

Resolution No.: 2022-56

NONMEDICAL INDIGENT ASSISTANCE FOR BONNER COUNTY ASSISTANCE

AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BONNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, STATE OF IDAHO, ON THE 26th DAY OF July, 2022 THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED TO WIT:

WHEREAS, the Board of Bonner County Commissioners (hereinafter the "Board") is empowered, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 31-3401, to promulgate policies and procedures, negotiate payments to providers, and contract for non-medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Board has developed certain policies and procedures for the administration of Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 34, as permitted specifically therein, subject to amendment by further Resolution, as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS; the Board adopted Resolution No. 20-50 on July 21, 2020, and now determines that corrections and changes need to be made to said Resolution No. 20-50, which amendments are reflected herein.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board hereby declares that the following policies and procedures will be utilized in the administration of Idaho Code, Title 31, Chapter 34.

FURTHER, this Resolution is intended to provide guidance for the application of the provisions of Title 31, Chapter 34 of the Idaho Code, and nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as a substitution for any language, restrictions, rights, privileges or requirements set forth in said Idaho Code. Refer to Idaho Code 31-3403 for definitions.

I. RESTRICTIONS ON PROVIDING NON-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

In determining available resources of the applicant, the Board will not consider as an allowable expense payments to an applicant's relatives of any degree of relation, including but not limited to the applicant's in-laws.

- A. Bonner County will not make payments to an applicant's relatives of any degree or relation, including but not limited to the applicant's in-laws, for services or goods provided to the applicant or the household, or paid on behalf of the applicant.
- B. An application will be denied if the applicant voluntarily terminated his/her employment at any time thirty (30) days prior to filing an application for assistance or at any time after the application was filed. An applicant will be deemed to have voluntarily terminated his or her employment if he/she was terminated by his/her employer for failing to appear for work, for excessive absences, or for violations of the employer's policies.

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- C. If at the time of the filing an application for non-medical assistance, or thereafter, the applicant is a defendant in a pending action for unlawful detainer/eviction in the district court, Bonner County will not intervene in the action; and the Board will deny the application.
- D. Bonner County shall only be obligated for payment of nonmedical assistance for those eligible applicants who, at the time their application is filed, currently maintain a residence within Bonner County for thirty (30) consecutive days or longer.

II. APPLICATION PROCESS

- A. Any person may apply for non-medical assistance in writing, on a form approved by the Board. The applicant must sign the application and all necessary information release forms; and his/her signature must be notarized. The completed application must be filed with the Clerk of the Board through the Indigent Services Department.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in this Resolution, the Board may only approve an application for assistance after submission of a completed application, completion of an interview and investigation by the clerk, and a determination of eligibility and indigency by the Board.
- C. The Board will consider approving an application filed for assistance only when it is demonstrated that no other alternatives for the assistance exist and that Bonner County is considered as last resort to provide the assistance.
- D. All adult members of the household described in the application may be required to file a separate application listing, among other things, all available resources. Said application must be duly signed and notarized and must include a signed release of information form; and all such adult household members may be required to appear before the Clerk, provide documentation and submit to an interview.
- E. In making a determination of indigency for an application requesting assistance, the Board may consider the available resources and expenses of all adult members of the household, including child support or any funds being received by a minor child in the household from Social Security, or any other sources.
- F. The applicant and any adult household members must be employed or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she is actively seeking employment. All adult household members must maintain a current registration with the Idaho Department of Employment Job Service. This requirement may be waived if such person produces a written statement from a physician certifying that said person(s) is unable to work for medical reasons. An adult high school student who is attending classes is exempt from this requirement.
- G. The Board will not approve assistance to an individual for more than one month in a twelve-month period. Assistance granted by any Idaho county for any type of service will count toward this maximum.
- H. Bonner County will not pay for any non-medical services for any applicant or applicant's spouse, who is an undocumented illegal immigrant, where those services are not considered emergency services.

III. INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The clerk will advise the applicant at filing, of the need for any documentation in support of the application. The applicant will be responsible for presenting the required documentation to the clerk at the time designated in the interview letter or at a future date designated by the clerk. Every applicant will be required to appear before the clerk and to cooperate in an interview to determine eligibility for assistance. The clerk will make all reasonable attempts to investigate and corroborate the applicant's statement and documentation within the time allotted by Title 31, Chapter 34 of the Idaho Code.

If the applicant is unable to participate in the interview or investigation process, a representative may do so on their behalf, but only if said representative has been named as the applicant's attorney in fact through a duly executed power of attorney under Idaho law and only if said power of attorney is deemed applicable to the processing of an application under this Resolution.

Failure of the applicant(s) to comply with the application process shall result in a denial by the Board per Idaho Code 31-3404(2).

IV. RENTAL ASSISTANCE

There exists in Bonner County assistance through established community, civic and religious organizations. Therefore the Board shall not approve an application for rental assistance.

V. UTILITY ASSISTANCE

There exists in Bonner County assistance through established community, civic and religious organizations. Therefore the Board shall not approve an application for utility assistance.

VI. FOOD ASSISTANCE

There exists in Bonner County food assistance through the established community Food Bank and soup kitchens, and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Food Stamp program. Therefore the Board shall not approve an application for food assistance.

VII. CLOTHING

There exists in Bonner County free assistance for clothing through church service centers. Therefore the Board shall not approve an application for clothing.

VIII. OTHER EXCLUSIONS

A. Bonner County will not pay for the following:

- a. Rental assistance
- b. Mortgage assistance
- c. Utility assistance
- d. Dental assistance
- e. Gas vouchers
- f. Weatherization
- g. Transportation costs, airline, taxi or bus fares
- h. Automobile repairs, towing or impound fees
- i. Automobile insurance
- j. Garage fees
- k. Pet fees, deposits, food, bills and related.
- l. Application fees
- m. Commercial utility accounts
- n. Irrigation water
- o. Residential water
- p. Telephone or other communication equipment and fees
- q. Installment contracts or loans
- r. Charge accounts
- s. Legal fees or fines
- t. LID fees
- u. Divorce child custody, or adult protection payments, fees for fines
- v. Law enforcement matters, fines, tickets or proceedings
- w. Household furniture replacement or repair
- x. Utility access or hookups.

IX. COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTOR

The Bonner County Assistance Director is hereby authorized to, in her or his discretion in an emergency, determine the eligibility of applicants for nonmedical assistance and disburse assistance in sums not exceeding \$200 per applicant without the necessity of Board action. Any sums in excess of said amount shall be made by a majority of the Board.

X. REIMBURSEMENT

Acceptance of county assistance obligates applicant to repay county. Any person applying for Non-Medical Assistance will be required to reimburse the county, on monthly payments, the total amount paid on their behalf. The reimbursement section of the application must be signed to be

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considered a completed application. Reimbursement statement must be signed by the applicant, spouse, significant other and co-applicant. County will work with the applicant(s) to determine a reasonable repayment amount. County will send out monthly statements for stated reimbursement.

XI. DECISION

The decision of the Board is final if a timely appeal is not filed per Idaho Code 31-3410.

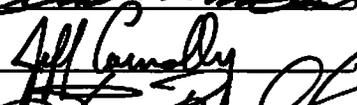
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution supersedes previous resolutions for indigent nonmedical services, and that the terms of this Resolution can be revised at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners. (95-58, 97-10, 11-79 and 20-50).

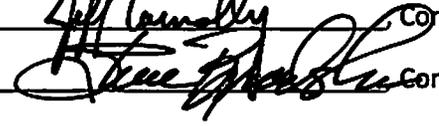
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Bonner County Commissioners this 26th day of July, 2022, adopt the Nonmedical Indigent Assistance Policy and be effective upon execution hereof.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 2022

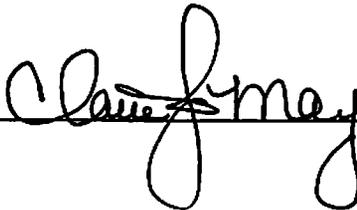
Board of Bonner County Commissioners

By:  Chairman

By:  Commissioner

By:  Commissioner

Attest:

 Bonner County Clerk

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Bonner County Assistance

1500 Highway 2, Suite 122 • Sandpoint, ID 83864

June 2, 2022

Memorandum

To: Bonner County Commissioners

From: Kevin Rothenberger, Director

Re: Amendment to resolution 20-50 Nonmedical Indigent Assistance

Policy amended to remove rental and utility assistance.

Approved by Legal: B Wilson

A suggested motion would be: **Mr. Chairman based on the information before us I make a motion to approve Resolution 22 - 56 amending prior resolution 20-50 Non Medical Indigent Assistance.**

Recommendation Acceptance: yes no

[Signature] Date: 7/26/22
Commissioner Dan McDonald, Chairman