



# Cherokee Nation Career Services

**Jobs - Training - Hope - Opportunity**

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**Executive and Finance Committee  
February 2024**



**Seth Martin, former participant with the American Rescue Plan Act  
Martin is currently employed full-time with Cherokee Nation Career Services**

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# **Executive and Finance Report Career Services Monthly Report**

**February 2024  
S. Diane Kelley, Executive Director**

## **Career Readiness Act Highlights: Month of January Information:**

157 Cherokee citizens entered Vocational Training Programs.

53 Cherokee citizens were termed off from Vocational Training Programs.

- 44 successfully received successful completions & certifications.
- Seven received supportive services/miscellaneous objectives.
- Seven received new job placements in the field they were trained in.
  - Averages Hourly Rate of **\$17.27**
- Two retained employment.
  - Average Hourly Rate of **\$17.25**
- One received a new job placement in other field:
  - Average Hourly Rate of **\$15.53**

## **In House Training Programs Updates**

### **Building Trades Program**

In January 2024, our Building Trades program commenced with enthusiasm. From an initial cohort of seven selected students, we embarked on a journey of skill enhancement and knowledge acquisition. At the outset, it was apparent that only two students possessed proficiency in reading a tape measure, while three had a grasp on basic fraction operations.

Throughout the month, our curriculum unfolded systematically, covering essential aspects of construction. The students underwent rigorous training in fundamental construction safety, passing assessments on electrical equipment safety protocols. They delved into construction math, honed their skills with hand tools, deciphered construction drawings, and grasped the fundamentals of rigging, communication, and material handling.

All seven students engaged in comprehensive instruction on fraction operations to reinforce their mathematical abilities, aligning with the guidelines outlined in the Core Curriculum: Introductory Craft Skills, 5th Edition.

Incorporating a cultural component into our program, the students eagerly embraced weekly lessons in Cherokee vocabulary, enriching their linguistic and cultural horizons.



To equip our students for success in their future endeavors, each participant received an essential toolkit tailored to their training needs. This toolkit included necessary items such as a tool belt, 20 oz.—hammer, framing square, chalk line, tape measure, and steel toe boots.

Practical application formed the cornerstone of our training approach. The students dedicated themselves to crafting rocking chairs, an endeavor that enhanced their proficiency in reading tape measures and provided hands-on experience with various electrical saws.

Furthermore, they applied their newfound construction math skills, preparing them for real-world scenarios and upcoming module testing.

As January drew to a close, it was evident that our students had made significant strides in their journey toward becoming proficient tradespeople, embodying dedication, diligence, and a commitment to excellence.



Building Trades students eagerly gather around as they prepare to embark on a field trip to a job site. Excitement and anticipation fill the air as they gear up for a firsthand glimpse into the construction world.





Building Trades students proudly sport their matching Carhartt jackets, provided to shield them from the biting cold of January. Their camaraderie shines through as they brave the chilly indoor and outdoor weather while honing their skills in the shop and on various projects.





Captured here is a snapshot of the students engrossed in their studies during the first half of the day, attentively absorbing the curriculum. The classroom setting fosters an environment of learning and growth as they lay the groundwork for their future endeavors in the building trades.





Building Trades Students showcase their teamwork and craftsmanship in this image, proudly displaying the two picnic tables they made as a group project. These tables, crafted with dedication and skill, are a testament to their hard work and collaboration, benefiting both the Building Trades Program and the Business Technology Program.

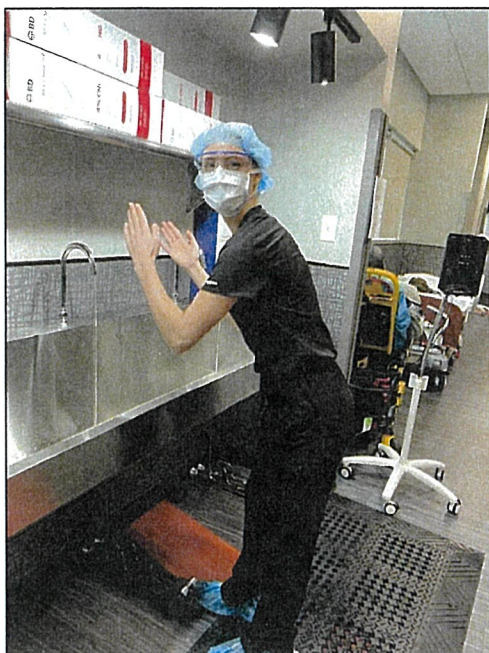


## Surgical Technology Program

The Surgical Technology Class 2024 started on January 22 with a cohort of six Cherokee citizens. The 2023-2024 class finished their second semester with a cohort of four Cherokee citizens. On January 25, both cohorts participated in a lab workshop hosted by the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation. During the workshop, students finishing their first semester taught second-year medical students how to perform a surgical hand scrub properly, don a sterile gown and gloves, and practice proper operating room etiquette. The workshop is a unique opportunity to boost the confidence of our surgical technology students while preparing second-year medical students for their surgery rotation.



Class of 2024: (back) Hannah Boswell, Sydney Chaplin, Jaeden Robbins,  
(Front) Madison Teafatiller, Shelby Gregory, Mollee Thilges

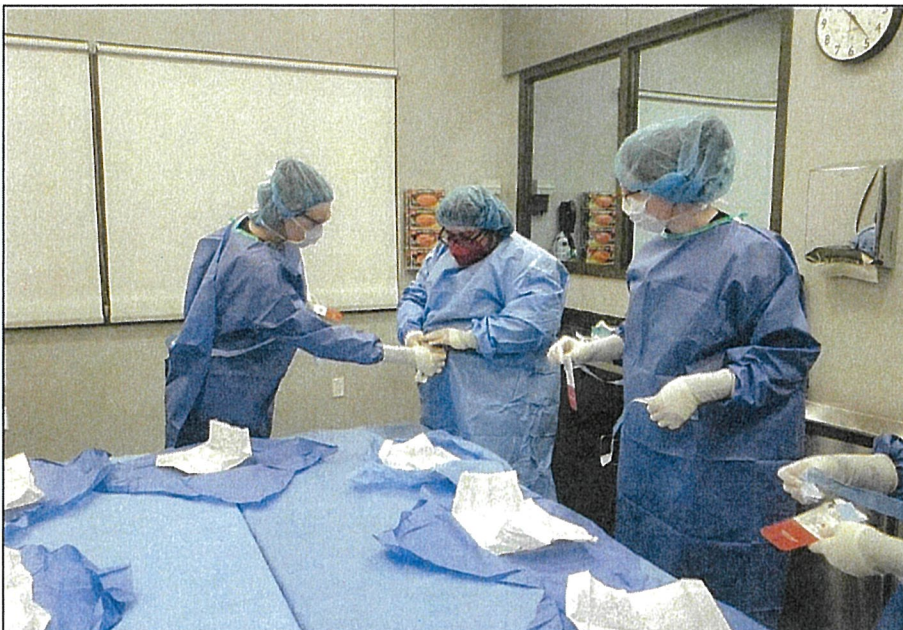


Savannah Jorgenson instructing second year medical students on the proper technique of a surgical hand scrub.





Tori Johnson teaches second-year medical students the proper technique of drying their hands upon entering the operating room after their surgical hand scrub.







Andy Moore instructing second year medical students on the proper technique of self-gowning and gloving, and remaining sterile during the surgical procedure.



Heaven Rogers teaching second year medical students the proper technique of self-gowning and gloving.





Sydney Chaplin tying the gown of a second year medical student as they learn how to be gowned and gloved by the surgical technologist in the operating room and how to remain sterile during the surgical procedure.



Surgical Technology students participating in the OSU COM Scrub Workshop

(Left to right) Madison Teafatiller, Shelby Gregory, Heaven Rogers, and Sydney Chaplin.



## Nursing Scholarship Program:

The Cherokee Nation Registered Nursing Scholarship Program is a beacon of opportunity, offering vital financial support to aspiring Cherokee students pursuing an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree. This initiative not only nurtures individual ambitions but also serves a greater purpose: to fortify our Cherokee Nation by cultivating a cadre of skilled nurses dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of our communities.

At the heart of our program lies a commitment to "growing our own" Cherokee nurses, underscored by our pledge to cover all their nursing education expenses. These scholars enter into a Contract Service Agreement upon graduation, pledging their expertise to Cherokee Nation Health Services. This dual commitment addresses the pressing nursing shortage and ensures the seamless staffing of critical inpatient and outpatient positions across our healthcare facilities, including those in the forthcoming new hospital.

In Spring 2024, our scholarship program welcomed a cohort of five exceptional Cherokee citizens selected from a pool of 12 applicants following rigorous interviews. These scholars hail from various corners of our nation, representing many hometowns. Among them are four bright minds embarking on their nursing journey at Connors College, commencing their studies on January 16th, and one determined student starting studies at Carl Albert State College on January 17th.

Let's meet our selected scholars:

- **Tanner Enger:** Tahlequah; Starting 1st semester at Connors Nursing Program; Expected Graduation: December 2025.
- **Nakiya Holcomb:** Vian; Starting 2nd semester at Carl Albert Nursing Program; Expected Graduation: May 2025.
- **Kynlea Qualls:** Park Hill; Starting 1st semester at Connors Nursing Program; Expected Graduation: December 2025.
- **Talara Rolland:** Tahlequah; Starting 1st semester at Connors Nursing Program; Expected Graduation: December 2025.
- **Alicia Tahlequah:** Stilwell; Starting 2nd semester at Connors Nursing Program; Expected Graduation: May 2025.

Through their dedication and determination, these scholars exemplify the spirit of service and excellence that defines our nursing scholarship program. Together, they represent a bright future for Cherokee healthcare, poised to make lasting contributions to the well-being of our nation.

## **JOBS/Tribal TANF Program**

The Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) program, also known as, Jobs, Opportunities, Benefits, and Services (JOBS) Program had three families successfully transition from the program recently. Those recipients transitioning from the program were eligible to receive a one-time program incentive of \$2,500 for successful program completion.

Transitioning clients included the following:

- C. Sawney transitioned from program due to retaining unsubsidized employment with Cherokee Nation Career Services.
- A. Flute transitioned from program due to unsubsidized employment with Legacy Childhood Education Centers LLC.
- S. Walker transitioned from program due to unsubsidized employment with Habitat for Humanity - Restore.
- K. Pritchett transitioned from program due to unsubsidized employment with Stilwell Physician's Clinic.

JOBS recently welcomed our new Program Director, Denise Honawa, to her new role, which began on January 14, 2024. Mrs. Honawa is originally from Tahlequah and graduated from Northeastern State University. She is a Cherokee tribal member and a member of the Hopi tribe in Arizona. Denise began her career working for the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation and then moved to Community Services. After 18 years with the Cherokee Nation, she worked for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Tribal TANF Program in various capacities, eventually being named the Director of Human Services. As the Director, Ms. Honawa and the Muscogee (Creek) TANF Program worked with Cherokee Nation Career Services to assist with implementing a Tribal TANF Program in 2019. Helping Native families grow to greater capacities has been her passion while working for tribal organizations, and she welcomes the opportunity to work with the Cherokee Nation's Tribal TANF Program.

JOBS administrative staff attended tribal consultation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance Administration for Children and Families via Zoom on January 22, 2024, regarding recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to State TANF regulations. This proposed change indicated no direct effect. However, various tribal agencies expressed that these proposed changes would immediately impact many programs due to the imposed changes and the Federal agency declaring a federal definition of needy to have a monetary cap on income guidelines for eligibility.

JOBS administrative staff attended a planning meeting with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance Administration for Children and Families on January 30, 2024, via Zoom regarding consultation for training assistance at the National TANF Summit. The meeting was held with the Program Manager for Regions VI and VIII with the Administration for Children and Families. Staff could express their thoughts, ideas, and technical assistance needs that they would like addressed nationally.



## Data Highlights:

- Services provided to 469 recipients: providing approximately \$53,561.00 in cash assistance benefits.
- JOBS/Tribal TANF issued approximately \$36,121.07 in assistance to 56 eligible adults. Providing the following:
  - 53 - Work Participation Incentives
  - Three – Transitional Incentives
  - Five - Supportive Services (Professional Clothing, Fuel Assistance, Jobs Skills Training Payments, Vehicle Repair, Etc.)
  - Three - Non-recurring Short-Term Benefits (Utilities, Emergency Household Expenses, Vehicle Loss Prevention, Etc.)
- JOBS/Tribal TANF issued an additional \$6,659.01 in assistance to 20 eligible youth. Providing the following:
  - 38 – Grade/Attendance Incentives – Fall 2023 Semester
  - 15 – Footwear Allowances
  - 12 – Grooming/Hygiene Allowances
  - Three – Extracurricular/Healthy Lifestyle Allowances
  - One – Tutoring Allowance

JOBS/Tribal TANF administrative team attended a two-day training with Eaglesun Systems in Tulsa, OK, from February 12-13, 2024. Eaglesun updated the administrative staff on database system protocols, payment practices, managerial functionality, and system development.

The TANF Quarterly data and financial reports for FY24 Q1 were completed and submitted to the USDHHS Office of Family Assistance Administration for Children and Families on February 15, 2024.

Administrative staff attended the Cherokee Nation “Grant Summit” held at the Chota Center in Tahlequah, OK, on February 20, 2024. Administrative staff received information on grant best practices, resources, processes, and the opportunity for one-to-one consultations with Grant Specialists.

Two of our counseling staff, Frankie Major and Erica Waeltz-Carter, attended the Muscogee Nation “Justice on the Reservation” Conference held at River Spirit Casino & Hotel in Tulsa, OK, February 26-27, 2024. The conference provided information to professionals from various fields, such as law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, child advocates, medical/mental health providers, and child abuse prevention partners. This training provided opportunities for improved collaboration amongst federal, state, and tribal partners.

All JOBS staff attended a virtual “Naloxone” training on February 27, 2024, with Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health staff Whitney Hooper and Coleman Cox, on how to identify a potential overdose and how to properly administer the medication. This was a great opportunity for staff to learn of the Prevention and Harm Reduction programs.

- Services provided to 457 recipients: providing approximately \$51,477.00 in cash assistance benefits.
- JOBS/Tribal TANF issued approximately \$22,061.99 in assistance to 57 eligible adults. Providing the following:
  - 45 - Work Participation Incentives
  - One– Transitional Incentives
  - One – Educational Incentives
  - Seven - Supportive Services (Professional Clothing, Fuel Assistance, Jobs Skills Training Payments, Vehicle Repair, Etc.)
  - Two - Non-recurring Short-Term Benefits (Utilities, Emergency Household Expenses, Vehicle Loss Prevention, Etc.)
- JOBS/Tribal TANF issued an additional \$3,623.94 in assistance to 43 eligible youth. Providing the following:
  - 17 – Grade/Attendance Incentives – Fall 2023 Semester
  - Nine – Footwear Allowances
  - 18 – Grooming/Hygiene Allowances
  - One – Clothing Allowance

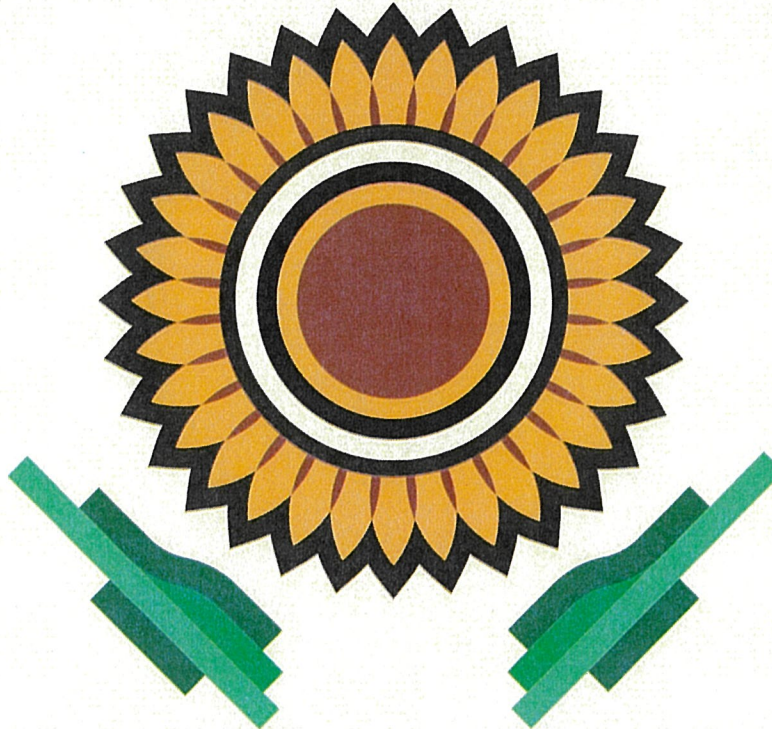
### **Upcoming Events/Project:**

Planning and development have continued for an upcoming Family Resource and Cultural Event at the Mid-America Expo Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Pryor, OK. Career Services TANF and Youth Programs will host this event, which is open to all TANF families and native families in our reservation area. The event's theme is "Cultivating Cherokee Traditions"; the event will provide various family resources, cultural activities, lunch, swag items, incentives, and giveaways that promote family strengthening.



# CULTIVATING CHEROKEE TRADITIONS

Participate in cultural activities for all ages such as traditional games, beadwork, cornhusk dolls and storytelling!



## Mid-America Expo Center - Pryor, OK Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. • Event hours: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Open to tribal TANF households and Native families.
- Limited to the first 200 families.
- Lunch will be provided to attendees.
- Meet Smokey Bear and Captain America!
- Swag items and giveaways while supplies last!
- Various family resource tables.
- On-site displays by Cherokee Nation Marshal Service and EMS.

**More info, contact Cherokee Nation Career Services at 918-453-5555.**

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## Employment Programs



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## Sasha Shaw Cherokee Nation

Sasha Shaw is a Cherokee citizen who resides on the Cherokee reservation in southeastern Oklahoma. She graduated from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Shaw worked at numerous jobs before landing in her current position. Shaw is currently employed as a clerk with the One Fire Program at Cherokee Nation. One Fire offers a variety of services including housing, legal and advocacy assistance to women who are victims of a crime. "I had a great life with my husband and two children until everything was affected by alcohol addiction and domestic violence," said Shaw. "There was so

much in the relationship that was abnormal but had become normal. The yelling and screaming, throwing things, protective orders, and trips to jail. I finally moved out with my kids." Shaw reached out to Cherokee Nation Career Services and they were able to put her on the 477 program and eventually place her at the One Fire Program where she is now a full-time employee. "This past year has truly been the best and worst time in my life," said Shaw. "I remember thinking that I don't know why the Lord is putting us through all of this, but I have to trust that there is a plan. I've always felt the call to serve and I feel blessed to have this opportunity." Shaw's day consists of answering phones and scheduling appointments, helping individuals who may be in a desperate domestic situation. "I'm so grateful to be able to help those who are stuck in the same type of domestic violence situation I was in," said Shaw. "If it wasn't for Career Services putting me on the 477 program, I wouldn't be where I am today. I have a full-time job with great benefits and I'm able to take good care of my kids. We are blessed."





Each year, the Cherokee Nation Office of Veteran Affairs receives thousands of homemade valentines through its Valentines for Veterans program. Veteran Affairs then distributes the valentines to veterans all across the reservation. Stilwell Career Services Office participated for the second year and provided 275 handmade Valentines to add to the total. WE APPRECIATE OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES!



Career Services Employment and Training staff were present on February 21<sup>st</sup> as Cherokee Nation leaders signed an agreement with the Cherokee Cultural Community organization in Washington County to bring a Career Services and Human Services satellite office to the community.



## **TERO**

### **Compliance Monitoring – Housing, speakers, roads, water projects, and EEOC**



#### **Housing**

During February, TERO received 48 Housing projects to conduct Indian preference and wage and hour interviews. There were another 12 sites for compliance monitoring through the Speakers Program and another 27 water and sanitation projects, which included drilling a new well and installing sewer, aerobic, or septic systems. They also continued Compliance Monitoring on two road projects and two waterline projects.

### **Durbin Feeling Language Center**

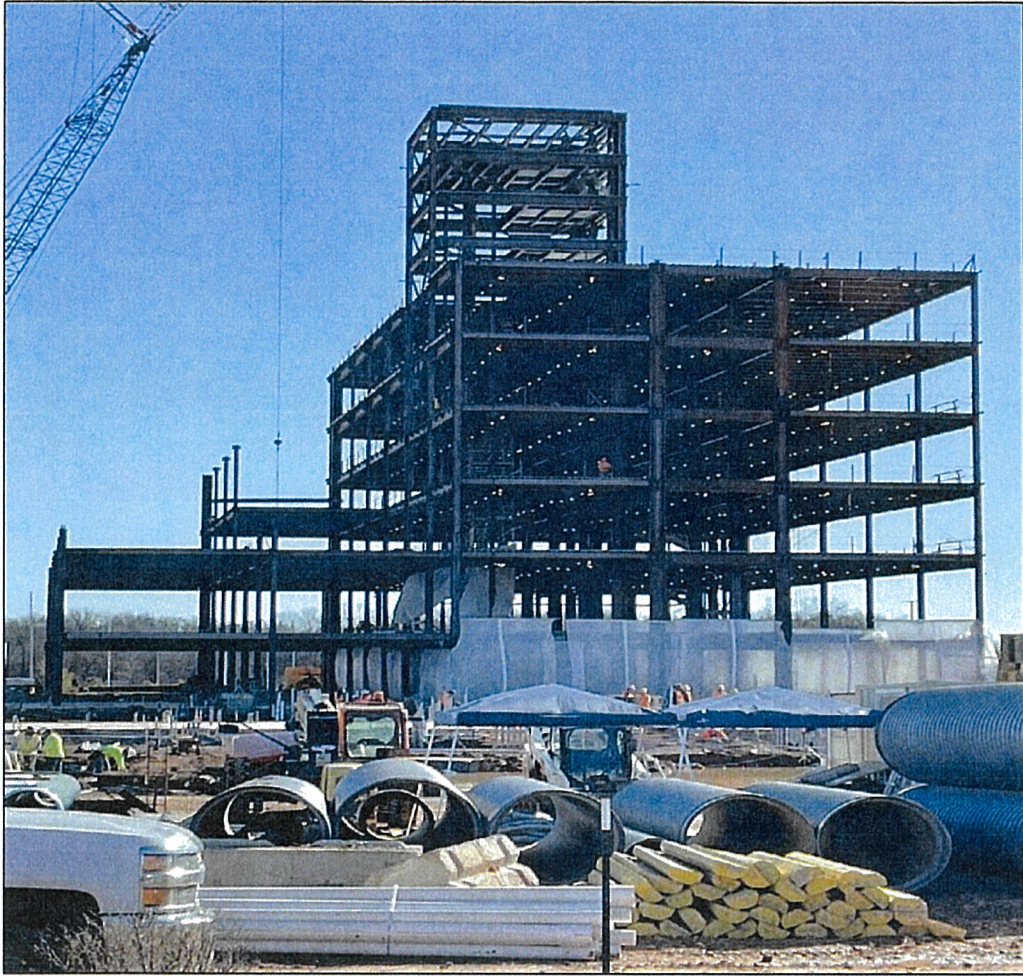
#### **EEOC**

TERO Staff received five inquiries from individuals regarding EEOC. While investigating the alleged complaints, it was found that none of the five met the criteria for further investigation through EEOC and were referred to other state agencies who could assist them with their complaint.

#### **Commercial**

Compliance Officers conducted over 150 monitoring visits for Native preference and TERO compliance across the 14 counties and attended 24 pre-construction, bid openings, and construction meetings.





**New**

## **Hospital**

### **Certification**

In February, the TERO received 23 applications for new vendor certification. We currently have a combined total of 933 certified vendors and artists.

TERO vendor Scott Graham Trucking out of Wagoner, OK, was awarded a contract to deliver books to the Crow Creek Tribe at the St. Joseph Indian School in South Dakota. Mr. Graham credits his TERO certification as a minority-owned business as the basis for the award. He has been a vendor for five years.





**Scott Graham Trucking & Excavation**



## **Gadugi Portal Call Center**

Fully Staffed with 20 Call Techs

Staff regularly take calls on:

- Account setup/recovery/update
- Registration application process/status
- Accepting payments through the JP Morgan Concourse

Currently taking calls on and the following applications:

Open

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Farm and Food Workers Relief Program | Closes May 2024                     |
| • COVID-19 Assistance                  | Closes June, 1, 2024                |
| • Scholarship Application              | March 1, 2024 – June 15, 2024       |
| • 2024 Summer EBT                      | February 27, 2024 – August 18, 2024 |
|  |                                     |
| • Wildlife Harvest Reporting           |                                     |
| • Water Survey                         |                                     |
| • Warrior Database                     |                                     |

Recently Closed

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Low Income Home Energy Assistance | Closed January 10, 2024            |
| • Scholarship Renewal Application   | Closed January 15, 2024            |
| • 2024 Cherokee Seed Bank           | Opened and Closed February 6, 2024 |

## Wildland Fire Program

### Fuels Management

- *Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) program*

For the Calendar Year 2024, we have completed three prescribed burns on 2,330 acres.

We plan to complete an additional six prescribed burns on 4,000 acres and have three special projects. The special projects consist of mechanical treatments, combined with controlled burning at the following locations: City of Tahlequah (Town Branch Creek), Cherokee Immersion School, Chief Hoskins' Homesite, and Cherokee Springs Golf Course.

- *Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) program*

The RTRL program plans to conduct a prescribed burn on 1,816 acres of the Sequoyah Hunting Preserve. We are also partnering with the Nature Conservancy to complete additional projects within the reservation.

### Wildfire Preparedness

- For calendar year 2024, we completed the following training courses:
  - One session of Basic Firefighting (S130, S190, L180, IS200).
  - S212: Wildland Fire Chainsaws
  - S211: Portable Pumps and Water Use
  - S219: Firing Operations
- We recruited and trained five additional firefighters to participate in the BIA Emergency Firefighter Program. These recruits have worked within the Cherokee Nation Reservation over the past two months.

### Wildfire Prevention

- *Education*

So far this year, the prevention program has participated in 11 community events and 2 community parades. They have distributed nearly 1,000 prevention material packets to Tribal citizens. We also completed 2 wildfire prevention presentations to schools throughout the Reservation.
- *Mitigation*

We have completed community wildfire risk assessments in seven communities and completed prevention patrols in several high-risk areas of the Reservation. Additional Hazard mitigation projects are currently underway in the Redbird Smith, Cherokee Heights, and Greasy communities. These projects help to create a space that is safe from potentially catastrophic wildfires for local homeowners and community members.

### Wildfire Suppression

- Our local staff and various detailers responded to 109 wildfires Since January 1, 2024. These fires burned roughly 1,800 acres. There were no major injuries to firefighters, no major damages to government equipment, or significant loss of structures to report. We have also received assistance from various Tribes and Federal agencies on these wildfires.



## **Tribal Economic Development**

### **On the Job Training (OJT) Program:**

- Eight Cherokee Citizens entered our OJT Program in the month of January.
- Nine Cherokee Citizens were termed off our OJT Program in the month of January.
- Seven successfully received successful completions.
- Two received new job placement in the field they were trained in.
  - Average Hourly Rate of **\$10.00**
- One received a new job placement in another field:
  - Average Hourly Rate of **\$17.00**

### **Direct Placement Program:**

- Two Cherokee Citizens entered our Direct Placement Program in the month of January.
- One Cherokee Citizen was termed off our Direct Placement in the month of January.
- One successfully received a successful completion.
- One received supportive services/miscellaneous objectives.
- One received a new job placement in the field they were trained in.
  - Average Hourly Rate of **\$17.75**

### **Updates on Economic Development and Workforce Development:**

Below please find a general summary of the month's activities in economic and workforce development.

In January 2024, Career Services remained actively engaged in fostering partnerships and exploring economic and workforce development opportunities across various communities. The month started with participation in the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes, where valuable insights into tribal initiatives were gained. Subsequent meetings with organizations like the Millison Group, OSUIT, and Stardust Power furthered job creation, training, and strategic planning discussions. Additionally, a visit to The Women Accessing Non-Traditional Trades, Inc. (WANTT) highlighted efforts to promote gender diversity in skilled trades. These engagements underscored the commitment to collaborative efforts to enhance employment opportunities and support sustainable economic growth within our region.

January 3-5, 2024 The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes – Tulsa, OK

Career Services staff attended the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes hosted by the Muscogee Nation at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa. This gathering provided valuable insights into economic and workforce development initiatives within tribal communities.



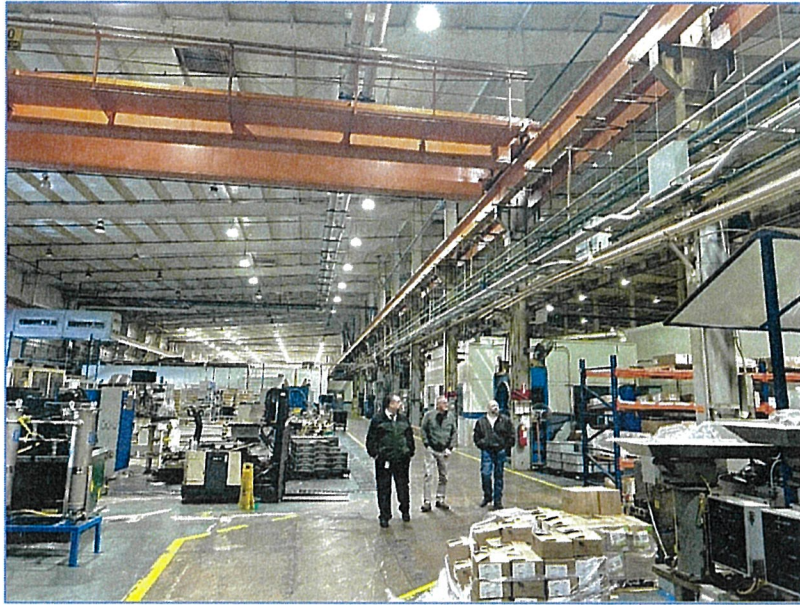
Career Services Staff enjoyed engaging at the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes event hosted by the Muscogee Nation, fostering community growth and development partnerships.

January 17, 2024, Meeting with Millison Group - Sallisaw, OK

The Career Services Staff met with and toured the building set to be acquired by the Millison Group in Sallisaw, OK. This visit facilitated discussions on the area's potential job opportunities and economic prospects.







Career Services Job Development Team explores the premises designated for acquisition by the Millison Group, envisioning future employment opportunities for the community.

January 15, 2024 - Workforce Development Meeting for Millison Group – Sallisaw, OK



Recently, representatives from Millison Technologies met with the employees and administrators from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Carl Albert State College, Indian Capital Technology Center, Sallisaw Public Schools, Cherokee Nation Career Services, Green Country: workforce, and the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

January 29, 2024 - Tour the WANTT Program – Tulsa, OK

Career Services staff visited The Women Accessing Non-Traditional Trades, Inc. (WANTT) in Tulsa to learn about their pre-apprenticeship training programs, empowering women to pursue careers in non-traditional trades such as construction.



Career Services staff explores the facilities of The Women Accessing Non-Traditional Trades, Inc. (WANTT), witnessing firsthand the transformative opportunities provided to women seeking careers in the construction industry.



The Millison meeting was held at the Carl Albert-Sallisaw campus. This meeting aimed to plan for Millison's acquisition of the SLPT plant in Sallisaw and how best to meet the company's workforce needs.

Recognizing the importance of aligning education and industry needs, the discussion centered on identifying strategies to enhance workforce development and provide targeted training programs that meet the evolving demands of the automotive industry. The goal is to help with the plant's transition and create a pipeline of workers that will establish a quality workforce well into the future.

January 26, 2024, Meeting with OSUIT – Tahlequah, OK

Career Services met with representatives from OSUIT in Tahlequah, where Charles Harrison, the Associate Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development, announced his retirement after seven years of dedicated service. This meeting emphasized the importance of continuous collaboration in advancing workforce development efforts.



After seven years of service to OSUIT, Charles Harrison is retiring as Associate Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development.

January 26, 2024      Meeting with Stardust Power – Muskogee, OK

Career Services Staff convened with Stardust Power representatives at Three Forks Harbor in Muskogee to discuss workforce development plans for the forthcoming refinery project. This strategic meeting aimed to align training programs with the needs of the growing industry.



A conceptual rendering of Stardust Power's planned refinery in Muskogee, symbolizing the collaborative efforts towards economic growth and job creation in the region.  
(Rendering courtesy of Stardust Power)

GREENWICH, Conn., and TULSA, Okla., January 11, 2024 – Stardust Power Inc. ("Stardust Power" or the "Company"), a development stage American manufacturer of battery-grade lithium products, announced today that it has selected Southside Industrial Park in Muskogee, Oklahoma to build a new battery-grade lithium refinery, and is expected to be eligible to receive up to \$257 million in state and federal economic incentives for the facility build-out. The Company may also be eligible for further federal grants and incentives offered by the Department of Energy and Defense.

Stardust Power selected Muskogee, Oklahoma, for its central refinery because of Oklahoma's central U.S. location, facilitating delivery of lithium inputs and shipment of battery-grade lithium products over multiple transportation routes to support the Company's refining operations. The area's superior intermodal freight transport options and a highly skilled workforce trained in oil and gas engineering were other vital factors. Additionally, Oklahoma is recognized as an emerging national leader in sustainable power, including solar and wind, supporting Stardust Power's commitment to limit its carbon footprint.





**Cherokee County  
Tahlequah Office**  
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
918-453-5555



**Washington County  
Dewey Office**  
700 E Durham RD  
Dewey, OK 74029  
918-506-7959

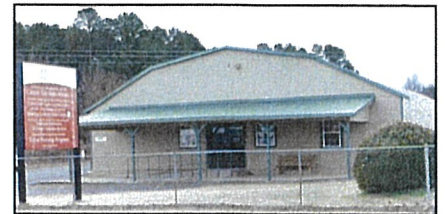
GWJ.9 DBP  
**CHEROKEE NATION®**  
Career Services  
Office Locations



**Cherokee County  
Learning Center**  
17822 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
918-458-0577



**Cherokee County  
Employment and Training**  
17138 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
918-453-5555



**Cherokee County  
TERO and TLJC Office**  
16389 S. Muskogee Ave.  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
918-453-5334



**Adair County  
Stilwell Office**  
406 A W. Locust St.  
Stilwell, OK 74960  
918-696-3124



**Sequoyah County  
Sallisaw Office**  
100 E. Choctaw Ave.  
Sallisaw, OK 74955  
918-776-0416



**Wagoner County  
Wagoner Office**  
109 N. Casaver  
Wagoner, OK 74467  
918-453-5555



**Delaware/Ottawa County  
Jay Office**  
1178 W. Cherokee  
Jay, OK 74346  
918-253-3243



**Mayes County  
Pryor Office**  
6789 Hwy. 69 S  
Pryor, OK 74361  
918-825-7988



**Rogers County  
Catoosa Office**  
701 W. Rollins Street  
Catoosa, OK 74015  
918-342-7450



**Washington/Craig/Nowata Co.  
Vinita Office**  
27469 S. 4410 Road  
Vinita, OK  
1-800-256-0671 ext.: 2501



**Tulsa County  
Tulsa Office**  
10837 E. Marshall St.  
Tulsa, OK 74116  
918-574-2749



**Muskogee/McIntosh County  
Muskogee Office**  
1305 S. Country Club Rd.  
Muskogee, OK 74403  
918-682-2077

# Commerce Services

*Securing and enhancing the financial well-being of Cherokee people, businesses and communities*

Anna Knight, Executive Director  
918-453-5532  
anna-knight@cherokee.org

## Community Economic Impact

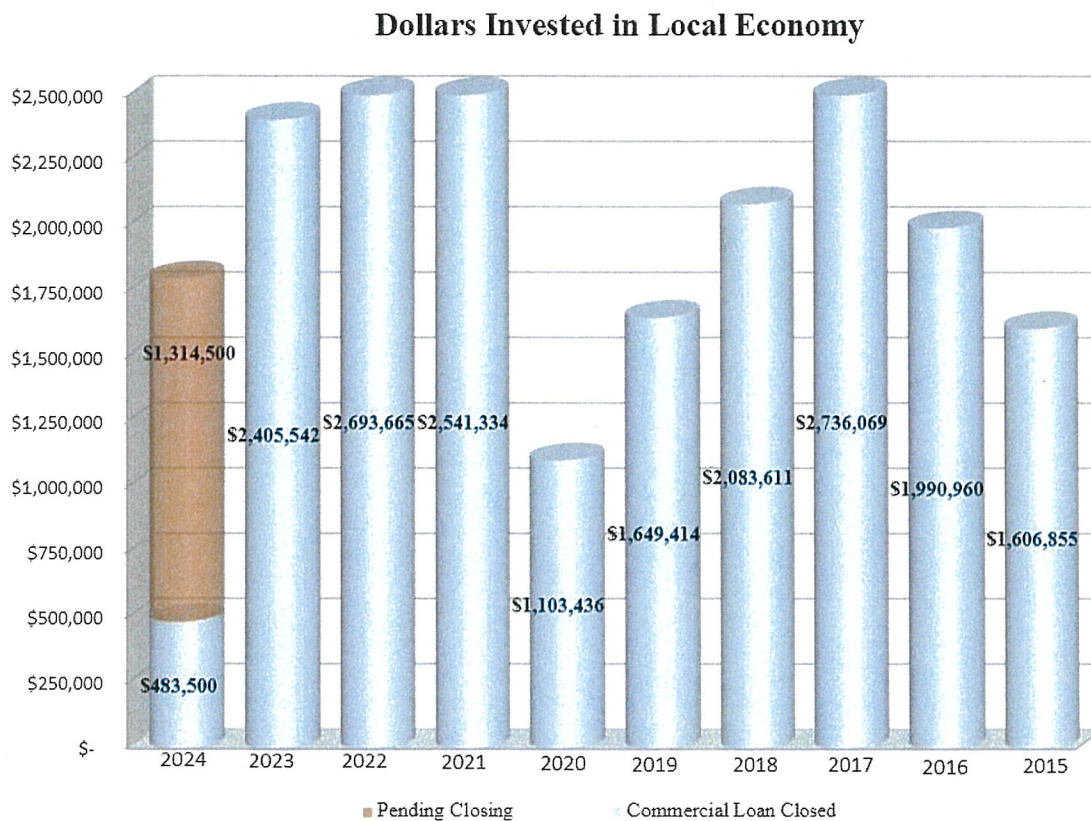
Small businesses employ nearly half of the American workforce; they create 2 out of 3 net new private sector jobs; they invest 68% of revenues to build and sustain communities. – SBA 2021



Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority has invested \$25,479,656 in 462 privately owned small businesses impacting 1,911 community based jobs since 2010



## Dollars Invested in the Local Economies Through Small Business Lending



### Small Business Loans Approved Pending Close February 2024

Community	County	Business Type	Startup or Expansion
Eufaula	McIntosh	Retail	Expansion
Webbers Falls	Muskogee	Retail	Expand
Park Hill	Cherokee	Retail	Startup
Tahlequah	Cherokee	Trucking	Expand
Muskogee	Muskogee	Retail	Expand
Wagoner	Wagoner	Service	Expand
Sallisaw	Sequoyah	Service	Startup
Stilwell	Adair	Agriculture	Startup
Tahlequah	Cherokee	Service	Expand

### Small Business Loans Closed February 2024

Community	Loan Purpose	Project Costs	Owner Equity	Jobs
Chouteau	Service	\$28,500	12%	1

### Consumer Loans Closed

**961 consumer loans totaling \$1,759,632** have been made through the Small Business Assistance Center in fiscal year 2024.



## Small Business Lending Impact 2010 through 2024 by County

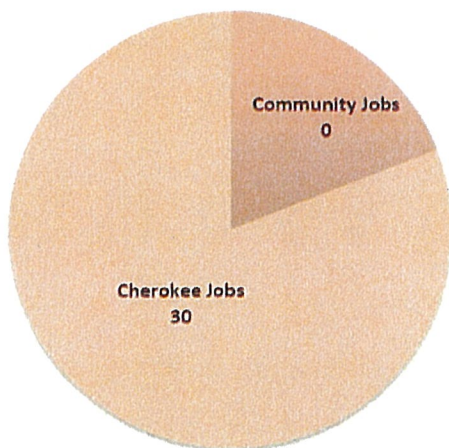
CNEDTA loan dollars leverage  
additional economic investments!

Since 2015, CNEDTA loans  
leveraged \$44 million in private  
community investments.

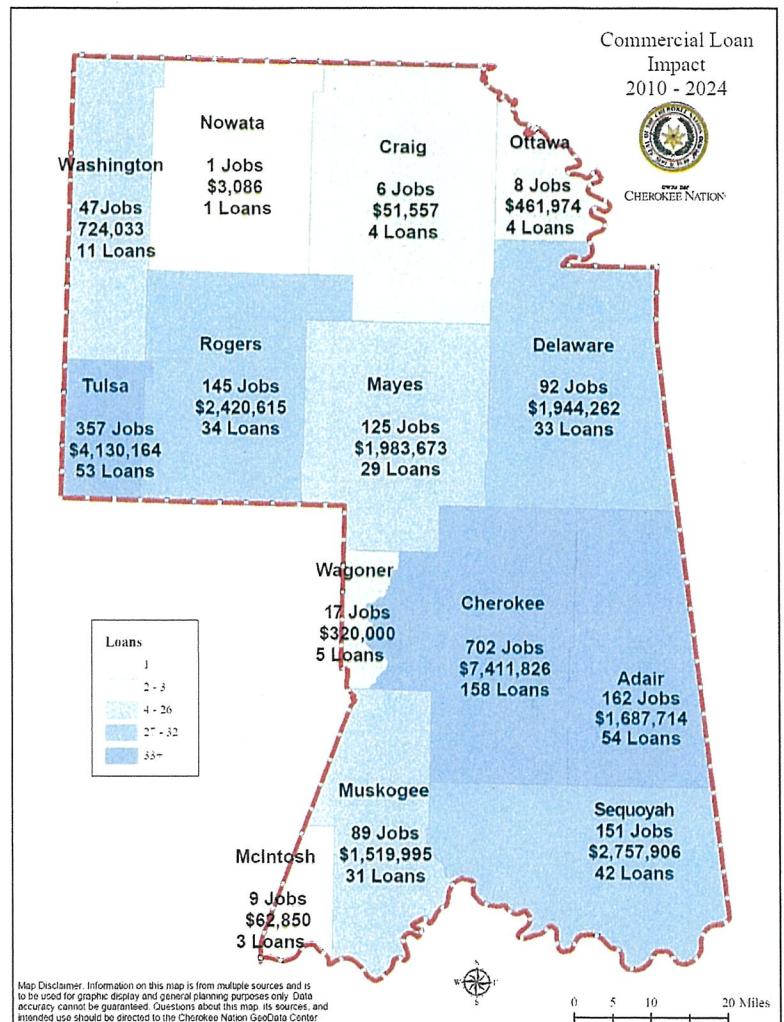
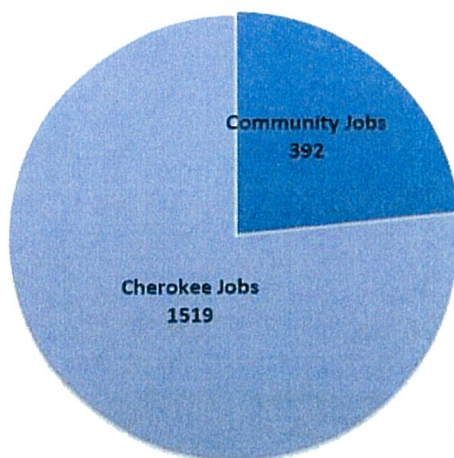
In 2024, CNEDTA loans  
leveraged an additional \$1 million  
in private community investments.

### Small Businesses Create Community Based Jobs

#### Jobs Created FY 2024



#### Jobs Created FY10-24



County	Economic Investment	Businesses	Jobs
Adair	\$1,687,714	54	162
Cherokee	\$7,411,826	158	702
Craig	\$51,557	4	6
Delaware	\$1,944,262	33	92
Mayes	\$1,983,673	29	125
McIntosh	\$62,850	3	9
Muskogee	\$1,519,995	31	89
Nowata	\$3,086	1	1
Ottawa	\$461,974	4	8
Rogers	\$2,420,615	34	145
Sequoyah	\$2,757,906	42	151
Tulsa	\$4,130,164	53	357
Wagoner	\$320,000	5	17
Washington	\$724,033	11	47
Totals	\$25,479,656	462	1,911



## Commerce Services Stanz Stickball Sticks



Stanz Stickball Sticks, owner Stanley Paden, is a beacon of tradition and craftsmanship, preserving the rich heritage of stickball on the Cherokee Nation Reservation and beyond. With a dedication to handmade excellence, **Stanz Stickball Sticks produces high-quality sticks and poles that honor the legacy of this cherished game.** Paden's commitment to preserving Cherokee culture led him to secure funding through the Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority, enabling him to invest in new equipment and expand his small business.

This support not only enhances efficiency and production but also ensures the continued availability of essential equipment for stickball

enthusiasts.

**Thanks to the guidance and technical assistance provided by the business lending staff at the Cherokee Nation Small Business Assistance Center, Stanz Stickball Sticks can carry on its mission of educating tribal citizens about the significance of stickball while providing top-notch equipment for players of all levels.** Paden's gratitude for the opportunity to continue crafting sticks and poles reflects his passion for the game and the community it serves. **Every stick and pole produced by Stanz Stickball Sticks embodies pride, quality, and the enduring spirit of Cherokee tradition.** As Stanz Stickball Sticks continues to thrive, it remains a testament to the power of **preserving cultural heritage through entrepreneurship and dedication.**



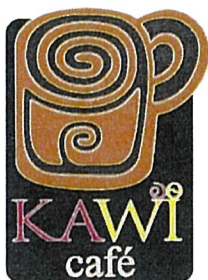


## Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority

A Cherokee Nation chartered nonprofit corporation.  
Certified as a Community Development Financial Institution

### Lending Assets

Available Commercial Capital	\$1,371,551
Available Consumer Capital	\$817,084
Approved Grants Pending Distribution	\$1,331,380
Approved Grants Pending Receipt	\$500,000
Total Available Capital	\$4,020,014
Outstanding Commercial Loans	\$10,667,220
Outstanding Consumer Loans	\$4,226,587
Total Outstanding Loans	\$14,893,807



- Total Graduates 115
- Total Re-entry/Recent Offenders 65
- Total Day Training 45
- Total Opening Small Business 5

\*All participants have been low income American Indians.

### Kawi Café a model experiential entrepreneurship-training program

Managed by Commerce business coaches, we collaborate with Career Re-entry Programs to provide hands on entrepreneurial training in the Kawi Cafe.

### Artists as Entrepreneurs and Community Tourism as Economic Development

*Increasing the business capacity of artists and tourism capacity of communities*



The Cherokee Arts Center kicked off a 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Class series on March 9 with a class on Cochon & Hominy soup. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month the Arts Center will offer a different cultural experience. April 13 will be a finger weaving demonstration make and take and May 11<sup>th</sup> will be screen printing with Crystal. Follow us on Facebook for more information and future upcoming classes.

Please reach out to [artcenter@cherokee.org](mailto:artcenter@cherokee.org) if you have any events or shows that we might be able to consider.



## Procurements Awarded to Certified Cherokee/Indian-Owned Small Business 91.27%\* of CIOB Eligible Procurement Opportunities were awarded to CIOBs

\*as of January 31, 2024



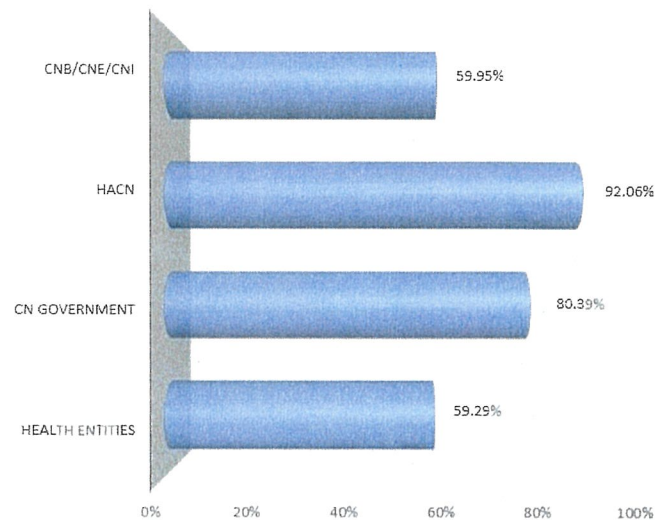
TERO Procurement Opportunities	
Entity	% Awarded
CN Government	96.64%
CNB	27.15%
CED	79.03%
CNE	76.98%
Health Entities**	100%

\*\*Health Entities are PACE/Elder Care and CN Home Health

## 71.28%\* of Employees are registered Cherokee Nation Citizens

\*as of January 31, 2024

Includes companies majority owned; does not include temporary or government contract employees



Grant Submitted	Purpose	Funding Year	Amount Requested	Status	Notes
USDA RDBG	Small Business	2023	\$500,000	Awarded	Revolving Loan Fund
SSBCI Technical Assistance Grant	Small Business	2024	\$1,000,000	Pending	TA for Entrepreneurs
CDFI	Lending Programs	2024	\$2,300,00	Pending	SBAC Lending Programs
BIA Incubator	Small Business	2024	\$300,000	Awarded	SBAC Small Business
USDA RDBG	Economic Development	2024	\$850,000	Pending	Building remodel for economic development
IRS VITA	Tax Preparation	2024	\$64,000	Awarded	VITA Tax Program 2024