

OCHIICHAGWE’BABIGO’INING OJIBWAY NATION

ASSISTANCE POLICY

Objective:

Ochiichagwe’Babigo’Ining Ojibway Nation (OON) is committed to providing support in the creation of a healthy community by providing financial assistance to Band Members.

Financial assistance is one of the methods that will be promoted by OON to recognize and encourage individuals and/or families committed to the premise of developing a healthy lifestyle.

OON receives a number of requests from members throughout the year for Financial Assistance. Having a framework for the assessment of application ensures:

- transparency and accountability to the community,
- a prejudice-free assessment of each application or request received,
- fairness and equality for all Band Members requesting financial assistance, and
- a standard process for applicants to follow when requesting financial assistance.

Assessment Criteria:

Financial assistance requests will only be considered under the following categories:

1. Special Circumstances/Family Emergency
i.e. urgent situations such as hospitalization of family member, travel assistance to attend funeral, etc.
2. Exception Circumstances
i.e. Family Crisis or acts of nature (fire, flooding, or natural disasters).

For the Emergency Assistance the definition of immediate family is Spouse, Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, or Caregive of the member who are also **Band Members**. This will also include children or grandchildren who may or may not be under a “Customary Care Agreement”.

Band Member adult children (and their spouses) of the family member are also considered.

In the event of assistance for a funeral, the deceased must have been a Band Member or an individual living in the community to access assistance through Ontario Works.

In respect to emergency financial assistance for a funeral, the family can utilize a flat rate of \$1500.00 to cover costs. A spokesperson for the family should be identified and assistance will be received by that person. For example, traditional clothing, moccasins, elder’s gift, tobacco, food, and other supplies.

Additional funding requests from other sources will be utilized and referrals will be made to the appropriate program manager. For example, Health, Prevention, Ontario Works, and any other resources needed.

A record will be kept to ensure multiple requests/approvals for assistance are not made.

REQUESTS FOR PERSONAL USE SUCH AS HYDRO BILLS, CAR INSURANCE OR PAYMENTS, PERSONAL LOANS, ETC ARE INELIGIBLE.

Assessment Criteria:

1. An OON Assistance Fund Application will be filled out by the appropriate manager.
2. Exceptions may be made in exceptional emergency situations.

Decision Making Authority:

All requests will be submitted by the Band Manager. The Band Manager will send the request to the appropriate Program Manager (Economic Development, Education, etc). In the event that the request does not fit a specific program, the Band Manager will make the decision.

The Band Manager and Program Managers have an approval rate up to a maximum of \$1500.00 for family funeral costs to be received by the spokesperson for the family. Where requests exceed the limit, the Band Manager will take the request to the Chief and Council.

The Band Manager and Program Managers will also have an approval rate of up to \$250.00 for emergencies other than funerals with extenuating circumstances to be reviewed on a discretionary basis.

Appeals:

All decisions for financial assistance through the OON Assistance Policy are deemed final.

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ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

Name of individual: <i>if it's a family, list names on back of application</i>	
Address:	
Telephone:	Email:
Reason for funding: <i>Please include itemized expense list if applicable</i>	
Other funds and amount applied for:	
Amount of funding request: \$	
Signature of applicant:	Date:

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Has this person received assistance in the last 12 months: Yes___ No___ Application Approved: Yes___ No___		
Amount Approved: \$ _____ Method: Cheque___ PO___ Gift Card___		
Payable to:	Approved by:	Date:
Code to Dept(s):	Receipt required:	
Comments:		