

## **KBIC CAP Department Policy Burial Assistance (BA)**

**Purpose** - In the absence of other resources as a last resort, the Burial Assistance will apply. Payments are made directly to funeral home or third party vendors. Burial assistance pays up to \$2500.00 for basic burial services which include preparation and embalming, the casket, and funeral home services. Transportation will be covered in limited circumstances.

**Application** - To be eligible the application for BA must be made no later than 30 days following the death. Only the following people may apply for BA as authorized representatives:

- Any relative –including minors or their authorized representative.
- People named in decedent’s will to arrange burial.
- Special court appointed administrator.
- Legal court appointed guardian.
- Person who had durable power of attorney at time of death.
- Funeral Director with written authorization provided by relative who is incapable due to illness; or unable due to location.
- Tribal President for unclaimed bodies.

**Eligibility** - To qualify for BA, the deceased must meet the following eligibility factors:

- Be an enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe or Alaska Village.
- Have been residing within the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community eight county service area (Baraga, Marquette, Houghton, Ontonagon, Iron, Gogebic, Keweenaw, Dickinson) at the time of death or during a temporary absence (no more than 60 days) out of the KBIC service area.
- Must not have sufficient resources to meet essential needs and is determined to be indigent (a person who lacked life necessities because of poverty).
- Not eligible for other assistance and when other resources are not enough.
- Verification of death (death certificate, newspaper obituary, prayer card, mortuary).

*Eligibility is based on the income and resources available to the deceased, such as: SSI, social security, survivors, veteran’s death benefits, disability insurance, individual Indian money (IIM) accounts, etc. Determination of need will be accomplished on a case by case basis.*

**Transportation Costs** - Transportation costs in addition to the normal burial rate caused by extenuating circumstances, can be covered if they are reasonable and equitable; and must be an eligible Indian and deceased had to have resided in the service area last 6 consecutive months. There must be no other resources for transportation.

**Appeals** - In the event that a request is denied by the CAP Administrator or acting official, the applicant has the right to file an appeal to Tribal CEO. For more information, request Appeal/Complaint Forms from the CAP Office.