



# **WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

**(Approving Memorandum of Understanding between the Tribe, White Mountain Apache Housing Authority, the Tribe's Community Health Representatives Program, White Mountain Apache Timber Company, Johns Hopkins, Indian Health Service, and CORE for the Construction of COVID-19 Shelters for Housing Vulnerable Elders on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)**

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**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(b) that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power, "To negotiate, make and perform contracts and agreements of every description..."; and

**WHEREAS,** The Council, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, has conducted research projects for 40 years, which aim to raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe, the Emergency Operations Center ("EOC"), The Tribe's Community Health Representative Program ("CHR"), Indian Health Service ("IHS"), Johns Hopkins and many other agencies have worked tirelessly to address the novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") which virus has created a worldwide pandemic, infected hundreds of thousands of people and caused tens of thousands of deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** In early May 2020, to assist with the COVID-19 efforts, Community Organized Relief Effort Foundation ("CORE") connected with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for American Indian Health to secure food boxes and cleaning kits for families on quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus, as well as hiring additional staff to assist with contact tracing with IHS and CHR. As a result of their efforts, to date over 1,800 food boxes and 1400 cleaning kits have been delivered, and they have made 14 temporary hires for 4 months; and

**WHEREAS,** As a preventive measure against contracting COVID-19, CORE is now offering to build 50 small shelters for elderly who meet the following criteria, pursuant to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"), which is attached and incorporated herein:

- 1) Elders (60+) with underlying health conditions (see Table 1 in MOU) that put them at heightened risk of serious complications from COVID-19 and are living in close proximity with the other household members;

- 2) Households with overcrowded living conditions with 3 or more people to every 1 bedroom;
- 3) Members that must come and go from the household; either for work as essential workers, to collect water and supplies, and any additional reason that staying at home is not possible; and

**WHEREAS,** To move this initiative forward, CORE and Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health will partner with the White Mountain Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Housing Authority, WMATCO, the Indian Health Service, and the Community Health Representative's (CHR); and

**WHEREAS,** The White Mountain Apache Housing Authority ("WMAHA") will be designated as the entity to facilitate construction of the shelters and are deemed essential; and will collaborate with WMATCO to purchase lumber directly for the construction of these shelters and utilize their warehouse space when necessary due to inclement weather impacting construction completion; and

**WHEREAS,** CHR in partnership with the Indian Health Service will assist in the selection criteria for high-risk elders to receive a shelter; and

**WHEREAS,** The MOU does not require any waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity, nor obligate any Tribal funds; and

**WHEREAS,** The Council finds the partnership between the signatory agencies for construction and distribution of the shelters is in the best interests of the Tribe, for the safety and well-being of our elders and their families to prevent against the COVID-19 virus.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Tribe, Community Organized Relief Effort Foundation, The Tribe's Community Health Representative Program, the White Mountain Housing Authority, and Indian Health Service for the construction and distribution of shelters to housing vulnerable elders on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.



**Resolution No. 10-2020-243**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **OCTOBER 7, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ONE** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

	
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary
Tribal Chairwoman	
<u>12/16/2020</u>	<u>12-17-2020</u>
Date	Date