

## 1.1.A.10 Inmate Sweat Lodge Accounts

### I Policy Index:



**Date Signed:** 06/07/2021  
**Distribution:** Public  
**Replaces Policy:** None  
**Supersedes Policy Dated:** 04/08/2020  
**Affected Units:** All Institutions  
**Effective Date:** 06/07/2021  
**Scheduled Revision Date:** March 2022  
**Revision Number:** 10  
**Office of Primary Responsibility:** DOC Administration

### II Policy:

Each Department of Corrections (DOC) facility may establish an account to receive and distribute funds to be utilized for the maintenance and operation of an approved sweat lodge located on the grounds of a DOC institution.

### III Definitions:

#### Inipi Endowment Fund:

A permanent endowment fund for charitable purposes which receives monetary contributions in accordance with the provisions of a set agreement and the provisions of Articles of Incorporation, by-laws and policies of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

#### Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation:

A South Dakota 501(c) nonprofit organization that attracts, manages and distributes charitable gifts by building permanent charitable endowments and using the proceeds to strengthen local communities.

#### Sweat Lodge:

A dome shaped structure typically constructed of willow branches or tree saplings and covered by blankets, tarps, canvas or animal skins. The lodge is heated by steam produced when water is poured over heated rocks in a pit located inside of the lodge. The sweat lodge is used by various Native American tribes and cultures and is common among the Lakota Sioux. The sweat lodge is used as a place to conduct the sweat ceremony or Inipi Ceremony, which is believed to aid physical and spiritual purification.

### IV Procedures:

#### 1. Application and Depositing of Funds:

- A. The Mike Durfee State Prison (MDSP), South Dakota Women's Prison (SDWP), South Dakota State Penitentiary (SDSP) and ancillary facilities under the authority of the respective Warden or designee, may establish and maintain an account designated to receive and distribute funds to be applied exclusively towards the development, maintenance and operation of an approved sweat lodge and related activities.

1. The institution's Cultural Coordinator, or DOC staff member designated by the Warden or designee, shall request and apply for funds available within the Inipi Endowment Fund, as needed and as available.
- B. Applications for the Inipi Endowment funds are available through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.
- C. All funds received from the fund shall be used for the sweat lodge and related activities
- D. Sweat lodge activities shall be monitored and approved by the facility Cultural Coordinator or designated staff.
- E. Funds deposited into an institution's sweat lodge account may be redistributed to sweat lodge accounts maintained at another DOC institution by accounting staff, with approval from the Cultural Coordinator or designated staff, in accordance with the endowment agreement, as set forth by the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.
- F. The DOC shall act as the custodian for all funds deposited into, or distributed from, the accounts.
- G. Regular or one-time contributions to an institution's sweat lodge account will be reported to the Cultural Coordinator or designated staff.
  1. Members of the community, organizations, businesses, etc. may contribute to institutional sweat lodge accounts by business check, United States cashier's checks or money orders issued in U.S. dollars.
  2. Inmates may contribute to the facility's sweat lodge account through the approved inmate banking process, as specified in DOC policy 1.1.B.2 [Inmate Accounts and Financial Responsibility](#).

## 2. Purchases:

- A. The Cultural Coordinator or designated staff is responsible for authorizing any withdraw of funds from the institutional sweat lodge account.
  1. Purchases paid from the sweat lodge account for sweat lodge related expenses must be approved in advance by the facility's Cultural Coordinator or designated staff prior to the materials, supplies and/or services being ordered or purchased.
- B. Approved materials, supplies or services may include, but are not limited to:
  1. Rocks.
  2. Removal of spent rocks.
  3. Firewood.
  4. Renting, repair or service of log splitters, chain saws or other equipment.
  5. Tarps or other coverings.
  6. Other expenses, as approved by the Cultural Coordinator or designated staff.

- C. The Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff is responsible for retaining a copy of all bills of sale and receipts for sweat lodge materials or services. The paperwork should include a description of the materials, supplies or services purchased.
  - 1. The paperwork may be in the form of a billing statement or itemized receipt.
  - 2. The sweat lodge account may not be overdrawn or operate with a negative balance.
- D. Business office staff shall provide the Cultural Coordinator or designated DOC staff person with regular account statements.

### 3. General Account Information:

- A. Sweat lodge accounts are non-interest bearing and as such, will not be charged transaction fees.
- B. Reasonable charges and fees, including postage and handling to process an order for supplies or services, may be applied to an institutional sweat lodge account, as deemed appropriate.
- C. If, for any reason, an institution no longer has a need to provide or maintain a sweat lodge for a period exceeding one (1) year, the funds remaining in the account may be used for the benefit of Native American cultural/religious activities offered to inmates at the institution.

## V Related Directives:

DOC policy 1.1.B.2 -- [Inmate Accounts and Financial Responsibility](#)

## VI Revision Log:

**March 2012:** New policy  
**March 2013:** Reviewed with no revisions.  
**March 2014:** Deleted "will count towards the inmate's weekly spending amount" in Section 1 G. 2.  
**March 2015:** Reviewed with no changes.  
**March 2016:** Reviewed with no changes.  
**April 2017:** Reviewed with no changes.  
**March 2018:** Reviewed with no changes.  
**February 2019:** Reviewed with no changes.  
**April 2020:** Reviewed with no changes  
**June 2021:** Reviewed with no changes

*Mike Leidholt (original signature on file)*

Mike Leidholt, Secretary of Corrections

06/07/2021

Date