



Boozhoo Bois Forte Band Members and Community,

In response to the Federal Government Shutdown and in accordance with our Financial Contingency Plan, Phase I went into effect October 20, 2025, for the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government.

To recap, Phase I includes the following cost-saving measures:

Phase I – Minor: ≤ 10% Cuts and/or 30 Days or Less

- Hiring Freeze on non-critical vacant positions. Senior Management will determine which vacancies are critical and must have justification available for those determinations.
- No new positions in Indirect Cost or Tribal Funds.
- No non-essential business travel or training (training required by grant agreements will continue if essential).
- Strict overtime policies for non-exempt employees—flex time must be used whenever possible.
- Review all upcoming capital projects to ensure adequate funding; consider delaying Tribal Funded projects.
- Evaluate all open independent contract agreements for potential penalties.
- Crosstrain grant employees to fill vacancies and staffing needs.
- Ensure all fees and charges for services are billed and collected (including but not limited to monthly service charges, third-party billings, TERO fees, and service reimbursements).
- If reducing staff hours, Senior Management will determine reductions and notify Tribal Council and Human Resources.

The Senior Management Team continues to meet daily with available Council Members and are currently reviewing their budgets to determine how their programs will absorb the additional 15% reduction outlined in Phase II. The primary goal during the federal government shutdown is maintaining program service continuity, and Senior Management is considering service availability when determining necessary adjustments. Phase II recommendations will be provided to the Council around October 31, 2025.

Each program is at a different point in its funding cycle. For programs that funding has lapsed due to the Federal Government shutdown, those programs are currently operating on carryover funds. Each program will exhaust their carryovers at different points in time. The Tribal Government is working diligently to preserve the unrestricted funds to ensure the

continuation of essential life and safety services should the shutdown continue to that point. The overall goal remains to minimize disruptions to community and program operations.

Please keep in mind that I H S is advance funded and at this time there are no changes currently affecting Health and Human Services.

### **Phase I Impact and Adjustments**

The 477 Program has felt the immediate effects of the government shutdown. As a result, workforce and training assistance has been temporarily reduced from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00. During Phase I the scholarship funds are not affected.

The cluster of 477 grants for FY26 has not been received. Currently the program is operating on FY25 carryover funds. Please contact Vonda Carr at (218) 757-3261, ext. 1400, (218) 404-5401, [vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov), or Leanne Hoffman (218) 757-3261, ext. 1401, (218) 410-7552, [lhoffman@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:lhoffman@boisforte-nsn.gov), with any 477 Program questions.

If you did not receive this notification via text, phone call or email and would like to receive future updates via text, phone call, or email, here is the link to sign up for instant notification: <https://portal.laserfiche.com/u7744/forms/instantnotification>

At this time, Senior Management is aware of the seriousness of our situation and making decisions in the best interest of the Band, the community, and our staff. We remain committed to doing our best under these challenging circumstances. For specific inquiries regarding programs or services, we encourage you to contact the appropriate Senior Management Team Member.

Executive Director - Miranda V. Lilya - (218) 404-6678 - [mlilya@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:mlilya@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Executive Assistants - Regina Howe/Nikki Irving - (218) 750-2070 - [executiveassistant@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:executiveassistant@boisforte-nsn.gov)

PROGRAM	DIRECTOR	PHONE	EMAIL
477	Vondalee Carr	(218) 404-5401	<a href="mailto:vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov">vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
Accounting	Kim Greiner	(218) 757-3261	<a href="mailto:kgreiner@boisforte-nsn.gov">kgreiner@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
Boys & Girls Club	Travis Vake	(218) 404-8174	<a href="mailto:travis.vake@boisforte-nsn.gov">travis.vake@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
Compliance	Barb Brodeen	(800) 992-7529	<a href="mailto:bbrodeen@boisforte-nsn.gov">bbrodeen@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
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Health	Dan Rabideaux	(218) 404-9022	<a href="mailto:Daniel.Rabideaux@boisforte-nsn.gov">Daniel.Rabideaux@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
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Human Resources	Simona Benner	(218) 410-9904	<a href="mailto:slbenner@boisforte-nsn.gov">slbenner@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
I.T.	Randy Long	(218) 410-0237	<a href="mailto:rlong@boisforte-nsn.gov">rlong@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>
Judicial	Melissa Wright	(218) 410-3800	<a href="mailto:Melissa.wright@boisforte-nsn.gov">Melissa.wright@boisforte-nsn.gov</a>

Maintenance	Robbie Goggeye(218) 404-4184	robbie.goggeye@boisforte-nsn.gov
Planning & CD	Carol Burr (218) 404-4465	cburr@boisforte-nsn.gov
Public Works	Brian Whiteman (218) 750-0926	brianw@boisforte-nsn.gov
Urban Office - Duluth	Wendy Drift (218) 206-5629	wdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov
Urban Office - MPLS	Jacque Wilson (612) 747-5247	jacque.wilson@boisforte-nsn.gov

### **Resources available and other information:**

#### **Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families Update:**

November SNAP and MFIP food benefits will not be issued until the federal government shutdown ends or we receive more guidance from the federal government. MFIP cash benefits will be issued as normal.

If you are receiving benefits, please continue to use them as usual. Keep your contact information up to date with your county or Tribal Nation so you can continue to receive updates.

Individuals and families can continue to apply for benefits, Applying now will help your application move quickly when the federal government reopens., Visit our website for more information or for food resources: <https://dcyf.mn.gov/federal-shutdown>

#### **Food Distribution and Shelf**

At this time the Bois Forte Food Distribution Program and Food Shelf are not affected. However, we hear that other food banks are running low. To find your local food shelf, visit [Hunger Solutions' Find Help map](#) or call 1-888-711-1151.

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BOIS FORTE RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL