

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Health and Human Services Division



**Our mission** is to help tribal members and families achieve independence, self-sufficiency and healthy, productive communities.

## A Word From Our Director

**Hehl neee'n!**

I would like to welcome you to the first quarterly newsletter for Client Services Department of the Health and Human Services Division. I am happy to tell you a little about Client Services- who we are, and what we do. We are a team helping you and your family in emergency assistance needs, and services to provide long-term sustainability. Organizationally, we are a department of the Yurok Health and

Human Services Division of the Yurok Tribe. In addition to our daily assistance to the our community, you can find us collaborating with other departments in community distribution events such as Covid response activities, Wildfire response, elder fish distribution, and many more. We welcome feedback and are always looking to improve our services to meet the needs of our community. Please feel free to contact us at [YHHSAdmin@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:YHHSAdmin@yuroktribe.nsn.us).

or via phone **(707) 951-6631**; we can also be reached through the tribal main line (707) 458-1350. I am excited for you to see all the wonderful things our staff are doing, and I hope you find this newsletter helpful.

**Wok-hlew',**  
Madison Green  
Client Services Director

01

Aawok Bonnie Green Site  
3400 Erie St  
Eureka, CA 95501

02

Klamath Main Office  
190 Klamath Blvd  
Klamath, CA 95548

03

Tulley Creek Office  
50 Owl Creek Rd  
Tulley Creek, CA 95546

## Client Services Department & Behavioral Health

The Client Services Department and Tribal Child Welfare and Behavioral Health are two departments forming what you know previously as YHHS. We are excited to see our YHHS Division grow with more resources.

### Activities housed in Client Services:

- TANF Direct Cash-Aid
- TANF Prevention Activities
- General Assistance
- Burial
- Yurok Tribe Emergency Assistance Fund
- LIHEAP
- LIHWAP
- Tobacco Wellness
- Yurok Opioid Affected Youth Initiative
- Elder Tribal Opioid Response

### Tribal Child Welfare and Behavioral Health

- Noh-sue-no-wow' -Yurok Youth Suicide Program
- E' ko nor -Plan of Safe Care
- Title IVE- foster care, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance.
- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Hoh Kepek





**YHHS HAS A NEW NUMBER**

- ✔ *Direct Line to Client Services Department & Tribal Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Department*
- ✔ *Committed to return call in a timely manner*
- ✔ *Does not replace Yurok Tribal Numbers*
- ✔ *Speak to a live person immediately*  
*No automation or phone tree*



**Yurok Health and Human Services is very excited to announce that we have a new Direct Line Phone number!**

**Direct Line:  
(707) 951-6631**

We will continue to promote this new direct line phone number through social media announcements, Client Services Department quarterly newsletter, Yurok Tribal newsletter, household mailouts, office flyers and posters, updated applications flyers and brochures, and future community events.

<https://www.yuroktribe.org/health-and-human-services>

This phone number is the direct line to the Client Services Department (CSD) and Tribal Child Welfare and Behavioral Health (TCWBH) Departments. We understand the importance of our callers wanting to connect with staff and we encourage those that have questions about their CSD or TCWBH related needs to please contact us at our direct line phone number in order to speak with a real person. If we do not answer your call right away, we are committed to make return calls within 24 hours.

This phone number does not replace the already existing Yurok Tribe phone numbers (707) 482-1350, (530) 625-4130, or (707) 445-2422. This phone number does not provide a direct line to other Yurok tribal departments.

We will continue to promote this new direct line phone number through social media announcements, Client Services Department quarterly newsletter, Yurok Tribal newsletter, household mailouts, office flyers and posters, updated applications flyers and brochures, and future community events.

## Yurok Tribe Emergency Assistance Fund (YTEAF) Program

The Client Services Department has availability to assist with the following emergency assistance needs by utilizing Yurok Tribe Emergency Assistance Funds (YTEAF): clothing/hygiene/food assistance, fuel and utility assistance, vehicle or home repair assistance, rental or mortgage assistance, medical travel outside the service area.

Yurok Tribal Council approved the Client Services Department to use limited ARPA funds in order to create the YTEAF Program. This is a two-year program that is designed to be used when funding through our CSBG, LIHEAP, and LIHWAP program are not available to be used. It is also designed to increase eligible opportunity for other tribal members by increase the income guidelines to 300% of the federal poverty income guidelines, aiding tribal members who reside within and outside the Yurok Tribal services area, and automatically assistance Yurok elders and those identified as Yurok "vulnerable adults".

Updated applications can always be found on the Yurok Tribe's website, [yuroktribe.org/health-and-human-services](http://yuroktribe.org/health-and-human-services), or you can request and return applications to [EA@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:EA@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

## Application Information

All applications can be returned via email ([EA@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:EA@yuroktribe.nsn.us)), mail (PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548), delivered in person to any Client Services Department office. If you have any questions about our applications, need assistance with receiving one, or need help filling one out please contact our Client Services Department at our new direct line phone number, (707) 951-6631.



## Administrative Available Applications

The Client Services Department has fillable and updated applications available on the Yurok Tribe website, [yuroktribe.org/health-and-human-services](http://yuroktribe.org/health-and-human-services)

Please check out our website to receive the most up-to-date applications for the following programs:

### 1. Emergency Assistance (YTEAF & CSBG)

Provides emergency assistance to Yurok tribal members in the form of Food/Hygiene/Clothing, Fuel/Utilities, Rental/Mortgage Assistance, Care/Home Repair, and Medical Care outside the service area.

### 2. Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Provides assistance to pay water and wastewater bills. This program prioritizes households that have disconnected water and wastewater services, or those that are at risk of disconnection

### 3. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Provides Heating Assistance in the form of electricity, propane, kerosene/diesel, pellets, and wood. This program prioritizes households with elders, disabled people, and children 5 years or younger in them.

### 4. Burial Assistance

- Provides assistance with funeral costs for Yurok Tribal members such as, but not limited to chapel/mortuary services, caskets/urns, headstones/burial plots, flowers, death certificates, and newspaper announcements.

### 5. General Assistance (GA)

- Provides monthly cash aid assistance to Yurok Tribal members, living within the Yurok Tribe service area, who are considered unemployable.

# TANF Program

## Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Yurok TANF program (YTTP) is to help Yurok needy families work toward and achieve self-sufficiency in a culturally appropriate way.

## Vision & Purpose Statement:

It is the vision of this program that Native American families will, using the unique culture and values of the Yurok Tribe, develop their individual capacities to self-sufficiency, enhance their future through personal and job skill development, increase family stability, and reduce risk factors. The end result will help to assure that Indian children grow up in a stable and safe environment that promotes their healthy development and preparation to become productive citizens and parents.

## Service Area:

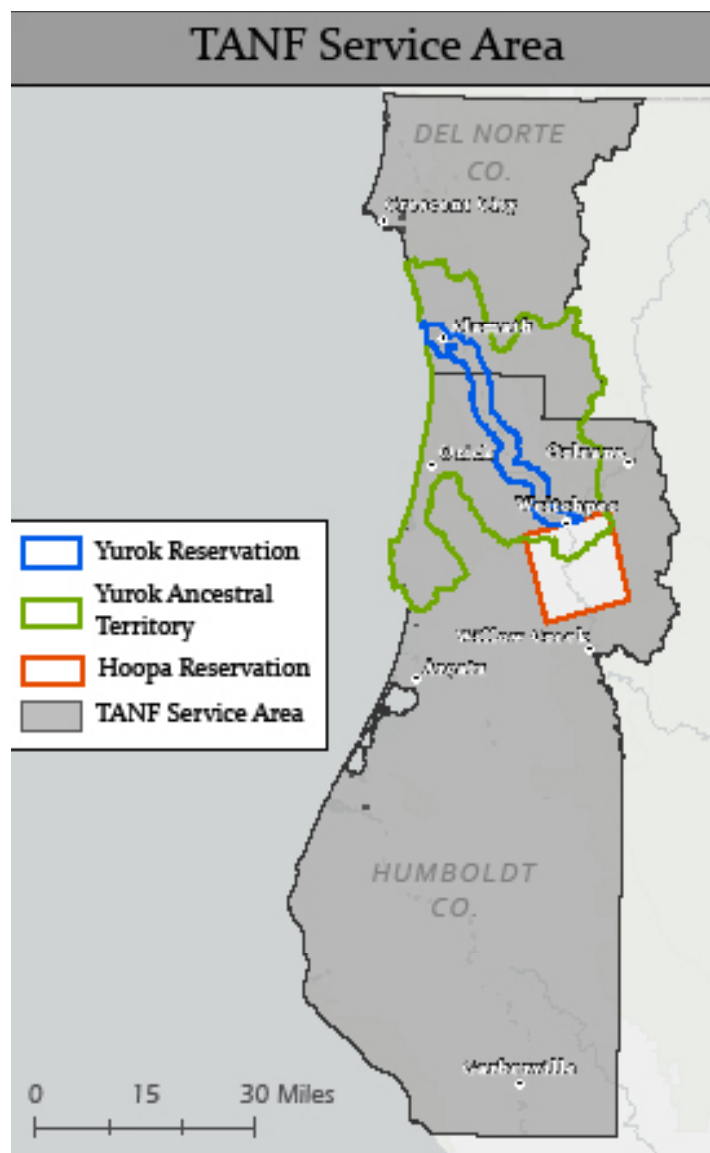
The Yurok Tribal TANF program will serve all eligible needy families with at least one member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe residing on the Yurok Reservation, and families with at least one eligible Yurok Tribal member within the Yurok Tribal Service area of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

## Eligibility:

The TANF eligibility program is different for all families. We build the program to meet the needs of each unique family's goals. It is best to call the TANF program to determine eligibility.

## Types of Programs:

The Yurok Tribe TANF program has four separate types of programs to assist families.



## TANF Program

**Cash Assistance:** This program is for families who have an eligible child in their home and have a family income of less than 135% of the federal poverty guidelines and must not have exceeded their 60 months of available aid. This time includes months assisted by the County TANF program.

**Transitional:** This program is for families who were cash assistance cases but have gained employment which has exceeded the 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. This program will assist clients to maintain employment by providing mileage, childcare and vehicle repair for twelve (12) months or until the family reaches 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (whichever occurs first).

**Diversion:** The purpose of this payment is to meet a specific crisis situation or episode of need that is expected affect employment of the client and to eliminate the need for ongoing cash assistance. A diversion payment is considered a non-recurring short-term benefit. Diversion will provide a nonrecurring payment to eligible individuals or families as an alternative to ongoing cash assistance.

**Non-Assistance Prevention Services:** This program is intended for both eligible needy TANF families and other TANF eligible families who are deemed "at risk" and residing in the YTTP Service area. The types of services offered can include, Marriage promotion and healthy relationship activities, pregnancy prevention and educational activities, and domestic violence, suicide, and substance abuse prevention. The program also offers life skills activities and youth outreach activities.

## PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

### **\*Coming Soon\***

The American Rescue Plan created the PEAFF to Tribes and States which provided additional funding to all Tribal TANF programs to provide Non-Recurring Short-Term Benefits (Emergency Assistance) to eligible families impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic.

#### **Who is Eligible:**

Yurok Tribal Households (or other Federally Recognized Tribal Households on the Yurok Reservation)  
Residing in the Yurok Tribal Service Area of Humboldt and Del Norte County  
With eligible children in the home (under the age of 18)

#### **Phase 1:**

Current TANF Cash Aid Families

#### **Phase 2:**

Yurok Tribal Households under 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

**\*Keep an eye out for post cards and social media when the program opens!**

Yurok Health & Human Services  
&  
Yurok Wellness Coalition  
Presents

# Spring FLING

In Person Event

**DATES COMING SOON**



# Vape Waste: More Harmful Than You Think

## Tobacco Wellness Project

What many people don't know is that tobacco product waste from cigarette butts is one of the most common forms of plastic waste found.<sup>1,2,3</sup> And, thanks to the tobacco industry, there is now even more work to do because a new threat is facing our environment – vape waste.

Vape waste creates three huge environmental issues:

1. Increase in single-use plastics
2. Increase in tech waste from their parts, including lithium-ion batteries
3. Introduction of hazardous and toxic chemicals like nicotine into the environment when discarded

### 1. What is vape waste?

Vape waste is waste associated with vapes, including disposable vapes, pods or cartridges, e-liquid containers and packaging, and vape batteries. Vape waste is especially bad for the environment because it is three forms of waste in one: plastic waste, hazardous waste, and electronic waste (e-waste). All of these are hazardous for the environment.

Vapes create plastic waste. The device body and pod components are made of plastic. Plastic is an environmental problem because it doesn't biodegrade like organic materials do – it can take up to hundreds of years for some plastic items to decompose.<sup>4</sup> Vapes are also a toxic waste because of the heavy metals in the vape and the nicotine in the e-juice.<sup>5</sup> Finally, vapes are e-waste since they contain lithium-ion batteries and a heating element.<sup>6</sup>

### 2. How do vaping products generate more single-use plastics?

Many vape products, like Juul, use pods or cartridges to hold the e-juices, which are plastic. With these products, users replace the pods when the e-juice is used up. But these pods can't be recycled with other plastic waste because they contain nicotine, which is hazardous waste.<sup>7</sup> They also have other toxic chemicals in them. If pods and cartridges are discarded as litter, they may leach nicotine



and other toxic chemicals into the environment or be eaten by wildlife or pets. Research has shown that even very small amounts of nicotine can be harmful or even lethal to animals.<sup>8</sup>

To get an idea of the impact of vape waste, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), collected 172 pieces of vape waste in one day at 10 of the 12 Bay Area school parking lots they went to.<sup>9</sup> And that's just high schools – where kids aren't even legally allowed to have vapes.

Now, the problem may get worse. At the beginning of 2020, the youth vaping epidemic finally prompted action from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – the agency banned flavors other than tobacco and menthol for pod or cartridge-based e-cigarettes. But if there's one thing the tobacco industry is good at, it's finding ways to get around policies that are meant to protect people from their dangerous products. Thanks to intense tobacco industry lobbying efforts, the FDA's policy doesn't include



disposable e-cigarettes, which are also plastic. Not surprisingly, the popularity of these products, such as Puff Bar, has taken off.<sup>10</sup>

### 3. How does vape waste increase tech waste?

Disposing of e-waste is a considerable challenge due to the many different types of chemicals and materials in these products. Vapes present at least two problems, as their vaporizers contain a circuit board, which can contain plastics and heavy metals.<sup>11</sup> They also use lithium-ion batteries. But many vape products and accessories are being thrown away in the garbage or worse – dumped as litter, as the UCSF survey found.<sup>9</sup> As batteries degrade, they can leach their chemicals into the environment. And if they are put in garbage or trash receptacles, they pose a fire risk in waste and recycling facilities if damaged or exposed to high heat, putting workers' safety at risk.<sup>12</sup>

### 4. Is vape waste considered hazardous waste?

Yes. Both California state and federal laws list nicotine as hazardous waste. Nicotine is a neurotoxin that has been used as a pesticide and has been considered acute hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1980.<sup>7</sup> Discarded devices may leach lead,<sup>13</sup> cobalt,<sup>14</sup> and other substances into the environment in toxic amounts. Toxic chemicals from commercial tobacco product waste can accumulate in animals, soil, and aquatic ecosystems, leading to contaminated drinking water and foods and posing additional downstream risks to

human health and the environment.<sup>15</sup>

### 5. How big is the vape waste problem?

Consider that one survey found that 3.6 million adults vape daily.<sup>16</sup> Even if just one-third of this group uses one pod or disposable e-cigarette a day, that would produce more than a billion pieces of vape waste in one year, with no place to properly discard or recycle. And this isn't counting vape waste from the estimated more than five million middle and high school students who vape.<sup>17</sup>

### 6. Can vapes be properly disposed of?

Vapes need to be properly disposed of because they are toxic e-waste. Rechargeable e-cigarettes like Juul have lithium-ion batteries, which can be recycled via most city recycling programs, like Call2Recycle. Unfortunately, the pod/cartridge is not so easy to properly dispose of due to the toxic e-liquid residue. As of now, there's no clear way to recycle used pods in the U.S.

### 7. What can be done?

First off, if you vape, quit. It will protect your health, and protect the environment. If you need help to quit, Kick It California now has free vape quitting services, including an app. Visit [www.KickItCa.org](http://www.KickItCa.org) for more information.

Additionally, if you are interested in getting involved in your community's efforts to combat tobacco product waste, join your local coalition.

## References

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- Environmental Protection Agency (1980). CFR §261.33 Discarded commercial chemical products, off-specification species, container residues, and spill residues thereof. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2012-title40-vol27/pdf/CFR-2012-title40-vol27-sec261-33.pdf>

#EARN \$50 PER MONTH

‘EEE  
Engagement • Education • Empowerment  
Yurok Youth Wellness Coalition  
Say “yes” to wellness

NEW  
meeting day

MONDAYS  
6:30PM-7:30PM  
VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 161 831 1761  
Passcode: EEE

\*For more info contact Lau-lei at  
llawrence@yuroktribe.nsn.us or (707) 382-8676

## ‘EEE Group

### Tobacco Wellness Project

Wellness is not just about how we take care of ourselves, but also how we care for our environment and how we care for each other. It's about building healthy, reciprocal relationships. Saturday, February 26, Youth from the 'EEE group met at Weyhl-kwel, at the mouth of the river. The purpose of the gathering was to connect youth to our ancestral places and to practice caring for the land. The group picked up litter and surveyed the litter to gather data on the type of waste that is found in our community spaces. One of our goals under the Yurok Tobacco Wellness Project is to determine how tobacco waste is impacting our environment. This was a good opportunity to gather some of that information. The group picked up about 50 lbs of trash. Of that trash, 52 cigarette butts were found, 31 alcohol containers, and a large amount of candy and chip wrappers. This data will be analyzed along with data from future litter survey activities to compile a report on tobacco waste within the Yurok reservation and ancestral territory.

The Youth had a great time connecting with the land and found it interesting to survey litter. One youth said, "It felt good to know we helped the environment." Another said, "it was tiring but made me happy!"

One youth felt it was, "super surprising, how many cigarette butts and beer cans were on Native land"

The positive finding, was that there was little to no trash that was found within the dance grounds. It gave the group hope that people visiting the area are being respectful of the village site/ dance grounds.

We are very proud of these youth for stepping out of their comfort zones to connect with other Yurok youth, work together, and contribute to creating a healthier environment for all.

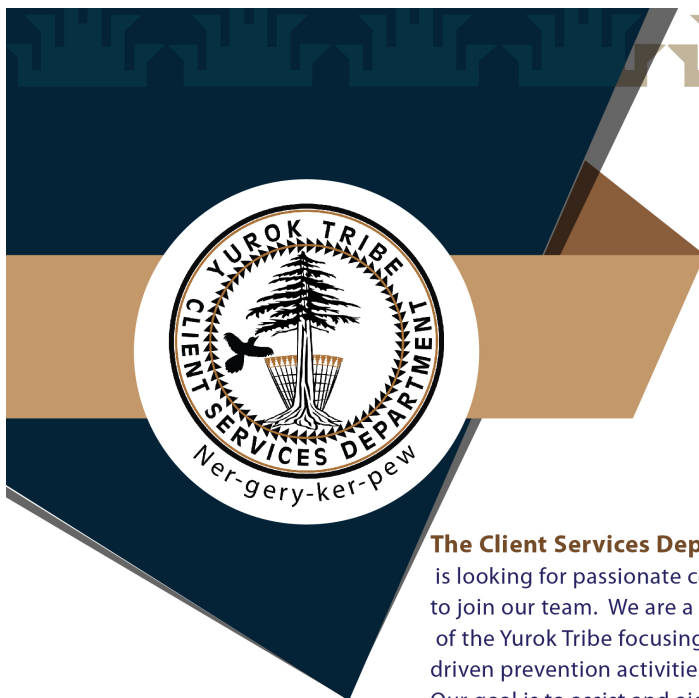
'EEE stand for Education Engagement and Empowerment. We say "yes" to wellness. The group meets weekly on zoom and participates in Monthly in -person activities.

For more information about 'EEE and the Tobacco Wellness Project, contact Lau-lei Lawrence at llawrence@yuroktribe.nsn.us or (707) 382-8676



# YHHS IS HIRING

Come Join Our Team!



# WE ARE HIRING

## The Client Services Department of the Yurok Tribe

is looking for passionate community members to join our team. We are a newly established department of the Yurok Tribe focusing on healthy and culturally driven prevention activities for our community. Our goal is to assist and aid families in reaching long-term self-sufficiency.

**Locations: Eureka • Klamath • Tulley Creek**

### Administrative Assistant II

Regular Full-Time Position  
Klamath / Eureka, CA  
Pay Range \$18.78 - \$19.92

### Administrative Assistant II

Part-Time Position  
Klamath / Eureka, CA  
Pay Range \$18.78 - \$19.92

### Prevention Specialist

Regular Full-Time  
Any location  
\$22.70 - \$24.08

### TANF Resource Development Coordinator

Regular Full-Time Position  
Any location  
Pay Range \$22.70 - \$26.40

### TANF Case Aide

Regular Full-Time Position  
Klamath, CA  
Pay Range \$17.04 - \$19.92

### Media Communications Coordinator

Regular Full-Time Position  
Any location  
Pay Range \$24.88 - \$26.40

For additional information or inquiries, please contact

Client Services Director, Madison Green, at [mgreen@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mgreen@yuroktribe.nsn.us)  
or (707) 951.6631.

Yurok Tribe Website: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/>

Job Descriptions: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/job-opportunities>

Applications: <https://www.yuroktribe.org/employment-application>

\*\*Indian preference is given for all Yurok Tribal Job Opportunities\*\*

