Stability

Governmental Purpose: To support safe, stable, healthy Kiowa children and families.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa children, parents/guardians, and qualifying family participants.

Authorized Benefits: Child care supplements, infant needs, foster/kinship support, youth activities, sports, leadership, school needs, family stabilization.

Benefit Method: Event, annual, seasonal, or actual-cost benefit.

Minimum Documentation: Age/enrollment/guardianship as relevant; cost documentation when required.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule G. Elders and Independent Living

Governmental Purpose: To promote dignity, nutrition, mobility, safety, and independent living for elders.

Eligibility: Kiowa elders at an age established by Tribal law/program schedule; qualifying spouses/caregivers where federal law and program purpose permit.

Authorized Benefits: Nutrition, transportation, respite, accessibility, equipment, home support, lawn/light repair, utilities, wellness, supplemental elder benefit.

Benefit Method: Uniform elder benefit, service, actual-cost, or categorical benefit; Tribal-funded benefits may be broader than restricted Title VI benefits.

Minimum Documentation: Age/enrollment; expense documentation only for cost-based benefits.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule H. Emergency and Disaster Response

Governmental Purpose: To provide rapid assistance for disasters and unforeseen events threatening essential welfare.

Eligibility: Eligible participants affected by an event defined in the schedule or emergency declaration.

Authorized Benefits: Shelter, food, utilities, transportation, replacement necessities, medical needs, displacement, government-shutdown impacts, disaster recovery.

Benefit Method: Fixed event payment, per-person benefit, household benefit, or actual cost as legislatively established.

Minimum Documentation: Event impact certification; expedited verification authorized. Existing Emergency Response Fund Act remains effective unless expressly amended.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule I. Funeral, Burial and Bereavement

Governmental Purpose: To reduce the financial and cultural burden associated with death and burial.

Eligibility: Deceased enrolled Kiowa member and/or eligible responsible family participant as defined by schedule.

Authorized Benefits: Funeral home, burial/cremation, cemetery, headstone, meal/flower assistance, travel/lodging, cultural bereavement costs.

Benefit Method: Direct funeral-home/vendor payment plus approved family assistance; amounts set by appropriation/schedule.

Minimum Documentation: Enrollment verification; death certificate/draft; invoice; responsible-party designation.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule J. Culture, Language and Ceremony

Governmental Purpose: To preserve, transmit, practice, and strengthen Kiowa culture and language.

Eligibility: Eligible Kiowa participants and other qualifying participants permitted by federal law and program design.

Authorized Benefits: Language instruction/materials; cultural education; traditional arts; regalia/culturally significant items; ceremonial costs; cultural travel; qualifying honoraria/reimbursements.

Benefit Method: Actual cost, stipend, item, service, or honorarium structured consistently with §139E cultural/ceremonial rules.

Minimum Documentation: Program participation and expense documentation appropriate to the activity; avoid unnecessary intrusion into sacred knowledge.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule K. Veterans and Military Families

Governmental Purpose: To support Kiowa veterans, service members, eligible dependents, and survivors.

Eligibility: Eligibility defined consistently with the Veterans Office program and the particular Tribal-funded benefit.

Authorized Benefits: Transportation, wellness, housing support, education, burial support, recognition, emergency assistance, family support.

Benefit Method: Service, actual-cost, or categorical benefit.

Minimum Documentation: Military/veteran status as relevant; survivor/dependent documentation where relevant.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule L. Victim Safety, Legal Aid and Reentry

Governmental Purpose: To protect safety, improve access to justice, and support stable community reintegration.

Eligibility: Eligible victims/survivors, persons needing qualifying legal aid, and eligible reentry participants.

Authorized Benefits: Emergency shelter, relocation, safety devices, transportation, legal services, documentation fees, counseling support, basic needs, reentry stabilization.

Benefit Method: Emergency or actual-cost benefit; direct provider payment where appropriate.

Minimum Documentation: Trauma-informed minimal documentation; confidentiality protections; no requirement that a victim pursue criminal charges unless legally required by a funding source.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule M. Transportation and Vehicle Reliability

Governmental Purpose: To ensure access to employment, education, health care, elder services, and essential needs.

Eligibility: Eligible participants demonstrating a qualifying transportation purpose.

Authorized Benefits: Transit passes, mileage, ride services, vehicle repair, tires, batteries, accessibility modifications, emergency transportation.

Benefit Method: Actual cost or schedule-based cap; vehicle purchase only if separately authorized by law.

Minimum Documentation: Ownership/use verification for repairs; estimate; qualifying purpose.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule N. Disability and Accessibility

Governmental Purpose: To reduce barriers and support independent living and participation.

Eligibility: Eligible participants with a disability or accessibility need under program standards.

Authorized Benefits: Mobility/assistive devices, communication technology, home/vehicle modifications, caregiving/respite supplements, transportation.

Benefit Method: Actual cost or categorical benefit.

Minimum Documentation: Documentation proportionate to the requested accommodation; protect medical privacy.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.

Schedule O. Special Circumstances / Future Programs

Governmental Purpose: To allow lawful response to emerging community welfare needs without forcing unrelated benefits into existing categories.

Eligibility: As established by the new schedule.

Authorized Benefits: Benefits expressly identified in the establishing governmental action.

Benefit Method: As established by law/appropriation.

Minimum Documentation: Specified guidelines must be adopted before payment.

Administration: Assigned Executive department; Finance payment controls; reconsideration under Title VIII unless a more specific law controls.