

Western Shoshone Partial and Supplemental Distributions

On March 1, 2011, a partial payment was made to 2,750 (\$22,013.00 each) eligible Western Shoshone descendants. The partial payment was for those priority applicants 19 years old or older as of February 28, 2011 (partial distribution cutoff date) who filed their applications on or before October 5, 2007 and elders 65 years or older as of February 28, 2011 and who filed applications prior to December 31, 2011. Due to the partial payment deadline of February 28, 2011, there were applicants in the above categories who were not included in the March 1, 2011 partial payment.

During the March 1, 2011 partial payment some checks for deceased individuals were sent out in error. If you received a check for a deceased family member, you are to mark on the envelope "DECEASED" and return the marked envelope with the check enclosed to TREASURY. Do not cash the check! Those funds will be placed into an IIM Estate account for probate.

To pay those individuals that should have received the partial payment (but did not), a supplemental partial payment was made (\$22,013.00 each). The supplemental partial payment files were sent to the U. S. Treasury for processing on April 4 & 5, 2011 (the direct deposit file cleared on 4/4/11). The total number of applicants participating in the April 4 & 5, 2011 payment was 421 (361 by check and 60 by direct deposit). The checks were printed on April 5, 2011 and mailed on April 6, 2011.

Note: Please wait until April 22, 2011, before you call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center to report non receipt of your check or direct deposit. The number is: (1-888-678-6836). Before you call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, please contact the Western Shoshone Project Office to confirm that you were on the list to receive a check or direct deposit from the Partial Payment or Supplemental Partial Payment. **All questions should be directed to the Western Shoshone Project at: (602) 253-0024. If you cannot get through, please call again, as we are assisting other Western Shoshone callers.**

Next Steps for the Western Shoshone Project: Conduct Quality Assurance reviews and process appeals in preparation for the final payment. The final payment is planned to be made prior to December 31, 2011. The Quality Assurance reviews will be conducted for minors and applications (non-elders) received after October 5, 2007. Quality Assurance reviews will also be performed on the denied applicant files. Appeals are being forwarded to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for final decision. To date, 518 appeals have been forwarded with 83 decisions processed. It is anticipated that approximately 150 more appeals will be filed.

Important Notice: Individuals whose eligibility requires additional documents are being held for further review and these applicants, if determined to be eligible, will have to wait for the final payment date to receive their payment. Any identified Whereabouts Unknown, non compos mentis, deceased applicants and minors were not to be included in the partial payment or supplemental partial payment and will have accounts established for them when the final payment is prepared and paid out.

Frequently asked Questions & Answers

- 1) Who was eligible for the partial payment?** Those applicants 19 years old or older as of February 28, 2011 who filed their applications on or before October 5, 2007 and elders who filed applications after October 5, 2007 and were 65 years or older at the time of the distribution cutoff date(2/28/2011).
- 2) Why was my name left off the partial payment Listing?** If you were not included in the partial payment it was because either a) your application came in after the October 5, 2007 date, b) you were not 65 years or older at the time of the distribution cutoff date (February 28, 2011) if you applied after October 5, 2007, c) you were a minor, d) you were found to be ineligible during the quality assurance review or e) we did not have time to conduct a Quality Assurance (QA) review on your application prior to the distribution cutoff date (February 28, 2011). In preparing for the partial payment we set a cutoff date of February 28, 2011 for encoding data for those priority applications listed above that had received a Quality Assurance review. We set the cutoff in late February so that we could QA review as many applications as possible and still make the partial payment by the end of February. In order to make the partial payment by February, those applications that did not receive a Quality Assurance review and the corresponding names were left off of the partial payment listing. A decision was then made to make a supplemental payment to those applicants who were eligible to receive the partial payment but whose applications did not receive a Quality Assurance review in time for the partial payment. If you are eligible but were not listed for the partial or supplement payments, and after the completion of a QA review on your application, you will receive your payment as part of the final payment when the Judgment roll is completed and all appeals are settled. Estimated date is 12/31/2011. Please be advised that this is a target date and not an official date.
- 3) When can I expect my partial payment?** If you were listed to be included in the partial payment and did not get a check or ACH deposit, we are in the process of preparing a supplement partial payment. We hope to make the supplement partial payment by April 8, 2011. Please be advised that this is a target date and not an official date. You may have been eligible to receive partial payment and did not due to an incorrect address or incorrect banking information. If either of these situations are the case, we are working to rectify these kinds of situations.
- 4) Why are the applications being given a Quality Assurance Review?** Quality Assurance Reviews are being conducted to make certain that only those individuals who are eligible for the judgment are included on the judgment roll. While we were reviewing application files it was noted that some files were incomplete or had discrepancies in the blood degree determinations or both. We also double checked to make sure that individuals had not shared in another land claim. We will continue with the in-house quality assurance reviews on the remainder of the applications as we prepare for the supplemental partial payment and the final payment.
- 5) A family member received a check and filed after October 10, 2007. Why did they receive a check?** When reviewing applications some family members were included with their elder(s)

review and received a quality assurance review and were therefore included in the partial payment. This occurred when it was most efficient to review applications in family groupings.

- 6) I called the Beneficiary Call Center and they referred me back to the Western Shoshone Project Office because my name wasn't on the list.** Priority was given to those eligible applicants who were 19 years or older on February 28, 2011 and whose applications were received by October 5, 2007 and those elders who were 65 years or older at the time of the distribution cutoff date (February 28, 2011). If your application came in after the October 5, 2007 date and you were not 65 years or older at the time of the distribution cutoff date (February 28, 2011), and you are determined eligible, you will receive your payment as part of the final payment when the Judgment roll is completed and all appeals are settled.
- 7) Who is the Trust Beneficiary Call Center and why did they refer me to your office?** The Trust Beneficiary Call Center is part of the Office of Special Trustee. They are responsible for verifying address information when checks are returned to Treasury or if banking information is in error and needs to be corrected. The Western Shoshone Project Office maintains the records (applications) for all Western Shoshone applicants and should be contacted for any other question or reason.
- 8) What happens to an appeal once it is filed?** When we receive an appeal we review the documents we receive, make a recommendation and send the package forward to our Central Office for final review and final decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs. **What is the status of my appeal?** To inquiry about the status of your appeal call the Western Shoshone Project Office at (602) 253 – 0024. **When will a decision be made on my appeal?** Our target date for having decisions made on all pending appeals is December 2011.
- 9) What happens to payments to those Western Shoshones who applied, were determined to be eligible for the per capita payment, but died after July 7, 2004?** If there are any people who are members of this settlement, but who are since deceased, their settlement monies will be placed in an estate account and distributed through the federal probate process. You will need to work with your local BIA office to ensure that all information is received for the probate process.
- 10) What is the current account balance for the Western Shoshone Judgment Fund?** As of April 5, 2011 the Judgment Fund balance was: \$ 127,134,034.71.
- 11) What is the current account balance for the Western Shoshone Education Fund?** As of April 5, 2011 the Education Fund balance was: \$1,885,957.98
- 12) How are these funds invested?** Under the 1994 American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act, Congress mandated the Secretary of Interior to invest all Indian trust funds in securities that are either issued by or guaranteed by the United States. Therefore, all Indian trust funds, including the Western Shoshone Judgment and Education Funds, are invested in government backed securities.