

The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council

Tribal Council Resolution # TC-2025-056

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO FOOD INSECURITY AND AUTHORIZING THE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO OBTAIN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, the Klamath and Modoc Tribes and the Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians signed the Treaty of 1864 establishing the Klamath Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the General Council of the Klamath membership is the governing body of the Tribes, by the authority of the Constitution of the Klamath Tribes (Article VI & VII section IV E) as approved by the General Council and most recently amended on September 26, 2013; and

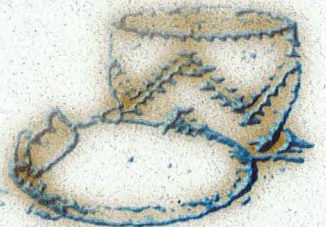
WHEREAS, the Klamath Indian Tribes Restoration Act of August 27, 1986 (P.L. 99398) restored the Federal government-to-government recognition to the Sovereign Government of the Klamath Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Klamath Tribes' Tribal Council is the elected governmental body of the Klamath Tribes and has been delegated the authority to direct the day-to-day business and governmental affairs of the Klamath Tribes under the general guidance of the General Council (Constitution, Article VII, section I; Tribal Council by-laws, Article I); and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture advised that with respect to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) "at this time there will be no benefits issued November 1."

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2025, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek declared a Hunger Emergency to Protect Oregonians from the Suspension of the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and

WHEREAS, Klamath County ranks in the worst 25% of counties throughout the United States in the Food Environment Index; and



WHEREAS, Food Insecurity is a state of being without reliable access to sufficient quantity and quality affordable, nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, The Klamath Tribes has activated its Emergency Operations Center and Incident Management Team to respond to regional food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Food Insecurity and poor nutrition have serious consequences for the health and well-being of The Klamath Tribes Citizens and Community, including a greater risk for chronic disease, trauma, mental health and overall health; and

WHEREAS, Food Insecurity adversely affects vulnerable Klamath Tribal families, elders, children, and the citizens living in generational trauma and poverty living in Tribal Communities have less access to healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government Shutdown has furthered The Klamath Tribes Food Insecurity because of the lapse in federally appropriated funding Federal Food Programs for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), a federal-assisted program provides low-income families with electronic benefit transfers that can be used to purchase food. This lapse of in funding also is affecting the National School Lunch Program operating in schools and residential child care are also being affected; and

WHEREAS, continued The Klamath Tribes Natural Grocery Store to of water, fish, gather, hunt gifts from Creator have been in steady decline. These Creator Gifts sustained us since time immemorial and through 164 years of short-sighted, economically driven, resource extraction and degradation as created an Ecological Collapse of the foods we have relied on since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Water Quality Degradation has caused a continued erosion of the viability of Klamath Culture since time immemorial, and our ancestors held true to the cultural traditions, subsistence, spiritual and medicinal gifts our relatives the C'yaals, C'waam, Koptu, Wocus, all the first foods, waterfowl, big and small game, and all the plants provided life to our people, which now has been taken away since 1961. This Natural, Cultural, and Social Impact Disaster is and has been a significant threat to the health, safety and general welfare to the people of the Klamath Tribes, which has furthered the Tribes Food Insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to ensure that the Tribal Government, businesses, and community are prepared and have resources to protect health, safety, welfare, property, and cultural heritage on the former Reservation and lands held in Trust or simple Fee for and by the Tribe during emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of a DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY places the highest importance on the Tribes goals and objectives for addressing Food Insecurity; and

WHEREAS, The Klamath Tribes recognize that food insecurity impacts some citizens more severely than others, and that Tribal Elders, children, persons with disabilities, single parents, and households living in remote or rural areas furthest from grocery stores or food access points are among the most vulnerable; therefore, the Tribal Council affirms that these citizens shall be prioritized in the distribution of emergency food assistance and support resources to ensure equitable and life-sustaining access to nourishment during this crisis;

WHEREAS, the Council upon the advice of the Emergency Manager has determined that the incident above poses a present and reasonable imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people or their property so that it has become necessary for the Council to utilize and coordinate the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the Tribe for emergency management and emergency functions; and

WHEREAS, during declared emergencies, the Tribe must be able to act swiftly to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, and the standard procurement procedures can delay timely acquisition of essential goods and services necessary for food relief and emergency response; therefore, the Tribal Council finds it necessary to temporarily authorize expedited or emergency procurement and vendor contracting procedures to ensure the immediate purchase, transport, and distribution of food and supplies to Tribal members and the community;

WHEREAS, the Klamath Tribes Tribal Council recognizes that food insecurity is a serious public health concern that significantly impacts both physical and mental well-being, contributing to higher rates of chronic disease, increased healthcare utilization, and behavioral health challenges;

WHEREAS, the Klamath Tribes Tribal Council acknowledges that individuals experiencing food insecurity are more likely to suffer from stress-related symptoms, including anxiety, depression, and trauma-related responses, which can impair daily functioning and overall quality of life;

WHEREAS, the Klamath Tribes Tribal Council recognizes that limited and inconsistent access to nutritious foods can lead to malnutrition and other physical health concerns, while also affecting cognitive development, learning, and emotional regulation in children and youth;

WHEREAS, the Klamath Tribes Tribal Council understands that the stress and uncertainty associated with food insecurity may result in the use of unhealthy coping mechanisms, including substance use, self-neglect, and avoidance of medical or behavioral health care, which can worsen existing health disparities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on October 31, 2025, The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council issues a DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY as a Tribal Emergency to address the impending Food Insecurity and hunger and will activate all available Tribal Resources and Federal, State, Local Governmental Resources and Private Foundations to respond to the ongoing emergency and disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council places the highest of importance to the DECLARATION that immediate Tribal Action, as well as immediate action of local, state and federal agencies, is needed to prevent any further adverse effects, social impacts, harm, and to mitigate damages to the vulnerable elders, families and children to prevent any further Cultural and Social trauma and overall general welfare to the people of the Klamath Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in response to the DECLARATION, The Klamath Tribe Tribal Council will direct significant resources, staff and capacity to develop emergency funding relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with Title 5 Chapter 38 General Welfare Ordinance, and Klamath Tribes Emergency Operation Plan; and

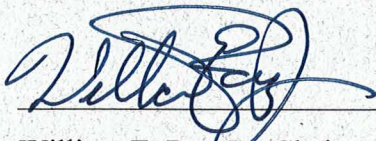
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Council will work with all the Tribal Departments and Staffs and outside organizations, to develop a path forward in an Action Implementation Plan to address the DECLARATION by the following;

- 1) Tribal Chairman will appoint an AD-HOC Food Insecurity Committee (AFIC) of Tribal Council, Health and Administration Staff. Tribal Council Vice-Chairman Marvin Garcia will Chair the AD-HOC Committee and will begin meeting immediately to address the Food Insecurity of The Klamath Tribes;
- 2) AFIC will identify Affected Tribal Citizens who are SNAP participants, particularly those in the reservation and at-large communities;
- 3) AFIC will supervise the Tribal funds will be used for direct assistance through The Klamath Tribes Social, Community and Health Services;
- 4) AFIC will identify and post through all Tribal outlets the most effective processes to facilitate Tribal Citizens to access all Tribal Food and Commodities Programs; and
- 5) AFIC will maintain a list of all Tribal Food Programs expenditure for the Tribes to seek reimbursement by either federal or state funding.
- 6) AFIC will coordinate with KTHFS Behavioral Health staff, including case managers and peer support specialists, to ensure that Tribal Citizens experiencing food insecurity are connected to Tribal and community food assistance resources. Behavioral Health staff will assist with access and navigation to services, including providing transportation support when appropriate and in accordance with program policies.

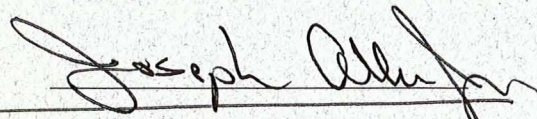
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council issues this Tribal DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY on behalf of The Klamath Tribes to be effective immediately and remain in effect until further notice.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, Tribal Council Chairman and Secretary of the Klamath Tribes do hereby certify that by poll vote held on the 31st day of October, 2025 where a quorum was present, the Tribal Council duly adopted this Resolution by a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention/s.



William E. Ray Jr., Chairman
The Klamath Tribes



Joseph Allen Jr., Secretary
The Klamath Tribes

