



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Hopelink

Address:
8990 154th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact:
(425) 869-6000
<https://www.hopelink.org>

Organization's General Goals:
We are working to end poverty in our community. Each year we help people through programs that provide stability and the skills and knowledge needed to exit poverty.

Date of Award:	Level:
2018 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Hopelink.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

August 14, 2019

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip WA 98271-9694
Via email: msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Dear Marilyn,

I am pleased to submit this final report on the [REDACTED] (Q2 2018 14.2) we received on September 5, 2018 for our Community Services. Your generous gift has enabled us to continue to provide services to individuals and families in crisis, as well as giving them the tools, skills, and assets they need to move toward greater self-sufficiency. In fiscal year 2019, we served 61,200 individuals.

In addition to our programming that stabilizes clients and equips them with the skills to exit poverty, Hopelink also promotes systemic changes. We address broader issues that create and perpetuate poverty such as policy definitions of the poverty level and the cost of living in north and east King County. Hopelink is becoming a leader in setting the agenda for those changes and is committed to discussing key topics with donors, partners, clients, and policymakers.

Together, we are making a difference in the lives of others. We very much appreciate your commitment to helping those in our community who are experiencing a crisis. If you have any additional questions or would like to schedule a tour of one of our Services Centers, please feel free to contact me or Elaine Srinivas, Senior Grant Writer, at esrinivas@hopelink.org or (425) 869-6029. You can also read more about current Hopelink happenings by visiting our website at www.hopelink.org.

Sincerely,



Lauren Thomas Thank you!

Lauren Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

Report to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions on Hopelink's Community Services Program for Fiscal Year 2019

On September 5, 2018, Hopelink received your generous grant of [REDACTED] to support our Community Services of Financial Resiliency plus Food and Energy Assistance. This final report is an update on Hopelink's accomplishments, in part as a result of your gift. Together, we have helped change lives.

Financial Resiliency - Impact

Hopelink provided 1,767 individuals from 1,006 families with \$491,126 in total financial assistance. Out of that, 412 households received \$453,727 in rental assistance to avoid homelessness. The average housing assistance per household was \$1,100.

Financial Resiliency - Who We Are Serving

Michelle broke her foot on the job in December and was unable to work for 6 weeks. She applied to Labor and Industries (L&I), however the amount she received was far less than what she earned on the job. She was \$200 short for December and couldn't make her January rent payment at all. Hopelink was able to help cover her January rent along with her outstanding December balance, allowing Michelle to remain housed while she healed. She was back to work as of February, and she should be financially stable going forward.

Financial Resiliency - Program Updates

We are so proud to have completed year-one of our new, more flexible financial resiliency program with short-term case management and 90-day follow-up phone calls to clients. We have been able to step in earlier, before the eviction process has begun, and we have been able to pay for a wider range of debt that could lead to homelessness. We have spent much of the

latter part of the fiscal year laying the groundwork for enhancements yet to come.

As we increase the dollar amount of funds expended, financial assistance will be paired with short-term case management at all service centers. Clients also will engage in goal setting and receive resource navigation to ensure they are financially resilient for the future.

Financial Resiliency – Challenge

Adverse Weather. Western Washington experienced an unusually cold and snowy February. Although our Financial Resiliency team was forced to work from home at times, we were committed to keeping most appointments, either remotely or over the phone, so as not to delay payments.

After the snowstorms, anecdotally, we heard from a few applicants that their financial situation had been affected by the weather. Some missed paychecks because they were not able to get to work and some saw their places of employment temporarily closed by the snow. A couple of financial crises arose due to cars being damaged in snow. People living in poverty were certainly impacted by the adverse weather.

April was an interesting month in that almost all of the people needing assistance

had a similar story. Maria sought help with her rent for the same reason as Sarah, Tom, and Joan: the continued ramifications of Snowmageddon. Almost 3 months after the initial snowstorms we experienced in February, our clients were still struggling with the effects of the unforeseen weather incident. For Maria's family there was a prolonged loss of work. Her husband's landscaping work was impacted. Lawns still had snow on them over a month after the storms. Her employer could only assure her that they forecasted increased business in the spring and that they would be able to provide more hours. Unfortunately, she couldn't wait for those forecasts to be proven true (or untrue). She sought new and increased employment, in addition to getting help from Hopelink.



Energy Assistance - Impact

Hopelink administers both the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Puget Sound Energy Home Energy Lifeline Program (PSE HELP) grants in our service area. 10,243 individuals from

4,633 households stayed warm with \$3,060,279 in energy assistance. 56 of those households made emergency appointments for lack of heat. The average energy assistance amount was \$661.

Energy Assistance Challenge.

Our Energy Assistance program faced the same challenges as the Financial Resiliency program did during February's adverse weather. We kept or rescheduled appointments depending on urgency. Plus, in previous, more normal winters, the demand for energy assistance has usually dropped off in February. This year, we saw a sustained high need for assistance in February and into even March.

Food Assistance - Impact

Our Food Assistance program served 14,585 unduplicated individuals from 6,666 households with 2,267,031 meals.

- Our food banks provided 4,171,613 pounds of food.
- We distributed 8,004 emergency bags of food (E-bags).

Food Assistance Program Update

College Emergency Food. There has been an increased awareness in the press recently of college students experiencing food insecurity. Some 45%, nearly half, of college students nationwide report experiencing food insecurity — meaning they have limited or uncertain access to nutritious food. Hopelink is addressing this issue. Every two weeks we deliver a shipment of emergency food bags (E-bags) to four local colleges: Lake Washington Institute of Technology, Bellevue College, Shoreline Community College, and Cascadia College. Response has been extremely positive. In fact, Bellevue College promotes

access to Hopelink E-bags for its students on its website.

Thank You!

As you can see, we have accomplished so much together. We are certain that Hopelink will continue to bring about meaningful change both in the lives of the individuals we serve and the problems we address. Thank you so much for your support.