

# *U.S. Tribes want flexibility on virus relief funds*

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Washington, July 14 (RHC)-- Indigenous Tribes across the United States are wrestling with competing needs, restrictive laws and inadequate staffing as they try to meet a tight federal deadline on spending billions of dollars in virus relief funds.

The U.S. Congress has set aside \$8 billion for tribes that must be spent by the end of the year and meet strict federal guidelines. Otherwise, the tribes risk having to send it back.

Officials on the vast Navajo Nation have received \$714 million in aid but approved just \$60m for healthcare, protective equipment and front-line workers against the virus.

Rifts between the tribal government's legislative and executive branches have delayed putting more of the money to use.

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