



# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

July of 2024



Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

Happy Kiowa New Year! Following the vibrant and meaningful Kiowa Gourd Clan Ceremonies, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you as we step into the new fiscal year together. My hope is that we continue to break down barriers and expand services to our District 7 citizens, ensuring that more Kiowa people see benefits from our efforts and resources. May this new year bring you joy, prosperity, and renewed strength. We remain committed to representing and serving the best interests of our community within the Kiowa Legislature.

District 7 Legislator

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Thoughts from an Elder



## THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Read the Full article on  
<https://www.kiowatribe.org/district-7>

Or click the "Read More"  
link on the bottom

### Representation without Representation

Practically asking, what are the benefits of being a member of an American Indian tribe? What are the requirements for receiving any benefits? These are two basic questions that need to be addressed by elected tribal government officials independent of the federal government regulations/rules/oversight for being eligible to compete for federal discretionary and entitlement funding for most of the tribes in the country. Today, our D7 Kiowa tribal citizens are restricted from receiving federally funded tribal services because they live outside the "tribal service area" yet are included in the count which formulates the basic funding for such funding. It is past time for the Kiowa tribe to adjust this condition with the federal agencies because a majority of Kiowa tribal citizens live outside the tribal service area and are not eligible for most of the tribal services formulated on this outdated regulation/law/ordinance/rule, whatever the right term. Most of the tribe's baby boomers live outside of these out-of-service fences due to past assimilation policies of the federal government, as well as personal choices related to productive career opportunities. To what extent do tribal governments educate their tribal members about the exclusiveness of federal monies and the benefits of being a tribal member? More importantly to what extent have tribal governments established rules/standards for non-federally funding services/other benefits as sovereign nations?

Please click the "**Read More**" link for the full article.

[Read More](#)

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## Legislative Update



transparent and equitable.

- **Revise and Update Organizational, Societal and Church Listings:** Clarify which churches are still active and have Kiowa founding members. Include more cultural organizations and societies for sponsorship.
- **Strengthen Oversight:** Implement robust oversight measures to monitor the effectiveness and integrity of the sponsorship program.

This amendment seeks to reinforce our commitment to supporting community members through fair and effective sponsorship programs.

### **3) Collaboration with the Kiowa Department of Natural Resources on Hemp Regulations**

In collaboration with the Kiowa Department of Natural Resources, the legislature is working on establishing regulations for growing hemp for textile production. The objectives of these regulations include:

- **Sustainable Practices:** Promoting environmentally sustainable hemp farming practices.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Creating economic opportunities for community members through hemp cultivation.
- **Compliance and Safety:** Ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and prioritizing the safety of our community.

These regulations will pave the way for a thriving hemp industry within the Kiowa community, contributing to economic growth and sustainability.

### **4) Drafting a Legislative Order for a Special Meeting of the KIC**

A legislative order is being drafted to call a special meeting of the Kiowa Indian Council (KIC) to hold an Amendatory Convention focused on addressing the issue of blood quantum. The goals of this special meeting include:

- **Inclusive Dialogue:** Facilitating an inclusive dialogue among community members about blood quantum and its implications.
- **Constitutional Amendments:** Proposing amendments to the Kiowa Constitution to reflect the community's consensus on blood quantum.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Ensuring that any changes honor our cultural heritage and promote unity within the community.

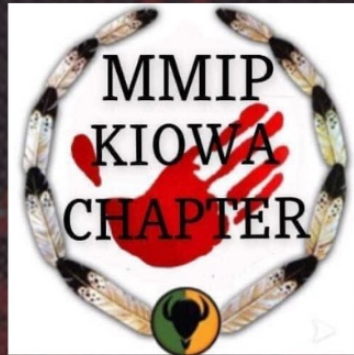
This special meeting represents a crucial step in addressing a deeply significant issue for the Kiowa people, aiming to find solutions that resonate with our collective values and traditions.

We encourage all stakeholders and community members to stay engaged and participate in these legislative processes. Your input and support are invaluable as we work together to shape a prosperous future for the Kiowa community.

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## **District 7 Podcast**

## EPISODE 6 OF IDÓN:GYÀ!



### A CONVERSATION ABOUT MMIP WITH KIOWA CHAPER PRESIDENT, FAWN TSATOKE



Episode 6 available now on Spotify and Youtube

This month we have Kiowa MMIP chapter president, Fawn Tsatoke

District 7 now has a podcast on Spotify and YouTube. Episode 6 is now available. Links can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

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**MMIP Kiowa Chapter President, Fawn  
Tsatoke**



Hello, my name is Fawn Tsatoke. I am the current president and founder of the Kiowa Missing Murdered Indigenous People chapter. We were founded in April 2020 during Covid, through which time missing or runaway teens were on the rise. The southwest Oklahoma MMIW chapter invited us to begin our own MMIP Kiowa Chapter which began the numbers and databases for native individuals. Southwest Oklahoma became too overwhelmed for the MMIW chapters that were in place during this time, so we began to look up at them by tribes and I in turn took the Kiowa cases old and new. Two years later, our database has grown to 300+ in the state of Oklahoma. I, along with others, are working on putting together a current database and trying to find ways to keep it up to date so that we can relay current information to the public.

The Kiowa chapter's database alone includes over 150 cases made up of missing or murdered Kiowa persons or descendants since 1940. The Kiowa MMIP members interchange throughout the year to include young children and elders. Our elders mentor our members in leading and guiding us so that we can do the things that we need to do accordingly and to not step out of the realm of our Kiowa ways. Our chapter includes family members of a missing or murdered individual and community supporters who want to help.

If you would like to get involved, you can visit our social media pages to find upcoming events in order to volunteer or to make a donation of items or monetary gifts. Our next event will be on September 28th and we will be going to Palo Duro Canyon with the rest of our Kiowa people to celebrate the 150th anniversary. This will be a time for us to remember the ones who can't be with us and those who lost their lives during battle. Being present will make an impression upon our younger Kiowa MMIP members by being witness to this event.

After September, we will be heading up north to Canada to pick up a headstone for the family of Lena Bohay. This is being donated by a gentleman residing in Canada who has lost his son and began to see the need and importance of advocacy for the MMIP situation. His way of helping is by making headstones memorializing the victim. The Bohay family will be going with us, including our own Kiowa Tribal princess to receive the headstone. Miss Daelena Tsonetokoy is named after her aunt Lena Bohay.

After this, we will be focusing on our holiday gift baskets where we deliver around 100-150 items to our homeless people in Lawton, Carnegie, and Anadarko. We also make holiday meals and give those out to the community. We deliver around 5-8 baskets of food to our MMIP families who are missing their loved ones during the holidays. Donations of items such as personal care, hygiene, food, and items for raffles, all go a long way in our MMIP work.

In between our events, we are always being involved in missing persons cases which includes searches and boots on the ground. We still conduct interviews with families, intake, updates, and are constantly researching to keep the database up to date. There are certain instances where families need places to stay, food, water, help with law-enforcement, help with conducting other community avenues, help with getting flyers printed, and anything else that you can think of when a person goes missing.

We are a grassroots organization and unfortunately cannot help at all times. Your donated items and monetary gifts truly make an impact and difference. I thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone that has contributed throughout these years. You have made a big difference, not only in the organization's ability to continue, but you have also made a huge impact on the MMIP community as a whole. As always,

one way that you can be involved without doing too much would be to pray. Always pray for the chapter that it's lead and guided in a way that it needs to go. Please remember the family members that are struggling during the holidays and the anniversaries of the victims that have passed.

If you would like to make a donation, you can email me atmmip.kiowa.chapter@gmail.com or at tsatokef@gmail.com You can also search for our Venmo MMIP Kiowa Chapter. Other ways people can help are by inviting us to host a concession stand and different fundraising events in areas outside of our own. We have also been honored to serve as cohosts multiple times in the arena.

Our members, young and old, work very hard. I've watched them in the summer heat and winter snow, all in the name of the Kiowa MMIP chapter and who we represent. The ones who are no longer here to dance for themselves. We are here for the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and more importantly for the children who are left behind.



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## **Kiowa Tribe Social Services Assistance Program Update**

### **Increased Financial Assistance for Kiowa Tribal Citizens**

The Kiowa Legislature is excited to announce that the Kiowa Tribe Social Services Department is offering increased financial assistance to our citizens through the Emergency Assistance Program, starting this new fiscal year on July 1, 2024. Thanks to the approval of the Kiowa Indian Council and enactment by the Kiowa Legislature, the amount available has been raised to \$400 per household.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER: Ensure you sign the application before sending it in or it will not be processed.**

## Program Overview

The Kiowa Tribe Emergency Assistance Program is designed to support Kiowa Tribal households facing financial emergencies. The program runs from July 1st to June 30th each fiscal year, and provides vital support for utility bills, medical expenses, rent, and other urgent needs.

## Important Details

- **Maximum Assistance:** The program will provide up to \$400 per household.
- **Direct Payments:** All payments will be made directly to the vendor. Please note, the Kiowa Tribe cannot reimburse any tribal citizen directly.
- **Application Process:** Each applicant must complete their own application and submit all required documentation to the Social Services Department Intake Clerk.
- **Confidentiality:** Only the applicant will receive notification about the status of their application. Information will not be shared with anyone else.
- **Processing Time: If you submit a utility bill with a cut-off notice, please allow 5-7 business days for check issuance. The Kiowa Tribe is unable to send promissory letters to vendors.**

## Eligibility Requirements

The Emergency Assistance Program operates on a first-come, first-serve basis depending on available funding. To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The tribal member must be the head of the household.
- The bill must be in the tribal citizen's name.
- The \$400 can be allocated across multiple household bills.
- The same household address cannot be used more than once by different tribal members.
- Assistance is only available for utility bills, medical expenses, rent, and other household emergencies, with appropriate documentation.
- The funds cannot be requested for personal use.
- The tribal member must complete and submit the emergency application.
- Each tribal citizen can receive emergency assistance only once per fiscal year.

## Apply Today

We encourage all eligible Kiowa Tribal citizens to take advantage of this increased financial assistance. If you have any questions or need further information about the program, please contact our Social Services Department. If you are not able to come into a D7 office and fill out an Emergency Assistance application, call one of our outreach coordinators and one will be mailed to you with an envelope to mail your application to social services.

**REMINDER: Ensure you sign the application before sending it in or it will not be processed.**

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**For more information, contact Social Services or District 7 Outreach Coordinators:**

**Kiowa Social Service:** Phone: (405) 648-0492, Email: [ss01@kiowatribe.org](mailto:ss01@kiowatribe.org)

**Norman Outreach Coordinator:** Manilla Whitehorse: Phone: (405) 857-8408, Email: [mwhitehorse@kiowatribe.org](mailto:mwhitehorse@kiowatribe.org)

**Tulsa Outreach Coordinator:** Lisa Aunko, Phone: (539) 525-0437, Email: [launko@kiowatribe.org](mailto:launko@kiowatribe.org)



# Upcoming Events

## Kiowa District 7 Language Class

### AUGUST 12TH

**IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS**

**@ 7:00PM**

**VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS**

**@ 8:00 PM**

POTLUCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

**SPEAKERS** | DELORES HARRAGARRA  
VELMA EISENBERGER  
MARTHA POOLAW

**Location : Kiowa District 7 Office**  
**123 24th Ave NW**  
**Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

**ZOOM OPTION**

Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759

Password: kiowa

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE  
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT [RROADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RROADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM)

## YouTube Channel


District 7 has a YouTube channel. We aim to record and upload our webinars and different events so everyone can stay involved


This month we have uploaded:

- July Webinar discussion of back to school clothing assistance, with Social Services Director, Phyllis Bohanan.
- The July meet for the Tulsa Language class.
- Episode 6 of our podcast. We met with Kiowa MMIP chapter president, Fawn Tsatoke.

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

# D7 Links





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**@kiowaD7**  
Kiowa Tribe District 7

**district7legislature@kiowatribe.org**

**Website**

 **Sign Up for Our Newsletter**

 **Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton**

**YouTube Videos**

**September Zoom Meeting (PIN 381420)**

Please bookmark and save <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> this page will be updated with easy-to-navigate links.

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW | Norman, OK 73069 US

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