

Enrollment Department

2076 Shunk Road, Sault MI 49783



Semi-Annual Review Presentation

July – December 2025

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Enrollment Department

We offer many different services:

1. Card Renewals
2. Enrollment of persons who are direct lineal descendants of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians as outlined in the Membership Code.
3. Process Relinquishment requests. (A relinquishment is a voluntary procedure sought by the member to give up their membership with the Tribe.)
4. Process Blood Quantum Certifications
5. Process Tuition Waivers
6. Process Family Tree Charts
7. Process Statements of Membership
8. Process Affidavits for Tribal Court and/or Anishnaabek Community and Family Services.
9. Process Funeral Assistance Forms
10. Genealogy Research
11. Process Indian Preference Forms (BIA 4432 Form)
12. Register eligible members for Tribal Elections
13. Update Tribal Member information (address, name change, etc.)
14. Petition Courts to obtain adoption information.
15. Process the annual Elder Dividend Surveys and Checks
16. Act for disenrollment for members enrolled erroneously
17. Process Eagle Feather Permits
18. Process Requests for Copy of File



Enrollment Department

July – December 2025

Service/Category	# of Members
Blood Quantum Certification	11
Tuition Waiver Certification	137
Card Renewals	2475
Files Completed	160
Veteran ID Cards	0
New Enrollments Age 0-1 Year Old	224
New Enrollments Age 2-5 Years Old	61
New Enrollments Age 6-10 Years Old	29
New Enrollments Age 11-18 Years Old	44
New Enrollments Age 19-59 Years Old	19
New Enrollments Age 60+ Years Old	232
Total New Enrollments	609
Relinquishments	1
Disenrollments	1



Enrollment Department

Relevant Statistics/Tribal Members Served:

- Total Membership Count: 52,753
- Total Membership In **Service Area**: **15,769**
 - **Chippewa County: 7,643**
 - **Mackinac County: 2,680**
 - **Luce County: 621**
 - **Schoolcraft County: 1,252**
 - **Delta County: 1,654**
 - **Alger County: 612**
 - **Marquette County: 1,307**
 - **Emmet County: 653**
 - **Cheboygan County: 1,183**
 - **Charlevoix County: 231**
 - **Presque Isle County: 139**
- Total Membership in Michigan: 34,487
- Total Membership in Upper Michigan: 16,316
- Total Membership in Lower Michigan: 18,171
- Total Membership age 18+: 39,380

Additional Counties in Northern Lower Michigan per Board Request

***These numbers grow on a daily basis. These statistics are based on numbers as of December 31, 2025**



Enrollment Department

Resolutions Passed by the Board of Directors

There were (5) five Resolutions passed in the second half of 2025:

- ❖ **Resolution No. 2025-154** passed on July 1, 2025. This resolution revised the Tribal Code Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance Section 11.106 Proof of Ancestry. This resolution allows for the consideration of eligibility for enrollment through a collateral ancestor. It must be determined that the applicant's direct lineal ancestor should have been listed on a historic roll but was missed for a logical reason. These cases must be heard and agreed upon by the Enrollment Committee.
- ❖ **Resolution No. 2025-155** passed on July 1, 2025. This resolution revised the Tribal Code Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance Section 11.110 Loss of Membership. This resolution changes our former "Absolute Relinquishments" to a 3-year waiting period, instead of being banned from applying for membership for life. This applies to adults, age 18 and older. Minor children cannot be relinquished.



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- ❖ **Resolution No. 2025-176** and **2025-177** passed on August 5, 2025. These two resolutions both affect the Enrollment Committee. The number of committee members was changed from 12 to 7. The terms of the Committee went from 2 years to 4 years and also opened appointments up to include all tribal members, regardless of where they live.
- ❖ **Resolution No. 2025-330** passed on December 2, 2025. This resolution amended the Tribal Code Chapter 11: Membership Ordinance Section 11.112 Fees. Instead of having the Enrollment fees set in the Code, this resolution allows for the Enrollment Department to change service fees administratively, which allows for more flexibility when changes are necessary.



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- **New Enrollment Fees**

The following fees have been changed and will be implemented on January 5, 2026:

	<u>OLD FEE</u>	<u>NEW FEE</u>
• Card Renewal	\$5.00	\$10.00
• Blood Quantum Certification:	\$15.00	\$25.00
• Copy of File	\$5.00	\$10.00
• New Application Fee:	\$25.00	\$50.00
• Replacement of Lost/Stolen Card:	\$20.00	\$20.00 (unchanged)
• Tuition Waiver Processing:	\$15.00	\$15.00 (unchanged)



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- **Open Enrollment**

- As of December 31, 2025 we have 52,753 enrolled members in the Tribe! This number will continue to grow at a steady pace for the next couple of years until we can get through the bulk of the new applications. Since the opening of the rolls on February 1, 2024 we have received 5,475 adult applications. We have denied a total of 216 adult applications.
- We continue to prioritize the enrollment of Elders (age 60+). We had hoped to have all of them enrolled by the end of the year but that did not happen. There were approximately 300 elder applications that we were not able to review in 2025. These will be processed in the first quarter of 2026, along with 86+ more elders that will turn 60 in 2026. This number for elders will more than likely grow throughout the year in 2026, but all should be easily processed by the end of that year once the backlog is caught up to date.



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• **Membership Files Scanning Project**

- There are almost 32,000 files scanned into the system. This is a time consuming task and needs to be done accurately. Each document scanned needs to be indexed afterwards. Some of the files may have only 5 documents to scan, while others may have 30 or more.
- All the Enrollment Coordinators now have a scanner at their desk. Each will learn how to scan the files and help work on the project whenever possible.



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- **Elder Dividend Project**

- We kicked off this project in September. At that time there were 8,944 elders eligible for the payment. We mailed out 8,670 on September 29th. There were 274 additional eligible elders that we did not have a valid address for, so no form was mailed to those elders.
- Approximately 8,400 elder forms were returned to the office by late November. A second mailing of 549 elder surveys was completed on December 10th. This was for the elders who had not yet turned in their form to receive their check in January 2026.
- By the end of the year, there were a total of 9045 elders eligible for the payment.
- The checks were scheduled to be cut and mailed on January 15, 2026. The amount will be \$340.00



Enrollment Department

- **Budget**

- The FY2025 ended up being underspent for the year. We took in just over \$48k in revenue which was \$12k more than projected. Predicting revenue is difficult especially with open enrollment. There's no way to know how many new applications will come in.
- We were underspent in salary/wages and travel.



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Upcoming Projects/Events Page

- **Enhanced Tribal Cards**
 - Legal is working on this project. We are looking to receive the Scope of Work and cost of this project with an exact breakdown of fees so a decision can be made as to whether or not we wish to continue to pursue this.

- **Elder Dividend Project**
 - We will be working with IT to develop an online portal for the elders to apply for their check each year. We realize not all elders are capable of applying online; therefore, we will still be doing a mailing for those who choose not to use the portal. We are hoping to cut down on the cost of the project overall and also the time consumption it takes to enter all the forms manually.