



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Tribal Council**

2608 Government Center Drive Manistee, MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288

**Resolution #25-1203-277**

*2025 Tribal General Welfare Economic Hardship Disbursement*

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaa Ching Ziibi Daawaa Anishinaabek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians ("Tribe") is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on July 11, 2016, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on August 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the legislative powers of the Tribe are vested in the Tribal Council according to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized by Article IV, Section 7(a)(1) and (2) to exercise the inherent powers of the Tribe by establishing laws through the enactment of ordinances and adoption of resolutions to govern the conduct of Tribal Members and others within the Tribe's jurisdiction and to promote, protect and provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, the executive powers of the Tribe are vested in the Tribal Ogema according to Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Ogema is authorized by Article V, Section 5(a)(l) to enforce and execute the ordinances, resolutions and motions adopted by the Tribal Council consistent with the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2014, President Obama signed H.R. 3043 into law, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014 (the "Act"), which amends the Internal Revenue Code to **exclude** from gross income, for income tax purposes, the value of an Indian general welfare benefit; and

WHEREAS, the federal law defines an "Indian general welfare benefit" as any payment made or services provided to or on behalf of a member of an Indian tribe under an Indian tribal government program if: (1) such program is administered under specified guidelines and does not discriminate in favor of members of the governing body of the Indian tribe; and (2) the program benefits are available to any tribal member who met the program guidelines, are for the promotion of general welfare, are not lavish or extravagant, and are not compensation for services; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians operates governmental programs that provide Indian general welfare benefits that are eligible for the exclusion from gross income; and

WHEREAS, due to hard economic times, inflation, increased health care costs, the federal government shutdown, and the uncertainty of federal/state government benefits, tribal members are suffering a hardship, and they need help paying everyday living costs; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are more likely to suffer from poverty and poor health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Council deems it in the best interest of the Band and its members to provide a Tribal General Welfare Economic Hardship Disbursement to help tribal members defray these additional costs; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified a gap in the provision of services due to the increased cost of food, housing, medical costs, utilities, transportation, and for cultural/ceremonial activities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified that members, regardless of where they reside, in times of economic hardship, should be able to rely upon their government, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, as they have historically relied upon each other, to aid in times of need; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified that sufficient funds exist in the Online Gaming Tax Reimbursement Fund to address these immediate needs and has decided to create a 2025 Tribal General Welfare Economic Hardship Disbursement to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, this will be a one-time payment subject to any budgetary constraints.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Tribal Council acknowledges the passage of federal legislation, the Act, and finds that it will be beneficial to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and its tribal members; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT, the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby approves the 2025 Tribal General Welfare Economic Hardship Disbursement in accordance with the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the amount of assistance shall be \$3,000.00 to each tribal member, and all such costs associated with the production and distribution of such program shall be covered; and


NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, whenever possible, the Accounting Department shall use direct deposit if currently on file with the Enrollment Department, to get the distribution to tribal members as quickly as possible.

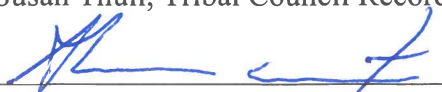
NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Accounting Department shall issue a paper check and mail it to tribal members who are not signed up for direct deposit; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 2025 Tribal General Welfare Economic Hardship Disbursement shall be funded with the Online Gaming Tax Reimbursement Fund in the amount of \$11,556,000.00.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 8 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on December 03, 2025, via ZOOM, with a quorum being present for such vote.

  
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Susan Thull, Tribal Council Recorder

  
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Shannon Crampton, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records  
Tribal Ogema  
Members Assistance  
Department Accounting  
Department