




NIMIIPUU HEALTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OFFICE

Memorandum

TO: Nez Perce Tribal Members
FROM: Roberta José-Bisbee, Executive Director 
THROUGH: Sergio Islas, Financial Management Officer
DATE: April 22, 2024
RE: Direct Contract Support Cost (DCSC) Settlement Fund Policy

In 2016 the Nez Perce Tribe received the Direct Contract Support Cost (DCSC) Settlement from Indian Health Service. Through NP 15-215 NPTEC recognized that all future benefits derived from these funds should be exclusively utilized to enhance programs and services offered by NMPH to serve its patients both now and for future generations to come. In the past this funding was utilized for various purposes including the payment of insurance premiums for high-cost users. A resolution was passed through NP 23-099 establishing a policy for which funds were to be utilized including a process for Nez Perce Tribal members to apply for assistance. Nimiipuu Health is allowed to drawdown \$250,000 per Fiscal Year and \$750,000 every 5th year as funding allows.

For FY23, NPTEC initially decided that no DCSC money could be used and later approved a reduced \$50,000. With the departure of the previous Finance Manager, it became clear that the policy needed to be amended to include points of clarification to address issues which arose in the first several months. This was done through “NP 23-099 Amended” in November of 2023 and then again in March of 2024. It has been a learning process on how best to administer the DCSC Program, changes have been made and there are likely to be more. This money is for the benefit of enrolled Tribal Members, however there is limited funding. The limit is up to \$1,000 per Nez Perce Tribal member.

For FY24 NMPH’s initial budget only included \$100,000. In December 2023, that amount was adjusted with NPTEC approval to the full \$250,000 available for use. In anticipation of the likely increase in requests for fuel assistance, NMPH made a request to NPT Enterprises as we were experiencing an issue with obtaining sufficient gas cards. In March of 2024, we were placed directly in contact with a vendor who could fill our gas card orders and received our first large shipment in April 2024.

The DCSC Settlement Fund Policy will be made available on our website to include the one-page DCSC assistance application. For those Tribal members with chronic conditions requiring

several visits, a separate Trip Log form was developed by one of our former Kamiah Patient Care Coordinators (PCCs).

This process has been evolving since the passage of NP 23-099, and we will continue to adjust in order to best administer the DCSC Program. Individuals may obtain an application via our website, or in person with a PCC. All applications should be directed to the Finance Department (who currently administers the program for NMPH) including sufficient information to determine appointments, etc. Finance does not have access to patient information, and we cannot look up information regarding referrals, etc. In those instances, we have relied heavily on our PCCs to assist. As a reminder, due to limited funding, things considered local (Lapwai to Lewiston/Clarkston) are not eligible for assistance. Also, for assistance in paying towards medical expenses, they will only be eligible if those charges are in the current fiscal year.

We are fortunate that NPTEC had the foresight to set aside these funds to be self-sustaining.

For further information please refer to the DCSC Settlement Fund Policy.

cc: Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC)
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