



COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION EXECUTIVE & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Reporting Month: January 2022

Dept: **Financial Resources**

Contact: **Janees Taylor, Treasurer**

janees-taylor@cherokee.org | ext. 5052



Accounts Payable checks disbursed

Current Month	3,609
Year to Date	14,505



Timecards processed

Current Month	13,405
Year to Date	57,989



Reqs. approved for processing

Current Month	1,281
Year to Date	6,901



Purchase orders issued

Current Month	1,170
Year to Date	6,242



Travel expense statements processed

Current Month	22
Year to Date	241



Files received for storage

Current Month	650
Year to Date	2,175



Number of internal billings

Current Month	17
Year to Date	72



Grant reports submitted

Current Month	66
Year to Date	231



Deposits

Current Month	580
Year to Date	2,516

Departmental Goals

- 1 Complete FY21 Audit
25% complete - Audit expected to be completed on March 31, 2022
- 2 Obtain Unmodified Audit Opinion
0% complete - Audit expected to be completed on March 31, 2022
- 3 No Material Weaknesses on Single Audit
0% complete - Single Audit expected to be completed on June 30, 2022
- 4 Reporting requirements completed & submitted for January 2022
94% completion -Required reports were submitted timely in January

Upcoming Events

- 1 FY2021 year end close processes continue

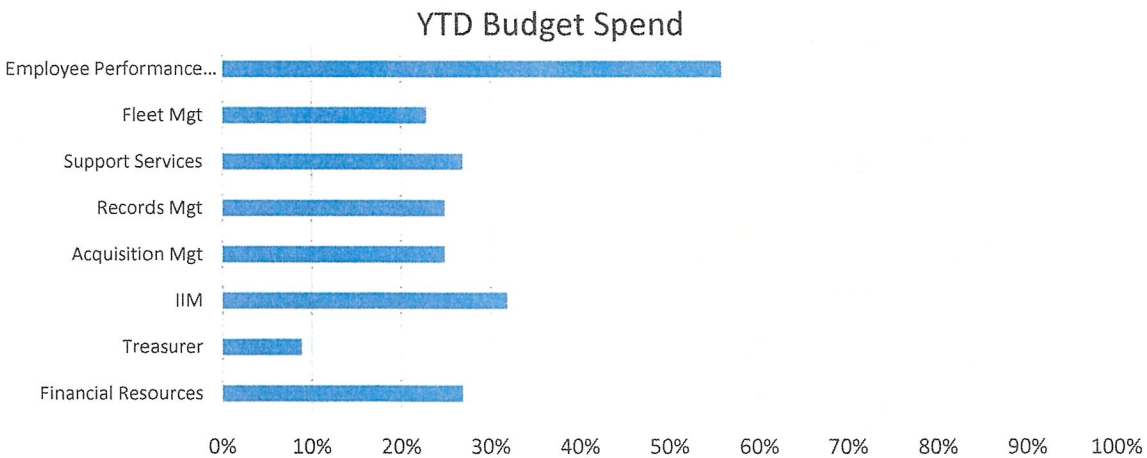
Compliance

- 1 No outstanding borrowings on \$5M Cash Reserve Advance

Cherokee Nation Acquisition Management Year-To-Date Bid Report Over \$5,000 Transactions October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 **% of sub-total - TERO vendor submitted Bid**

Award to TERO Vendor	\$ 35,626,114.39	99%
Award to non-TERO Vendor	\$ 491,231.52	1%
Sub-total bids with a TERO vendor participating	\$ 36,117,345.91	100%
<hr/>		
Bid - no bids submitted by TERO Vendors	\$ 16,826,017.31	

October 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022



**Executive & Finance Committee
Career Services
February 2022 Monthly Report
Diane Kelley, Executive Director**

Economic Development-Hunter Palmer

Business Partnerships

Twelve clients entered an On-the-Job training program in the month of February

Updates on Economic Development and Workforce Development

Communication Solutions, LLC is expected to open the Sallisaw Call Center March 7, 2022.

The Sallisaw location will be its eighth location. Work from Home positions available in as early as 30 days from start date depending on attendance and performance. Must have high speed internet and all equipment is provided. Flyer Attached

How to Apply:

Text/Call
918-872-0963

Apply Online
www.joinsllc.com

In-Person
1900 E Cherokee Suite M
Sallisaw, OK 74955

Employment Programs-Jeff Vance

One program participant attained employment, internally.

HOPE-Ashawna Miles

No new applicants on HOPE for the month of February.

34 Total HOPE Participants.

HOPE Success Story-Ashawna Miles

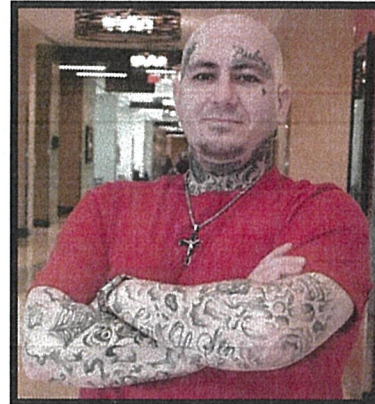
J. Gawf, Tahlequah, OK

“I dropped out of school in the 10th grade and was only eighteen when I got married, said Gawf.” “We got divorced seven years later and that’s when I started going downhill and using alcohol, methamphetamine, and opioids. That was eleven years of some pretty rough living.” Gawf was twenty-eight years old when he was convicted and sentenced to prison for manufacturing meth, and spent the next three years incarcerated. “Just sitting there in prison really opened my eyes, said Gawf.” “I was in a super-max prison on lockdown twenty-three hours a day, only got

to go outside for one hour, and had to stay in a locked cage. It was a rough place. I was in there for three years and when I got out I wanted to be different.”



Gawf went to Cherokee Nation Career Services and applied for the H.O.P.E. program. “They helped me get a temporary position in the housekeeping department at the Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center, said Gawf.” “I did that for about 14 months and the clinic offered me a full-time position. I have a great job with benefits and I’m in the process of buying a house. I owe everything to God for standing by me and lifting me up and Cherokee Nation Career Services for giving me the opportunity to create a new life formyself. It’s all been a blessing.”



JOBS/Tribal TANF-Jonathan Crittenden

- Services provided to 357 recipients for the month.
- JOBS/Tribal TANF issued approximately \$4,050.00 in work participation incentives to eligible parents.
- Two transitional clients, V. Rangel and A. Sam, successfully exited the program this month after gaining and maintaining employment for one full year. They were both eligible to receive the one-time monetary Transitional incentive of \$2,500 for successful program completion.
- Footwear Assistance notice was sent out February 28, 2022 to all eligible TANF families. A one-time \$100.00 direct service payment, through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds, will be issued to each eligible dependent in the assistance unit to purchase new shoes, socks, etc. These direct service payments are scheduled to begin the week of March 14th to each eligible TANF family.
- JOBS/Tribal TANF staff will be virtually attending the first module in a three part training series from the University of California-Davis for “Excellence in Tribal Case Management” March 14, 2022 to March 16, 2022. This professional development series has been designed to provide case specialists with the knowledge, skills and tools to best serve their native communities. Case specialists will participate in three consecutive days of training, once a month, over a period of three months, for a total of nine days of training.

JOBS/Tribal TANF Success Story *V. Rangel*

Rangel is a transitioning participant of the JOBS/Tribal TANF Program; she began on the program in December of 2020. She is non-native and the single mother of four Cherokee children. Ms. Rangel came to us after filing for bankruptcy and being underemployed at a local fast food restaurant. She lost her means of transportation due to the bankruptcy and was barely making ends meet to support her children.

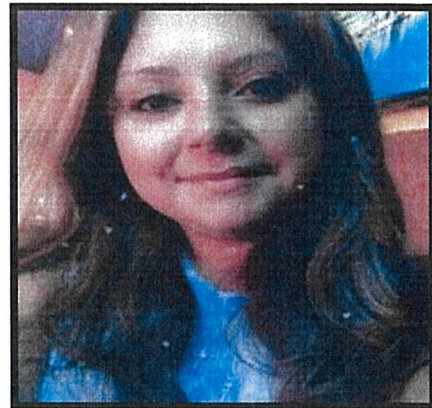
Through the program, Ms. Rangel was able to obtain additional financial support to help her and her children. She initially indicated that she would like to become a nurse but was lacking the necessary training and experience for the medical field. With the assistance of her Career Specialist, Ms. Rangel was able to explore various health career and training options. After determining that she was ineligible for financial aid, the JOBS/Tribal TANF program assisted Ms. Rangel with the cost of her tuition, books, and fees for the Phlebotomy Certification Program at the Indian Capital Technology Center in Tahlequah.

At first going to school was an easy transition as she had the wonderful support of her mother to watch her children. However that quickly became a challenge when her mother was diagnosed with cancer and did not show signs of getting better. Veronica was now faced with having to put her phlebotomy training on hold to seek additional employment opportunities to continue to provide for her children and now her mother. While still working part-time hours, Ms. Rangel was able to obtain two additional part-time jobs to assist. One of these new employment opportunities was with Elara Home Health as a Personal Care Aide, which allowed her to take care of her

mom and earn additional income while doing so.

While providing care for her mother and transporting her back and forth to doctor's appointments and hospital visits Veronica continued working hard at taking care of both households. Veronica was able to resume her phlebotomy training and successfully completed the course on February 16, 2022. In addition, Ms. Rangel's mother began to improve and she was also able to purchase a new vehicle.

This is merely a chapter into the self-sufficiency of Ms. Rangel and her family; she has overcome multiple barriers and challenges throughout her time on the program. As she completes her transition from the JOBS/Tribal TANF Program, Ms. Rangel has proven that she is determined and has the skills to continue providing a better life for her family.



Reentry Programs-Matt Lamont

The Reentry & Justice Involved Programs continued with a relatively large number of new participants for the month. Approximately 25+ new participants were enrolled in the various programs. Most of these participants were limited in resources and received a wide range of supportive services including clothing, housing, healthcare, substance abuse/mental health, life skills and employment & training assistance.

There has been some expansion of services offered at a partnering sober living facility that will allow our participants to engage in vocational training while completing the program. This is made possible by the ability of us to fund the Cherokee Citizens stay which will alleviate the need to worry about immediate job placement to pay for their program services. This is very exciting as it not only increases the ability to find stable employment upon program exit, but it also builds the self-esteem of our participants as they are able to work towards completion of reachable goals that many thought were unattainable.

We have also added a new Reentry Team staff member at the Adair County Stilwell office. Chelsey Sawney was recently moved over from the Employment and Training Program to the Reentry & Justice Involved Team. Chelsey has knowledge of all Career Services programs and will be a great addition to the staff.

Delaware County, Jay office Reentry/Justice Involved Counselor Madison Threet has this month's Reentry success story on J. Early. Earley is originally from Bartlesville but currently resides in Afton, OK. He was also one of Madison's first clients and she has done an outstanding job working with Mr. Earley as the story will attest to.

Reentry Success Story

J. Earley

Earley is a Cherokee citizen who was born and raised in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, until he was seventeen years old. "I decided to run away from home and take off for Florida," said Earley. "Shortly after arriving in Florida, I was arrested for first degree murder and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 25 years."

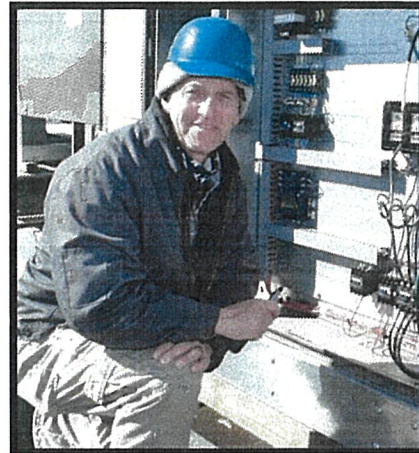
Florida restructured some of their laws regarding the sentencing of juveniles, which meant Earley had the opportunity to apply for early release. "On March 23, 2021, I was emergency released after 35 years in prison," said Earley. "I've always had great support from my family. My dad and cousin drove from Oklahoma to pick me up and two days later I was home."

Earley's father suggested he contact the Cherokee Nation Reentry Program soon after returning home. "After such a longtime being incarcerated, I knew I was going to need help navigating the system outside prison," said Earley. "I just needed a little guidance, a hand up, and the counselors with the Reentry Program pointed me to a school that would train me to be a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technician."

Earley graduated from Northeast Tech in Pryor, Oklahoma, but was still having a hard time finding employment because of the stigma that sometimes comes with having a felony conviction. "The counselors really worked hard to help me connect with potential employers," said Earley.

“Eventually, they found a company who was willing to interview me and I was hired as a Specialized Maintenance Technician working on their HVAC systems.” Earley has been employed full time since October, 2021, and feels he owes a great debt of gratitude to the Cherokee Nation, the Reentry program, and their counselors.

“The Cherokee Nation put me in school, then after I got my job they helped me buy all of my tools.” said Earley. “It’s not just help with school and the job placement, just having somebody to talk to really helps because it’s a different world out here after being incarcerated for 35 years. I left a 17-year-old kid and came back a 53-year-old man and things are different. The Cherokee Nation made the transition much easier. I couldn’t have done it without them.”



RESTORE-Ashawna Miles

RESTORE is a 2-year Department of Labor grant focused on assisting businesses and/or organizations affected by Covid-19. Participants are placed into humanitarian and clean up positions throughout the 14-county contiguous jurisdiction of the Cherokee Nation. RESTORE has assisted a total of 250 individuals with temporary job placements thus far. These positions include but not limited to Teacher Assistants, Custodians, Screeners, Food Delivery Specialists, Outreach Coordinators, etc. Individuals placed into these positions not only work towards getting back on their feet during this pandemic but they also help protect and rebuild our community. RESTORE has helped 81 individuals obtain full-time unsubsidized employment. During the month of February RESTORE had 6 new applicants bringing our total active participant list to forty-nine.

RESTORE Success Story

Organizational Highlight on S. Alison, Community Engagement Coordinator, Kendall Whittner Main Street Tulsa, OK

Benefits of the RESTORE Program

In the last month, we have been able to do the following:

- Alison began planning a new initiative called KW Community Day. Slated for April 9, the day will feature local volunteers doing projects for KW businesses or community spaces. It is a partnership with Tulsa Changemakers and TU Service Day, and will serve between 5-10 Kendall Whittier businesses.
- In an effort to better engage residents, Alison put together an impact report in English and Spanish and created an invite for an upcoming community mixer. The mixer is slated for March 27 and will include a short presentation by KWMS and an opportunity for residents to get involved KWMS.
- Alison has designed several documents to help showcase all the work that Kendall Whittier Main Street does for businesses and is putting together a KW Business Information Packet. This will help businesses obtain more services from KWMS.
- Increased awareness of businesses through social media and newsletter. Alison sends out a weekly e-news campaign that's grown more than 20 percent to nearly 1,000 people. This will result in increased spending and financial health of residents and business owners.
- Volunteered to participate in and help lead a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Book Club for all four Tulsa Main Street organizations. The book club began in June and Alison has been one of the most dedicated in the club!

-Kendall Whittier Main Street by Jessica Seay, Executive Director

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Communication Solutions, LLC Call Center

Sallisaw, Okla.



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Training pay:
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Cherokee Nation *Coming Home* Reentry Program

"Welcome back to the Cherokee Nation."



Coming Home Reentry Program

The Cherokee Nation offers the 'Coming Home' Reentry Program to Cherokee citizens who are Justice-Involved or have been recently released from incarceration and are returning to, or reside in, the 14-county reservation in northeastern Oklahoma.

The Coming Home Reentry Program operates within the Career Services department of the Cherokee Nation. Career Services provides employment and training programs leading to self-sustaining careers and jobs for participants. Reentry services and assistance are on a case-by-case basis and can include, but are not limited to, the following: counseling, health care, behavioral health, clothing, hygiene, housing, driver's license reinstatement, employment, vocational training, and other relevant services.

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918-316-0525
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The Reentry Program will contact you with a counselor closest to you.



G.W.S. & D.B.P.

CHEROKEE NATION®
Career Services

Contact Us Today • 918-453-5555
Cherokee Nation Reentry Program
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74464