

Committee: Education & Culture

Date: 3-6-15

Committee Date: 3-16-15

Author: D. Kelley – B. Fitzgerald

Sponsors: F. Hargis, T. Glory Jordan, D. Walkingstick, J. Byrd,  
J. Fishinghawk, C. Snell, H. Buzzard, V. Vazquez,  
J. Taylor, L. Keener, D. Lay, D. Garvin, J. D. Baker,  
D. Thornton, J. Fullbright

**RESOLUTION NO. 31-15**

**COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAREER SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT  
A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR  
FUNDING THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government in behalf of the Cherokee people;

**WHEREAS**, the Cherokee Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program is a much needed program to assist in ensuring self-sufficiency for tribal citizens; and the Cherokee Nation has operated a Vocational Rehabilitation Program since its inception October 1, 1992, with the Cherokee Nation VR Program being Oklahoma's longest running Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program;

**WHEREAS**, there are many individuals with disabilities in need of employment and training activities in order to enter jobs and become self-sufficient; and the U.S. Department of Education has funding available for vocational training programs for individuals with disabilities in order for them to acquire the skills necessary to return to work or to maintain their employment;

**WHEREAS**, Career Services has both the expertise and experience to continue operating a high quality, successful Vocational Rehabilitation program and desires to continue providing these services;

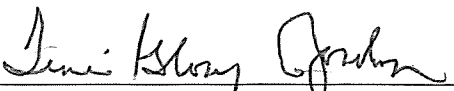
**WHEREAS**, acquisition of this funding requires a cash match of 10%.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION**, that Career Services develop and submit a grant application to the Department of Education for a Vocational Rehabilitation Program and that 10% cash match be made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Program each year of program funding; and

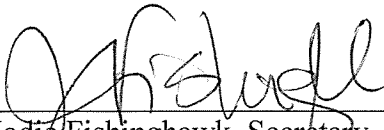
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION**, that the Principal Chief and/or his designee be authorized to sign documents necessary to submit said application on behalf of the Cherokee Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

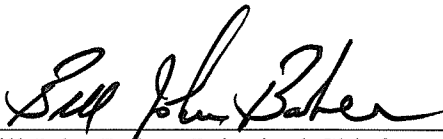
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015, having 16 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 16 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.

  
Tina Glory Jordan, Speaker  
Council of the Cherokee Nation

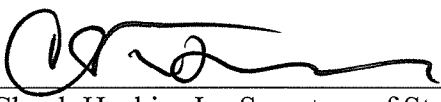
**ATTEST:**

  
Jodie Fishinghawk, Secretary  
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 23 day of March, 2015.

  
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

**ATTEST:**

  
Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Secretary of State  
Cherokee Nation

## **Program Description**

This grant request is to apply for a federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. The grant funds will be used to continue vocational rehabilitation program services through the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee Nation has operated a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program since its inception October 1, 1992, with the Cherokee Nation VR (CNVR) Program being Oklahoma's longest running Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program. \*The Grant Application has not been announced. See note below

The goal of the Cherokee Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program is to serve American Indians with disabilities that reside within the Cherokee Nation (CN) jurisdictional area, consistent with their individual strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice to prepare for and engage in gainful employment, including self-employment, telecommuting and business ownership. The CNVRP is the primary Program responsible for providing rehabilitation services for eligible consumers residing within the Cherokee Nation service area.

The Cherokee Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program received funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2015 to provide culturally relevant vocational rehabilitation services to American Indians with disabilities residing within the Cherokee Nation 14 county jurisdictional service area which covers 7,000 square miles. In this 5 year grant cycle, the CNVR provided VR services to 257 tribal consumers. In addition to the tribal consumers who were already receiving services 61 individuals with disabilities cases were closed as gainfully employed. During the next five-year funding cycle the Program will serve 145 consumers, in addition to the tribal consumers who are already receiving services, by placing them in a service provision status, and close 96 cases as successful employment outcomes.

### **NOTE:**

**Program Office:** Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

**CFDA Number:** 84.250K-01 <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html#chart7>

**Program Type:** Discretionary/Competitive Grants

**Also Known As:** Sec. 121 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program

**Grants Forecast:** To Be Determined; "I just wanted to inform you that the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for the fiscal year 2015 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation program is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register. If you have any questions please contact August Martin or me. Thank you

*Thomas E. Finch, Ph.D*

Director, Training and Service Programs Division

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Special Education and

Rehabilitative Services

550 12th Street, SW Room 5059

Washington, DC. 20202-2550

202-245-7343"

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
CLEARANCE**

Dept/Program:

Brenda Fitzgerald 3/3/15  
Signature/Initial Date

Executive Director:

[Signature] 03/03/15  
Signature/Initial Date

Treasurer: (Required:  
Grants/Contracts/Budgets)

4rc 3/6/15  
Signature/Initial Date

Government Resources:

Signature/Initial Date

Administration Approval:

[Signature]  
Signature/Initial Date

**LEGISLATIVE CLEARANCE:**

Legal & Legislative Coordinator:

[Signature] 3/6/15  
Signature/Initial Date

Standing Committee & Date:

Education & Culture 3/16/15

Chairperson:

Walkingstick  
Signature/Initial Date

Returned to Presenter:

Date

**Cherokee Nation  
Act/Resolution Proposal Form**

☐ Act

☒ Resolution

TITLE:

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Brenda Fitzgerald

RESOLUTION PRESENTER: S. Diane Kelley

COUNCIL SPONSOR: Frankie Hargis

**NARRATIVE:**

(See Attached Outline for Information Needed)

- I. Vocational Rehabilitation is applying for a new grant funding for a five-year period. The Vocational Rehabilitation program assists with the cost of training/re-training of Native Americans with disabilities in order for them to acquire the skills necessary to return to work or to maintain their employment.
- II. Funding amount: Approximately \$600,000 per year for five years.
  - a. There is a 10% cash match required.
  - b. The funding was approved by SBC.
- III. Career Services.
  - a. Staffing is already in place.
  - b. No outsourcing or outside contracting will be done.
  - c. Space and location will remain the same as current.
  - d. The Service Area is the 14 County Jurisdictional Area.
- IV. August Martin of the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration is our federal agency contact.

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