

FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Program: White Earth Settlement Fund

Type of Funding: Court Ordered Payments (Treaty/Settlements)

Funding Authority/Responsibility: The White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-264)

The Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services (OTS) has responsibility for this funding.

Criteria for Distribution: The White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-264) authorizes the payment of funds to eligible allottees or heirs as defined in the Act. The payment of funds are treated as the final judgement, award, or compromise settlement under the provisions of 31 USC Sec. 1304. Compensation is paid for the fair market value as of the date of questionable taking of allotted land, less any compensation actually received, plus compound interest to the date of payments.

Distribution Process:

- The White Earth Land Settlement Act (WELSA) administrator at the Minnesota Agency within the Midwest Region calculates the compensation due to the allottees/heirs each month. A letter with the attached certification is signed by the Superintendent and addressed to the Department of the Treasury (DOT). The package is emailed to the DOT requesting a Warrant be issued.
- The DOT will issue a Warrant based on the certification report. (Within 7 days)
- OPBM receives the Warrant through the CARS system and processes the document into FBMS. (Within 1 day)
- OBPM moves White Earth Settlement Fund funding as a whole from the budget address directly to the Office of Trust Services (Within 3 days)
- OTS prepares a FED to distribute the funding to the Midwest region obtains signatures and sends to OBPM. (Within 3 days)
- OBPM processes funds to the Midwest Region. (within 3 days)

Regional Processing:

- Indian Self Determination (ISD) Awarding Official negotiates terms, conditions of award, including payments. They calculate Contract Support Costs and prepare contract award/modifications in PRISM. (within 5 days)
- The ISD Awarding Official prints and mails the award/modification to tribe for review and acceptance. (within 5 days)
- Tribal elected official approves award/modification and returns the documentation to the Region/Agency.
- The ISD Awarding Official executes the award/modification and releases the obligation in PRISM. PRISM interfaces with ASAP and funds are available to tribe. (within 3 days of receipt of signed document)