

## CITY OF MAHNOMEN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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The City of Mahnomen is very appreciative of our tribal, county, and not-for-profit partners, as without them the city would not be able to provide the resources to serve its residents and businesses within the community. The City understands this COVID-19 pandemic is creating a lot of uncertainty within our community. As a result, the city is working hard to provide and share with our residents and businesses services that may help them through this difficult period of time.

Already, for our residents the city has agreed to suspend the disconnection of any city owned utility during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, at the April 20, 2020 City Council meeting the council will act to waive any late penalties assessed on and after April 15, 2020 billing cycle. The city is also hoping to create a small grant program to assist our residents and businesses cope with their utility bills, if they have seen a reduction or loss of hours as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city is in the process of securing grant dollars to fund this program.

Mahube-Otwa the Community Action Partnership (CAP) agency has available energy assistance with revised income guideline. For additional information, the city encourages residents to call Mahube-Otwa directly at 218-935-5022.

The city understands that access to wi-fi is important. As a result, the city would like residents to know that they may go to the following locations to access wi-fi:

- Mahnomen Public Library (just outside of City Hall)
- Mahnomen Public Schools (immediately surrounding the building)
- White Earth Tribal and Community College (immediate surrounding the building)

The city would like to remind people, if they do use Wi-Fi to do so in a manner that respects social distancing.

Furthermore, the White Earth Nation and Helping Hands Food Shelf is available to help anyone out with food and personal hygiene supplies. For information please call the White Earth Food

Distribution at 218-935-2233 or Helping Hands Food Shelf, 218-935-5022 (ask for Angie Kent). For elderly meal delivery or pickup, you may contact Mahnomen County Senior Dining program at 218-935-5800.

For our businesses, the City of Mahnomen has developed a special 15-month term (with the first three months deferred) zero percent interest COVID-19 emergency “bridge loan.” Funding is available for up to \$6,000 if you are a small business located within the City of Mahnomen or up to \$3,000 if you are a small business located within the White Earth Reservation. The city has also created a loan deferment program for any existing RLF loan.

The city is also promoting the White Earth/Mahnomen County “One-Call” center, which is open Monday-Friday and is staffed with professionals to answer general questions related to COVID-19. The “One-Call” Center also provides supportive services including mental health and nursing. Call 218-936-2774 or send an email message at [covid19@whiteearth-nsn.gov](mailto:covid19@whiteearth-nsn.gov).

The city also has additional outside resources for businesses and residents available on our own special COVID-19 page on our website. The city’s website can be accessed 24/7 by going to [www.mahnomenmn.org](http://www.mahnomenmn.org) or you may contact City Hall at 218-935-2573. The city aims to provide its residents and businesses with the most current up-to-the minute information, as well as information that can be utilized by both non-tribal and tribal residents and business owners. Please note, additional resources can be obtained by going onto the White Earth Nation website [www.whiteearth.com](http://www.whiteearth.com) or the Mahnomen County website [www.co.mahnomen.mn.us](http://www.co.mahnomen.mn.us)

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