



AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3401 W. Ainslie St. | Chicago, IL 60625
773-275-5871 | www.aicchicago.org

April 30, 2020

Dear AIC members, community and allies,

We hope you are all doing well and are taking care of yourself and your loved ones. Our staff and Board continue to plan and redevelop our support systems to help our community care for each other through this time of uncertainty. The AIC leadership continues to monitor the guidance from our local and state leaders and at this time, AIC will continue to remain closed to the public through May 30th and will require all staff to follow appropriate safety precautions while working in the office.

AIC has received some help and support during this difficult time due to many great partnerships and we want to thank all those who have helped the organization move forward. AIC was awarded funds through the CARES act first round funding and with this funding, staff have been able to return to work and are helping with relief efforts and online programming. Working together with all our American Indian serving organizations through the American Indian Community Collaborative, AIC is helping to provide relief and mutual aid to community members. Please sign up on this form if you need assistance. We will use this information to help with our mutual aid services. Over the past few weeks, AIC has developed partnerships with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and will offer food boxes for pickup to community members. Food distribution will occur every Friday from 2-4pm and will be limited contact pickup. Please use the CAICC [form](#) to provide your information. More information about food distribution can be found on our website.

Our leadership would also like to thank the Native Voices Rising Fund and the Decolonizing Wealth Fund for granting AIC funds to provide culturally responsive services to our community. This includes printing and sending coloring books to our youth, giving away masks and gloves to Elders and offering medicine packages to all that include sage, cedar, sweetgrass and tobacco. With help from the UpTogether Fund, AIC has distributed \$500 mini grants to 35 AIC members who have been significantly impacted by the virus. To date we have distributed \$17,500 in emergency relief funding and we will continue to receive codes so please make sure your membership is up to date so we can include you in future lotteries. Keep on the lookout for additional hot meal distribution as well. AIC is working with Feed Chicago to provide hot meals to community as well. We will have more information on upcoming hot meal distribution in our social media.

AIC has begun online programming and we are holding bi-weekly men's talking circles, educational workshops and art workshops. Recently, we distributed 50 seed starter kits and will be doing another round shortly. Keep checking our website for updates as well as feel free to request workshops by calling us at the AIC.

We know there are many more needs and requests. Our staff are back on the job, ready with masks and gloves to serve. Please call or email if you have questions, follow us on social media for additional program updates and services. Sign up with CAICC to stay in the loop as well. Stay well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Heather Miller
Executive Director