Operator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. During the question-and-answer session, please press “star one” and record your name as prompted. Today’s conference is being recorded, if you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn today’s meeting over to Tara Knucklebee. Thank you, you may begin.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you, good afternoon everyone, thank you for joining us today. My name is Tara Knucklebee and I will be facilitating your webinar. Today we will be having Song Yee with the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, speaking on record-keeping and recording, allowable vs. un-allowable cost. There will be a Q and A for the last fifteen minutes of the presentation and at that time, please press “star one” to open up your line. The presentation will be recorded and posted on Older Indians at a later date. I just want to turn it over to Song for the presentation, thank you.

Song Yee: Thank you very much. This is Song Yee from Administration of Community Living, Administration on Aging, San Francisco. I hope everyone will be able to hear me. Today I am going to talk about the allowable vs. un-allowable costs. A very hot topic that most of the grantees have questions and I have questions, too, so please bear with me. So, I am on slide number two. So, what is the fundamental cost principles? So, the grantees are responsible for efficient and effective administration of federal awards and, also, the grantees are responsible to administer the federal funds consistent with agreement, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards. So, cost can be justified to meet the intent of the program activities if they are allowable, reasonable, and allocable. So, we will go for each cost. I know this is very dry because I need to quote from the 45 CFR, Part 75 and this is a uniform administrative requirement, cost principles and other requirements for the HHF. So, actually what are allowable costs? So, the cost must be necessary and reasonable to perform a federal award and the grantees have to follow all the limitations and exclusions in the grant award. The allowable cost must be consistent with your own policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other activities, I told you, it’s very dry, ok. So, you have to be consistently treat all those costs. Under a similar situation, a cost may not be assigned to a federal award as a direct cost, but are allocated to another federal award as indirect cost. You have to follow the “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles”, which is, in short, GAAP and, also, the allowable cost cannot be used as cost-sharing or matching requirements for other federal programs, there are exceptions. Like the Federal Transportation Administration allows their 5310 Program to use as match for the transportation programs for other federal grants and according to the Old Americans Act, Section 31582D, the law prohibits the match required for all Title 6 programs and there is no match required, good for you guys. And also, if it is not written down, that never happens. So, you have to document all the allowable costs as supporting documents. Onto slide number four, ok, so, what does that mean? I don’t understand, so I translated it in English or Chinglish, if you want, so that means funds cannot be used as a match for other federal grants. Funds must be used for activities that the grant is funded for. Look at your Notice of Grant Award. Funds cannot be used to influence political activities, that is a very big topic. Funds cannot be used for the personal gain of an individual through gifts or cash payments, that is bribery. Funds cannot be used for illegal activities or to
purchase illegal products. You see those two pictures here? Those are called “puffs,” but you cannot use the federal funds to buy the marijuana, which is also known as pot. And, also, the last bullet is you have to document properly. Ok, so now we are on slide number five about reasonable costs. So, this is also referred to 45 CFR 75, Section 404. So, reasonable costs, that means cost is recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the non-federal entity, which means the non-government entity. For the proper and efficient performance of the award, you have to follow the restrictions or requirements imposed by the federal, state, local, tribal, and other laws and regulations as well as terms and conditions of the award. I know most of the grantees do not read the terms and conditions below the award amount in the Notice of Award. Please, I strongly recommend you to read the entire two pages of the Notice of Award because there are a lot of special terms and conditions there that we would like you to follow. And, also, you have to get market prices in your local area and you have to compare for the prices the goods or services. And, also, you cannot deviate from your own established practices and policies to increase the award costs without justification. Questions? Of course, because you don’t understand what I’m talking about. So, let me translate in plain English, which means, you cannot pay more for things than anyone else would in the same circumstances just because this is grant money and you have to use the funds the same way you would with your own money, which means you have to shop around, get the best deal, get the best quality you can afford. If you do not know much about the product, then you should ask for help. Now we are moving onto slide number seven, talking about the allocable costs. So, the cost is allocable to a particular federal award, you have to meet the standard. First of all, it’s incurred specifically for the grant award. Number two, benefits both the federal award and other work of the non-federal entity and can be distributed in proportions that may be approximated using reasonable methods. And, number three, it’s necessary to the overall operation of the non-federal entity and it’s assignable, in part, to the federal award. So, all these bullets come from 45 CFR Part 75, Section 405. So, you have to use one indirect cost rate, which is negotiated by your entire tribal organization with the Department of Interior, in case of the tribal grantee. And that cost allocation plan or indirect cost plan will be applied to all the federal grants in your tribal organization. And, you cannot use any cost allocated to a particular federal grant to the other federal award to overcome fund deficiencies to avoid restrictions imposed by federal statutes, regulations, or terms and conditions of the federal award or for other reasons. However, there is a side note here, the Old Americans Act allows the transfer of Title 3 funds between the Part B, Part C1, and Part C2. So, those who received Title 3 funds through your state or through other agencies on aging, this is the Old Americans Act exception that allows you to do a transfer. And, also, if a cost benefits two more projects or activities in proportions that cannot be determined, then you can use the good method to allocate or transfer to benefited projects on any reasonable documented basis. In plain English, this is your approved cost allocation plan and, also, you have to follow the cost accounting standards, if applicable. Hope everyone is still awake. Ok, now we are in slide number 8. In plain English, that means once you spend your Title 6 grant funds, they need to have a direct connection to the Title 6 activities. For example, I love that man’s vehicle down there, but in case your program does not have a transportation service, you cannot buy a vehicle. Not as fancy as this one, ok? And, also, if an item or an activity benefits multiple programs, you have to split the cost using a method, like the indirect cost plan, instead of just saying, “Oh well, we have so many left over in Title 6, yah let us do it
this way.” No, it’s not allowed. Now I am on slide number nine, direct and indirect cost. So, the direct cost are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular award or can be directly assigned to the activity, something activities relatively, easily, with a high degree of accuracy. And that is according to the 45 CFR Part 75, Section 413. And indirect costs are those costs that cannot be identified specifically with a particular award and that is according to the CFR 75, Section 414 and ACL will honor cost allocation plan approved by the Department of Interior for tribal grantees. Ok, we are onto slide number ten, to talk about a list of the allowable costs. However, this is not a complete list. You have to refer to the 45 CFR Part 75 for a more detailed list. So, the allowable costs are advertising costs, you pay for your accounting services, audit services, budgeting, building needs, communication, compensation for personnel services, conferences, employee fringe benefits, insurance costs, maintenance and repair, material and supplies, printing and reproduction, procurement and recruiting services, rental for real property and equipment taxes, training and education, transportation, travel, etc. We are onto number, slide number eleven, about unallowable costs. So, also, this is not a complete list and refer to 45 CFR Part 75 for more details. And, this list will talk about you cannot use the federal funds to pay for [inaudible] gas, pay for construction, because our Title 6 program is not a construction grant, so you cannot use it for construction. You cannot donate to charity organizations, you cannot pay the federal funds for entertainment, fines, and benefits and fundraising. We know some tribes asked about the fundraising expenses. It is not allowed. And, also, you cannot purchase goods or services for personal use and this item I would like to draw your 100% attention is NSIP grant does not allow indirect costs. And you cannot pay interest or other financial cost, you cannot pay for lobbying services and expenses and financial costs. You cannot pay for public relations and it is not allowed to, under recovery of costs, under grant agreements. So, what is the item? So, according to also the 45 Part 75, Section 451, which means you cannot spend more than the award amount. And you cannot transfer excessive funds from other awards. No, you cannot do that. And, also, you cannot charge the indirect costs more than the approved cost allocation plan or the indirect cost plan. So, there is a warning here, payments made for costs determined to be unallowable, either as direct or indirect costs, must be refunded. How can we find out? We will find out through your annual audit. Your auditors will write up the findings and then we will collect those unallowable cost, so please be aware, you’ve been warned. So, slide number twelve, this is a follow-up of the indirect costs of the NSIP award, so, according to the Old Americans Act, Section 311D4, so, the asset money I highlighted, bolded in red, shall be used to purchase domestically produced foods. You can also purchase the foods for, like, Alaska or some very remote rural area, you can purchase the foods locally grown or locally processed. And, also, as I said, you have to read your entire Notice of Award, especially under Terms and Conditions. Of course, in addition to how much you receive for that award. So, in the 2017 NSIP Notice of Award Terms and Conditions Item #7, it already printed out that the NSIP money is used exclusively to purchase food and you cannot use it to prepare meals, you cannot use it to pay for other nutrition-related services, such as nutrition education or for the state or local administrative costs. So, we are onto slide number thirteen, procurements. So, procurement cost is an allowable cost. So, if you would like to order anything, then you have to follow your own tribal organization’s procurement policies. However, if you would like to purchase anything with a unit price of $5,000 or more then you have to submit a justification along with three written [inaudible] to ACL Regional Office for
consideration and you do not place the purchase order until you receive the written approval from ACL because the Regional Office can only forward and make a recommendation to Cynthia LaCounte of our Washington D.C. office and then she has to go through our Grants Office to obtain approval, so this may be a pretty long process, so please, do not place the order until your receive our return approval. Ok, slide number fourteen, so we are talking about the MIPPA, so MIPPA stands for Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act, and I understand that some of the tribal grantees, like last year, about less than one-third of our tribal grantees applied for the MIPPA grant. We put aside the money so that each tribe will receive $1,000, but in case, like last year, since the last tribal grantees applied for that grant. So, we increased the grant award to, like, the minimum of $1,700 a piece. So, we strongly recommend that you consider doing that this year. The funds have to be used for performing one community announcement, that means you can do flyers and, please, see the underlined “and”, ok? You have to do both. At least one community outreach event to inform and assist eligible American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian elders about the benefits available to them through Medicare Part D. Part D is the prescription (inaudible) plan. The low income subsidy, the Medicare savings plan, or Medicare prevention benefits, and screenings and consults, those who are eligible. What a mouth full because I just copied this from the 2016 MIPPA grant application form. And the funds may be used to hire someone or pay your current staff who is doing the planning and responsible for that event. So, again, I strongly recommend you consider applying for the 2017 MIPPA Grant. Slide number fifteen, this question always comes up under the MIPPA grant. So, people ask, “Are meals allowed at the MIPPA event?” So, this is the answer, usually the meals are not allowed, except for the following situation, so, if that is a research program, yes, the meal is allowed. But, Title 6 is not a research program. Number two, when specifically approved as part of the project or program activities. Like programs providing children’s services like the Head Start. But, again, Title 6 program is exception, ok? So, that is a program that allow you to provide meals. But, MIPPA, if you look at previous slides, it does not say anything about meals. So, also, meals that are allowed for employees working overtime or paying your staff meals or by per diem, when they’re on travel and, also, the other exception is if that is a conference grant, then meals are required in that contract, then meals are allowed. I know there are more questions and, so here, so number sixteen, reminders, I know this is not related to allowable or disallowable costs, however, I just want to remind you that the final sixteen Title 6 Program Performance Reports, PPRs, and financial reports (inaudible) 425 ended March 31st, 2017 are due by June 30th, 2017. And I want to thank those already submitted your reports. We are trying and we are working as fast as we can to reveal your reports and we’ll get back to you if we have questions. And, for those who have not submitted the reports, please note they are due by June 30th, the end of this month and you can submit them either online, this is the link to our automatic reporting system. If you have access to our system, if you do not you can send an email attachment to our regional office or you can fax to the regional office. Again, I strongly recommend the program staff keep in constant contact with your fiscal staff. Maybe once a month, maybe every quarter, to make sure the Title 6 auditors know how much the grant award is and the status of your expenditure and how much money you have on hand. Well, we understand that during, well so, January, February, or March, we got lots of phone calls saying, “Oh, I just filed for my finance office that I have tons of money to use before the end of March.” So, we do not want that to happen. So,
please, contact your finance office at least every month to get the status so that you will not have a big surprise at the end of the funding period. We are on slide number seventeen. Even though the regional office has no role in the MIPPA grant – we do not oversee your MIPPA grants – but I just want to do an announcement that final FY16 MIPPA Narrative Report and 425 were due ninety days following the outreach event, but no later than September 29th, 2017. So, in your narrative report you should include your organization name, your grant number, a description of the event including the date, the location of the event, how many people show up, and activities. Like, you have speakers, put down their name, you have any handout, send as an attachment. And your tribal chair or tribal official should sign and date and you can, that narrative has no standard form, so you can just put down all the information I just mentioned. You can send the report as email attachment to mippa.grants@acl.hhs.gov or if you would like to send it by U.S. Postal Service then this is the mailing address. Don’t be surprised that there is no street address because for fifteen/sixteen years, Washington D.C. still scan all the USPS mail for [inaudible] threat. So, no street address is needed. Ok, so I will do some commercials here. So, for the 2017 MIPPA grant application will be available soon. And the package will be posted on this slide, which will be on our acl.gov website, olderindians.acl.gov website, and the grants.gov website. I know most of the tribal grantees might not be comfortable using the grants.gov website, so you can go to our old website or go through olderindians.acl.gov website. And, also, I would like to tell you that next Wednesday at the same time there will be a webinar about the MIPPA grant. So, TS Services will send that email blast shortly and I strongly recommend if you have time please fit on that call or that webinar. Ok, so as I said, travel expenses are allowable costs. So, now, this is a good time for you to plan for the event because we are going to do, one, two, three, four, five, six cluster trainings in the future. So, the first one will take place in Arlington, Washington state, July 12th to 13th and the next one will be in Alaska – Juneau, Alaska – July 25th to July 26th. And the one in Billings, Montana will take place July – I mean August 16th and 17th, so for registration please contact this lady listed on this slide. Number 20, ok you are also invited to attend our 2017 National Title 6 Training and Technical Assistance Conference and Tribal Consultation. The date will be September 12th to 15, 2017 and the place will be Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake in Minnesota and this is the registration information and also the hotel is at the government rate of $91 and the block of rooms will be held until August 16th, 2017. During the past two days, for those who are on [inaudible] mailing list, you should receive the email blast about this upcoming training and conference. Ok, so, I always talk about the ACL Regional Office, blah, blah, blah, so, the coming two slides are all the contact information for the project officer and the fiscal specialist. So, you have their name, their email address as well as their phone number and what state they are responsible for. This is for regions one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and then nine, ten on slide number twenty two. Ok, so, I always encourage my tribal grantees, “when in doubt, check it out.” Reach out to us, reach out to the regional office staff, either project officer or fiscal specialist. We are one team. So, in case you cannot get ahold of your, let’s say, if you cannot get ahold of your project officer and, like, Montana, please reach out to the other project officers. We will be more than happy to help you. So, please, use us. Ok, we are to help you. And, also, I strongly recommend you to keep contact. Have regular meetings with your fiscal people so that you are aware of the status of your situation. You run a good job in doing the programs, but we also need to be aware where the money goes, how much money you still have, ok? So, that’s all my
presentation. Yay, because I am not over the time limit allotted, so I am opening up for any questions. I, ok, let me warn you, I may not have all the answers, but if I do not know the answers, I will get back to you, ok? I have to reach out to my colleagues or I will reach out to our grant office in D.C. and then I will get back to you, ok? So Operator?

Tara Knucklebee: Thanks Song. So, we do have, we do have a few questions from Mary Ann Mills. The first question says, “So we cannot use any Title 6 funds as the match for a federal transit administration grant?”

Song Yee: That’s correct. According to the Older Americans Act, there is no match required. There is no match required for the Title 6 programs, however, they cannot use our Title 6 grant to match the other grants.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you, and then she had another question. It said, “If we are holding a training for family caregivers, can we use Title 6 Part C to buy food and refreshments for the event?”

Song Yee: Well, unfortunately that is a stretch because the Title 6 Part C grant are for five parts, which are information, assistance, training, supplemental, as well as respite. It did not mention any food/drinks in that grant, so, I would rather have you use the Title 6 Part A funds. But, however, there is a catch. If you are using the Part A funds, you have to make sure that the food will meet the requirement of one-third of the daily recommended intake.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you. So, we have another one from Mary Ann. It says, “If the local market offered food from Canada or Mexico, does this mean we cannot buy these items for the Title 6 program?”

Song Yee: You can use it to buy the Title 6 Part A, you can use the Title 6 Part A money to buy those food. However, I always use this example, the NSIP money can only be to pay for the bananas or pineapples imported from Hawaii. You cannot buy the bananas imported from [inaudible] or Mexico. So, in case you are not sure about where the food comes from, you better use the Title 6 Part A money.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you. So, then we have another question here from Mary Ann, it says, “Do you know why the new NSIP awards are much less than last year’s awards?”

Song Yee: Ok, Mary Ann, I just responded back to you in an earlier email. That is one good point, thank you for bringing that up, Mary Ann, because the 2016, if you look at the 2016 Notice of Award, there are the amount. There are two columns. One column is called “Award Dis-action” and then the other column is “Cumulative Action to Date”. So, you have to look at the award this period. So, if you look at that, you see actually there is only a $13 difference.
Tara Knucklebee: Thank you. And we have a question from Ezra Bales, it says, “NSIP question, stated that we could use them for the nutrition project, but not nutrition education. What exactly is the difference?

Song Yee: Ok, you can buy food, that is the nutrition services. But you cannot use it to perform an education, like you bring in a nutritionist to talk to the elders, ok? What is, what is good, ok, by eating this food or that food or it is not ok if you drink too much sugar in a day or you cannot eat too much fat. So that is nutrition services. No. NSIP, let me explain what does NSIP stand for, NSIP stands for Nutrition Services Incentive Program. The background of that was it was managed by the USDA for many, many years and it came over PL or AOA back in 2003. We manage it since then. And our calculation of your NSIP award is based [interruption from another line] – hello? – is based on the new times you provided in the program performance reports a year ago. For example, the 2017 award of the NSIP is based on the 2015 new times/counts you submitted in your program performance report ended March 31st, 2016. So, this is only an incentive for you to provide more meals to the eligible elders. So, we did not put in any consolation or consideration of your education or your administrative cost. We only based on the new counts you provided a year ago. So, that's why it is specifically listed out in the Old Americans Act as well as in your Notice of Award.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you. So, we have another question form Ezra Bales, and it says, “Are subcontracts allowed and, if so, is the $5,000 threshold still in place since this is not an item, per say, but a contract to provide services?

Song Yee: Ok, so, if you are going to contract out that $5,000 threshold does not apply. This is only for an equipment purchase with a unit cost. Like, at the year-end of 2015, like February/March, we got lots of inquiries or requests that the tribal grantees would like to purchase, like, a copier, stove, vehicles, and each line item is more than 5,000. So that is for equipment.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you, Song. So, I don’t have any other questions at the moment. Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to press “star one” and the operator will patch you through or you can enter your questions in the Web-X chat and I would be happy to read them. [long pause] And if you would like to request the PowerPoint please feel free to put your email address in the chat as well and I can send out that email address. And, just to remind you, this is being recorded, so, it will – the recording and PowerPoint – will be available in Older Indians at a later date.

Operator: And we do have a question from the phones.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you.

Operator: We have a question or comment coming from Cynthia, your line is open.
Cynthia: Thank you. This has been such as good webinar, Song, I’m not ending it, but I just wanted to thank you Song for all this information and I’m so glad that folks are asking questions. Please think of all your questions – you’ve got fifteen more minutes. Please think of all the questions that we get emails about and this is your opportunity to bring it up. But, I just wanted to thank Song for this fantastic webinar, once again. Thank you!

Song Yee: Thank you, Cynthia. Did I screw up anything?

Cynthia: You did not. Your information is wonderful.

Song Yee: Oh, thank you. Thank you, thank you for making my day.

Cynthia: [laughter] Thank you for helping us.

Song Yee: Thanks.

Tara Knucklebee: So, we have one other question from Ezra Bales, and it says, “Is our ACL regional contact, the one we should contact regarding MIPPA funds?”

Song Yee: Well, you can contact the regional office, the project officer that listed on my slide number twenty-two and twenty-one and twenty-two. So, in case we do not have the answer because we do not oversee it, we can find out the answers for you.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you. Did any, did we have any additional questions?

Operator: I’m showing no further questions or comments from the phones. Again, that’s “star one” and record your name and I’ll stand by for questions or comments.

Tara Knucklebee: Perfect, thank you.

Song Yee: So, this is Song again. I hate dead air, so, let me fill it in. So, again, I would like to thank those who already submitted your 425s for the Title 6 Part A and Part C as well as NSIP. It is my usual practice that I will compare the payment management system, the [inaudible], and the expenditures in that report. So, if, if I find out that there are discrepancies, for example, in your 425 submitted to ACL saying you fully spent the money, but PMS showed that, ok, you fully spent, but you did not fully draw down the money, or vice versa, you will receive an email from me for the tribes in regions nine and ten. That is my usual practice because I want to give you another chance to look at your accounts, to make sure, “Oh gee, I forgot to draw down the funds even though I fully spent the money.” or, “Ohp, I forgot to submit the federal cash transaction report to PMS so that cause for discrepancy.” So, I will reach out to you if I see that the reports do not match. And, also, the other thing I would like to share with you is I know you should have already closed the book for FY 2012 because PMS, the payment management system, will close out all the 2012 accounts or grants or awards because the Congress requested the grants can stay in PMS only for five years. So, it is time for you to look at or talk
to your fiscal office to see if there is any funds spent, but not fully drawn, then it will be your last chance. You have to do it before, like, September 30th, but we recommend you to do it by mid-September. Make sure you have supporting documents, we already talked about you have to document it to show, to keep the documentations just in case for future audits, statutes, that it show the expenditures were already spent during the allowable period. And then, once PMS close out all 2012 awards, then there is no one who will be able to reopen the account, you’ll find out that you had invoices from 2012 and never got paid, sorry. Tough luck. So, please check your book and see if you have any outstanding payments so you can draw up the last money from PMS. So, any more questions?

Operator: Yes, we do have two questions that queued up from the phones. And our first question or comment comes from Shelly’s line, your line is open, please go ahead.

Song Yee: Hello?

Operator: Please check your mute feature.

Shelly: Hello, Song? You talked a little bit about making sure that the program people talked to the fiscal people and make sure that –

Song Yee: Yah, I talk to you all the time, Shelly, ok?

Shelly: Well, I’m just going to ask a question for you, does this mean that sometimes programs don’t spend all of their grant money?

Song Yee: Oh, yes. That’s what I just said. Like, the PMS show that, ok, you still have this much money remaining in your account, but the financial report shows everything is spent.

Shelly: Ok, so you’re saying that sometimes they don’t actually draw down all their money so there could be money there that they could use for new kitchen equipment or dishes or –

Song Yee: Uh, too late for that because if we are talking about for the project period ended March 31st, 2017.

Shelly: Yah, but what about for the new project? They should be in contact with those folks all the time to kinda see how the money’s being spent, right?

Song Yee: Exactly, yes, so they have to talk to each other. That is what we want them to do, talk to each other. But, I talk to you, you call me all the time, you email me all the time and I do not respond timely, ok. So, you hate me for that.

Shelly: No, I don’t.

[laughter]
Song Yee: So that’s why we want you guys to work as a team, include us as well. If you, like, the payment management system, I know that most program staff do not have access, but you can request a tribal organization to allow you to have read-only access. You don’t need to draw down, you don’t need to submit reports, but you can have access as read-only so that you can go online to check on the status from time to time.

Shelly: Thank you.

Song Yee: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you, we have a couple more questions, the next question is from Cynthia, your line is open.

Cynthia: Hello and thank you, just listening to Song and Shelly’s comment. I want to give you, I want to add to that discussion from my office. Every year, and this is, I won’t preface it, I’m just going to add it from my office. Every year we have a tribal consultation at our National Conference and every year the theme and the comments I get from tribes are that there’s never enough money, there’s never enough money to buy, to purchase food. There’s not enough money to transport our elders into the senior center for a congregate meal. There’s no money to provide a home delivered meal. There’s no money for staff, there’s no money to upkeep our building, there’s no money for kitchen equipment. And then I get to the end of the year and I get these reports. I cannot tell you how upsetting this is, and I know you don’t care if I’m upset or not, but I can’t tell you how upsetting it is to get reports showing that federal money has not been spent, when every single one of us on this phone call knows the needs in Indian country. And knows the needs of our tribal elders. We know how poor they are, we know what their health care status is, we know what their transportation status is. We know our elders and we know their needs. In my, from my viewpoint, it is only poor management at the tribal level that is not spending out these dollars. And there is no way that Administration For Community Living or the National Indian Council on Aging or the Title 6 Directors Association can go forward to Congress and ask for money if we’re not spending out the money that we’re given. So, you folks have got to get better about spending this money. You need to work monthly with your tribal finance. You need to make sure that they understand how your money can be spent and you need to make sure that every single month in your contract you are spending out about one-twelfth of your dollars. Because if we send money back, you can bet Congress is going to knock on our door one of these days with a reduced budget that is only responding to the dollars we are spending. You’re going to be hearing a lot about this from me. As you’re meeting with your tribal finance, make sure that if your tribe put money in to help your program, if your tribe paid for the rent in your facility, if your tribe pays for staffing, if your tribe helps pay for transportation, or food, they can be reimbursed in those tribal expenses before you send the money back to the federal government. So, please look closer at your finances. Pay attention to what’s going on and pay attention to how you’re spending out your money as well as what your needs are because I don’t want this budget to be reduced, thank you.
Song Yee: Thank you, Cynthia. This is Song. So, I would like to make some suggestions. For those who already sent in your 425s, was unspent money in there and since Cynthia allows you to make some adjustments so you can, ok, contact your project officer and we will unlock those reports to return to you to make corrections, ok? Thank you.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you, Song. So, I don’t see any other questions coming through and we’re just about at the top of the hour –

Operator: We do have one more question from the phones, if you’d like to take it.

Tara Knucklebee: Yes, absolutely.

Operator: Alright, we have a question from Darren, your line is open.

Darren: Yes, hi, I was wondering just to be added to the list of being able to review the presentation at a later time?

Tara Knucklebee: Yes, absolutely, if you want to type in your email address in the chat on Web-X, I can go ahead and send that over to you here shortly.

Darren: Alright, I appreciate that.

Tara Knucklebee: Absolutely, thank you. Alright, so, I don’t see any other coming through. Again, if you would like the PowerPoint presentation, please put your email address in the Web-X. I’ve had a few of you who that have just requested it, but did not include your email address, so please remember to include your email address even if you go ahead and say, “please provide it”, I don’t have access to your email address so, please put the email address. And, other than that, I think, do we have any other phone calls patching through?

Song Yee: Hi Tara, this is Song. There is a question on the chat, asking if the nutritional funds awarded each year or is it for a certain amount of years? The awards, we usually issued by each year. Usually by the end of March, with the effective date on April 1st of that year. And, we are currently in the first year of the three-year project period. And, the current three-year project period will end on March 31st, 2020. So, each year you will receive the awards. So, ok, thank you.

Tara Knucklebee: Thank you, Song, and I think that concludes our webinar today. Thank you to everyone for joining us. As Song said, we will be having a webinar again next week on MIPPA grants, we have been, starting last month we will be doing two webinars on the second and the third Wednesday of each month. I will be sending out a notification later today, so please look out for that and we hope to see you next week in the webinar. Thank you so much.
Operator: That concludes today’s conference call, thank you for your participation, you may disconnect at this time.