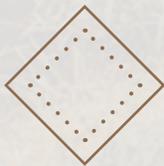


..... 2022

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA YEAR IN REVIEW

.....





VISION

LIVING OUT THE CHAHTA SPIRIT OF FAITH,
FAMILY AND CULTURE.

..... **MISSION**

TO THE CHOCTAW PROUD, OURS IS THE SOVEREIGN NATION
OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.





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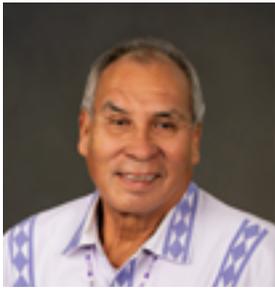


Gary Batton
Chief



Jack Austin, Jr.
Assistant Chief

TRIBAL COUNCIL



Thomas Williston
District 1



Tony Ward
District 2



Eddie Bohanan
District 3



Jess Henry
District 4



Ronald Perry
District 5



Jennifer Woods
District 6



Joey Tom
District 7



Perry Thompson
District 8



James Dry
District 9



Anthony Dillard
District 10



Robert Karr
District 11



James Frazier
District 12



HALITO

The Choctaw Nation values service to others, community partnerships and progress. By working with our neighbors and being mindful of the future impacts of our present decisions, we have set a path for success that will last for several generations.

This book aims to highlight examples of the major projects and initiatives of the Choctaw Nation over the past fiscal year. I think you'll find the facts and figures to be interesting and eye-opening, but I also hope you'll find inspiration in the stories we've presented. The people of the Choctaw Nation – tribal members, associates, leadership and anyone else who's Choctaw proud – are what we call okla achukma, or good people. I'm so pleased to share some of their stories with you.

THIS YEAR'S REPORT ADDRESSES THE CHOCTAW NATION'S STRATEGIC GOALS.

We have experienced some impressive successes this year, but we have also found opportunities for improvement and growth.

It is truly an honor to serve the Choctaw Proud. Every day I am amazed at their resilience, perseverance, talent and hard work. With spirit like that, success is inevitable.

Yakoke,

Chief Gary Batton
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



DEMOGRAPHICS

The Choctaw Nation is the third-largest Indian Nation in the United States with more than 215,000 tribal members and 12,000-plus associates. This ancient people has an oral tradition dating back over 13,000 years. The first tribe over the Trail of Tears, its historic reservation boundaries are in the southeast corner of Oklahoma, covering 10,923 square miles. The Choctaw Nation's vision, "Living out the Chahta Spirit of faith, family and culture," is evident as it continues to focus on providing opportunities for growth and prosperity. For more information about the Choctaw Nation, its culture, heritage and traditions, please go to www.choctawnation.com.



215,361 TOTAL TRIBAL MEMBERS

STRATEGIC GOAL:

SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY TO IMPROVE
QUALITY OF LIFE



CHAHTA ILEFEHNACHI LI

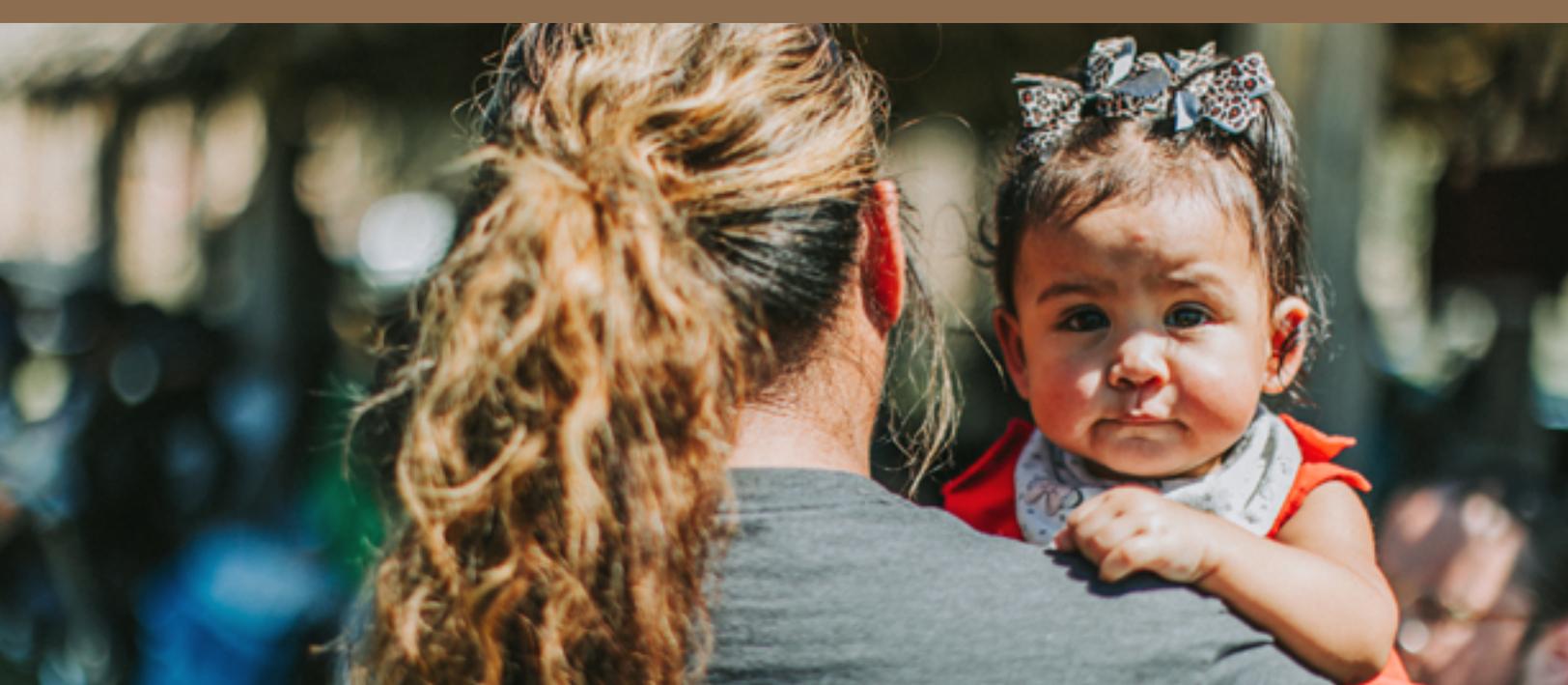
I AM CHOCTAW PROUD: HONOR SONG

In November, the Choctaw Nation hosted thousands of dancers, singers, drummers, artisans and spectators to the annual powwow in Durant, Oklahoma. To pay tribute to those who have been part of the foster care and adoption programs, the following honor song was read over drumming provided by Full Metal Jacket:

“It is a heartbreaking fact that in our Indian communities we have lost many family members over the years because they were taken, put in foster care, or adopted out to non-native families. We know that these children grow up to be adults that sometimes come looking for us. They return and attend cultural events like pow wows to see if they can connect with their lost family and culture.

If anyone like that is here today, we see you. We want to honor you and welcome you home. To anyone whose life has been touched by family loss, whether you were in foster care, or an adoptee, or a birth parent, or adoptive parent, or if you were never even adopted at all, we see you. You are part of our Chahta family, and you are part of our hearts, and you deserve to share in our beliefs of faith, family and culture. To each of you, we say WELCOME HOME. We honor and love you.

To our Chahta foster children, whether you aged out or if you were adopted, and to our birth parents, and adoptive families, please come into our circle as we honor you with this song. You are welcome here. We know that there are those who could not be here today, and to represent them, we have some of our tribal leaders, our Children and Family Services workers and tribal prosecutors who will come stand in the circle to represent the ones who are not here. To our extended Chahta family, chi hullo li. Welcome home.”



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

The Choctaw people know children are precious. They are the future of the Tribe. While every child deserves a loving, safe and stable home, sometimes it becomes necessary to remove a child from an unsafe environment and place them in foster care until they can be reconciled with their family. When a child must be removed from their home, it can be confusing and frightening. The Choctaw Foster Care program recruits foster care resource homes to provide Choctaw children with safe and nurturing homes that are culturally appropriate when they are removed from their homes.

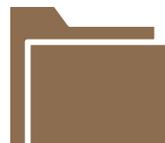
In addition to offering a positive environment for our children, our foster families ensure the children stay connected to the Choctaw culture through enrichment programs and cultural activities. If a child cannot return to their home, Children and Family Services looks for permanency through adoption into a home that will maintain the child's connection to their unique Choctaw heritage. The Adoption and Foster Care department is also responsible for ensuring that adoptions of Choctaw children are in compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) and provides resources to prospective Choctaw adoptive parents. The program licenses Choctaw resource homes throughout the state of Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas within a 60-mile radius of the Choctaw Nation reservation.

APPROXIMATELY 700 CHOCTAW CHILDREN ARE PLACED OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES IN THE U.S..



60

**CURRENT CHOCTAW
FOSTER CARE HOMES**



430

**CHOCTAW ICWA
CASES NATIONWIDE**



EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

The Choctaw Nation has invested heavily in education because a good foundation in school is key to being successful as an adult. Beginning in the earliest stages of life and continuing well into adulthood, our young tribal members are encouraged to connect with the Choctaw culture, be curious about the world around them and think critically and creatively about challenges. Choctaw Nation Child Care Centers are licensed through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and employ highly-qualified and certified teachers. This program supports children through each developmental stage by giving them the freedom to learn, create and play while learning practical and social skills.

Choctaw students in grades 2-12 can also earn rewards for good grades at school. The Success Through Academic Recognition (STAR) program awards gift cards for students who make B's or better on their report cards or earn perfect attendance. These incentives are available twice a year, at the end of each semester.



582

**CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHOCTAW
NATION CHILD CARE CENTERS**

8

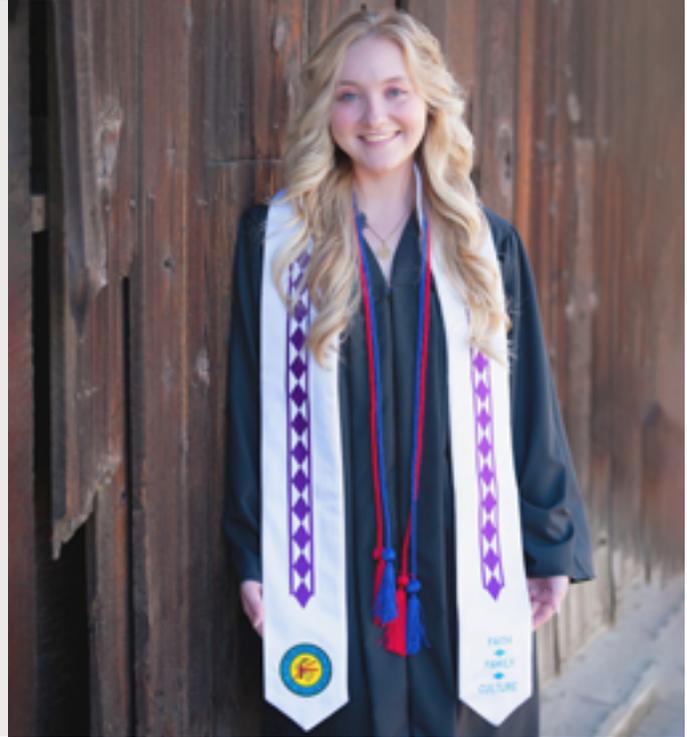
**CHOCTAW NATION
CHILD CARE CENTERS**

249

**TOTAL CHILD CARE
STAFF POSITIONS**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Career Counseling
- Individual Career Planning
- Career Interest Assessments
- College/Training Facility Admission Information
- Information on Other Choctaw Nation Career Programs
- Job and Salary Outlook
- Financial Counseling
- Tuition Assistance
- Education Services
- Career Readiness
- Understanding Credentialing



5,964 STUDENT AWARDS

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT
AWARDS TOTALING \$6,606,899**

HIGHER EDUCATION

152 STUDENTS SERVED

**COLLEGE FRESHMAN
YEAR INITIATIVE**

13,876 STUDENTS SERVED

**HIGHER EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

259 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

AWARDS TOTALING \$298,925

CHAHTA FOUNDATION



YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB)

Now more than ever, it is important to help today's youth prepare to be the leaders of the future. We need young people who can think creatively, develop and carry out strategic plans, collaborate with others toward a common goal and promote positive change in their communities. The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) empowers students in grades 8-12 to become leaders with a servant attitude toward others. **Through the John Maxwell Youth Leadership Values Program, young people who participate in YAB have performed community service in initiatives and awareness campaigns such as:**

- Environmental Projects
- Literacy and Child Mentoring Programs
- Municipal Beautification
- Food Security Initiatives
- Shelter Volunteering Programs
- Veteran and Soldier Appreciation Events
- Promotion of Personal Health and Fitness
- Tobacco and Underage Drinking Prevention
- Domestic Violence Awareness

YAB ALSO SPONSORS EVENTS, INCLUDING:

- Speech Contests
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- Quarterly Conferences
- Monthly Collaboration Meetings

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & ADVISORY BOARD

321
YAB PARTICIPANTS



2,400
SERVICE HOURS COMPLETED



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Food insecurity and hunger are growing problems among low-income families in the United States, especially among the elderly and those with disabilities. Those who experience food insecurity may live in food deserts, meaning they do not have convenient access to a market offering fresh, nutritious foods at affordable prices. The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) is just one of the ways we can help alleviate the burden of food insecurity for our people and members of other federally recognized tribes. This program is jointly funded by the USDA and the Choctaw Nation and provides healthy, nutritious foods to income-eligible households throughout the reservation, as well as bordering counties in Arkansas and Texas. This year, we have completed construction and expansions at several of our Food Distribution Markets. These expansions will not only mitigate some of the disruptions caused by supply chain issues but will also allow us to serve even more people.



5 DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

(ANTLERS, BROKEN BOW, DURANT, MCALESTER, POTEAU)

\$2,857,858

IN FOOD VALUE PROVIDED FOR FY22

34,415

PARTICIPANTS SERVED



HEALTHCARE: MEDICAL

One of the top priorities for the Choctaw Nation is to ensure the health of Native Americans within the reservation boundaries. The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA) serves the American Indian/Alaskan Native population through its hospital in Tali hina and eight outlying clinics. CNHSA’s philosophy is to provide quality medical care by prioritizing communication, teamwork and preservation of the dignity, cultural values and health of each patient. In August of 2022, several CNHSA associates received service awards at the 19th Annual Oklahoma City Area Director’s Indian Health Services awards.

AWARDS

- 9 Peer Recognition Tribal Awards
- Merit Tribal Award
- Exceptional Individual Performance Non-clinical Award
- Area Director’s Individual Area Impact Award
- Area Director’s Individual Excellence in Customer Service Tribal Award
- Area Director’s Group Excellence in Customer Service Tribal Award

.....

CNHSA also provides pharmaceutical care to eligible patients at all nine of the medical facilities in the reservation. Pharmacy services are available to any Native American or Alaskan Native in the United States who use CNHSA.



1,081,055

MEDICAL HEALTH ENCOUNTERS



1,558,522

PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED (ALL CNHSA PHARMACIES)



HEALTHCARE: BEHAVIORAL

Recent studies have shown that over half of adults who have a mental illness do not receive treatment. The Choctaw Nation's Integrated Behavioral Care program seeks to reach Native Americans living within the reservation boundaries who might be struggling with any number of behavioral health issues from a fear of needles or trouble swallowing pills to depression and anxiety.

Integrated health therapists are housed in the medical clinic, which offers the advantages of a more holistic approach to physical, emotional and mental health, as well as removing any stigma associated with seeking behavioral health treatment. These therapists collaborate with health providers to ensure patients are getting the treatment they need and help identify non-medical risk factors that may prevent patients from getting proper care.

CNHSA's behavioral health programs help adults, adolescents and children through the following services:

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Case Management Services
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Child/Partner Abuse Counseling
- Psychiatric Medication (Evaluation/Management)
- Crisis Intervention
- Suicide Prevention



27,650

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ENCOUNTERS



ELDER WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Our tribal elders are the keepers of Choctaw language, knowledge and culture, so it is crucial to keep them active, healthy and connected to the Choctaw community for as long as possible. One way our elders can get involved is through our Choctaw Community Centers. **These local gathering spots offer plenty of activities, including:**

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Group Trips
- Games
- Lessons and Cultural Workshops
- Free Weekly Meals

Another way elders can stay active is by joining their local chair volleyball team. In July, over 230 people participated in the chair volleyball regional qualifier. The final four teams competed for the championship at the annual Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma. District 4 ultimately took home the win.

Ensuring our elders have access to nutritious foods helps them stay healthy. Our Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition program provides low-income seniors with vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers.





HOUSING PROGRESS

The Choctaw Nation Housing Department offers a wide variety of programs and services to ensure tribal members have safe, affordable homes. Whether that means providing emergency repairs and rehabilitation services, helping our people get into an affordable rental unit or building more Lease-to-Purchase (LEAP) homes, there are options available for just about any situation.

Oklahoma and its surrounding states make up one of the most volatile regions in the U.S. for extreme weather. The Housing Department helps tribal members in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas build storm shelters to keep their families safe during dangerous conditions.

- Independent Elder Sites
- Affordable Rental Housing Properties
- Home Finance
- Choctaw Home Buyer Advantage Program
- Choctaw Homeowners Support Services
- Choctaw Nation Storm Shelter Program
- LEAP Homes
- Choctaw Homeowners Rehabilitation Services
- Rental Assistance



60
LEAP HOMES COMPLETED



231
INDEPENDENT ELDER UNITS



376
AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS



119
HOME LOANS COMPLETED



349
STORM SHELTERS INSTALLED



2,120
HOME REPAIRS COMPLETED

STRATEGIC GOAL:

PROTECT AND PROMOTE CHOCTAW CULTURE
AND EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY



CHAHTA ILEFEHNACHI LI

I AM CHOCTAW PROUD: JUDGE AMY PIERCE

In January, 2022, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma appointed Amy J. Pierce as the first full-time district court judge for the tribal nation's judicial branch. Choctaw Nation Chief Justice David Burrage performed her swearing in at the Choctaw Nation Judicial Center. Judge Pierce's experience in Native American law has been an asset to the Choctaw Nation as the judicial branch continues to increase its case load in the current post-McGirt world.

An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation, Judge Pierce was most recently a partner at Hampton Barghols Pierce, PLLC in Oklahoma City. She also held positions at two other law firms in Oklahoma City. Judge Pierce, originally from Boswell, Oklahoma, earned her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University after receiving her Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University. She also completed the Harvard Negotiation Institute program through Harvard Law School. **Judge Pierce has been voted a "Top 25 Women in Law" in the State of Oklahoma by Super Lawyers among other honors.**



THE JUDICIAL BRANCH / PUBLIC SAFETY

It has been over two years since the Supreme Court ruled on the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* case, and the Choctaw Nation has invested more than \$24 million dollars in strengthening our Department of Public Safety and building a more robust judicial system to meet the demands of post-McGirt tribal sovereignty.

From the beginning, the goal of the Choctaw Nation's Department of Public Safety has been to protect everyone who lives within the reservation's boundaries, Native or non-Native. To that end, CNO has continued to forge cross-deputization partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, as well as offer training sessions on tribal jurisdiction and tribal law enforcement. In 2022, the Tribal Prosecutor's Office hired four new prosecutors, bringing the total to 11. Tribal prosecutors represent the Choctaw Nation in all criminal, juvenile delinquent and juvenile deprived matters.

The Public Defender's Office was established this year, allowing tribal members access to quality defense attorneys through the tribal justice system. In addition, the Public Defender's Office has grown to include five attorneys.



663

PUBLIC SAFETY POSITIONS



76

CROSS-DEPUTIZATION AGREEMENTS



CHOCTAW CULTURAL CENTER

CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On July 23, the Choctaw Cultural Center celebrated its first anniversary with a bang. The state-of-the-art facility opened in July of 2021 with the mission of sharing the Choctaw story with the world. Since then, visitors from all over have come to learn about Choctaw history and culture. Since its opening, the Cultural Center has welcomed visitors to the Chahta Nowvt Aya, or the Choctaw Journey. Through interactive landscapes, demonstrations, art, cultural classes, food and much more, guests are fully immersed in the warmth and hospitality of the Choctaw people from start to finish.

Festivities began with opening remarks and the unveiling of Chiefs, Clans & Kin, a new temporary exhibit. Throughout the day, there were special demonstrations, including chocolate making and an art market. In the Luksi Activity Center, guests enjoyed birthday themed coloring pages and activities for the young (and young at heart). After sampling some traditional Choctaw foods, visitors could head outside to the Living Village for kite flying, social dancing and stickball or stay indoors for an engaging cultural film in the Kowi Chito theater.





CULTURAL CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



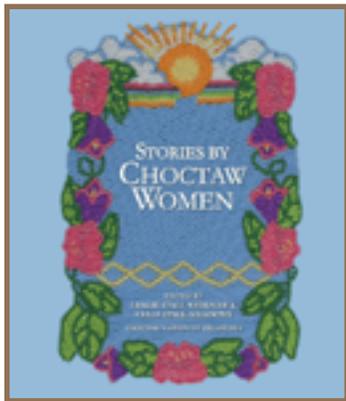
LIL MIKE AND FUNNY BONE

June 11, the Choctaw Cultural Center hosted Lil Mike and Funny Bone, or Mike Bone, as its first live performance act. The Native American musicians-turned-actors have become a household name, thanks to their roles as Mose and Mekko on the runaway hit show Reservation Dogs. Mike Bone staged a full concert as well as a meet and greet with guests afterward.



SAMANTHA CRAIN

On September 24, two-time NAMMY award winner and Choctaw tribal member Samantha Crain performed in the Kowi Chito theater. Crain's contributions to the indie-folk genre have been critically acclaimed by media outlets such as Rolling Stone, SPIN, Paste, No Depression, NPR, PRI, The Guardian, NME, Uncut, the New York Times and more. In addition, her songs have been featured on Reservation Dogs and in many independent documentaries and films.



STORIES BY CHOCTAW WOMEN

Also in September, the Cultural Center ventured into the world of publishing with its first book, Stories by Choctaw Women. Edited by Leslie Stall Widener and her sister Celia Stall-Widener, the 200-page paperback features 10 contemporary Choctaw women writers whose stories span multiple genres. In addition, registered Choctaw artist Debbie Damron provided the beadwork for the cover image. From cover to cover, each contribution connects to Choctaw culture, past and present, in a unique and personal way. The book is available at the Choctaw Cultural Center's Hvshi Gift Store, the Choctaw Store in the Choctaw Nation's Headquarters and in Choctaw Travel Plazas throughout the reservation.



LABOR DAY RETURNS

The Choctaw people have been gathering at Tvshka Homma for decades during the Labor Day weekend to celebrate family, fun and fellowship. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the festival in 2020 and 2021, but this year the much-anticipated annual Labor Day Festival came roaring back! This year's festival highlighted Choctaw traditions and culture with an art competition, social dancing, gospel singing and demonstrations at the Choctaw Village.

The first major event of the Labor Day Festival is the Choctaw Princess Pageant. This year, 30 young ladies took the stage to compete for the title of Little Miss, Junior Miss or Miss Choctaw Nation. Contestants were judged on talent, poise and traditional dress, and the winners serve as ambassadors for the Choctaw Nation for the upcoming year.



THE 2022-2023 WINNERS ARE:

- **Little Miss Choctaw Nation**
Dorothy Rogers
- **Junior Miss Choctaw Nation**
Candis Battice-Louis
- **Miss Choctaw Nation**
Haleigh Gibson





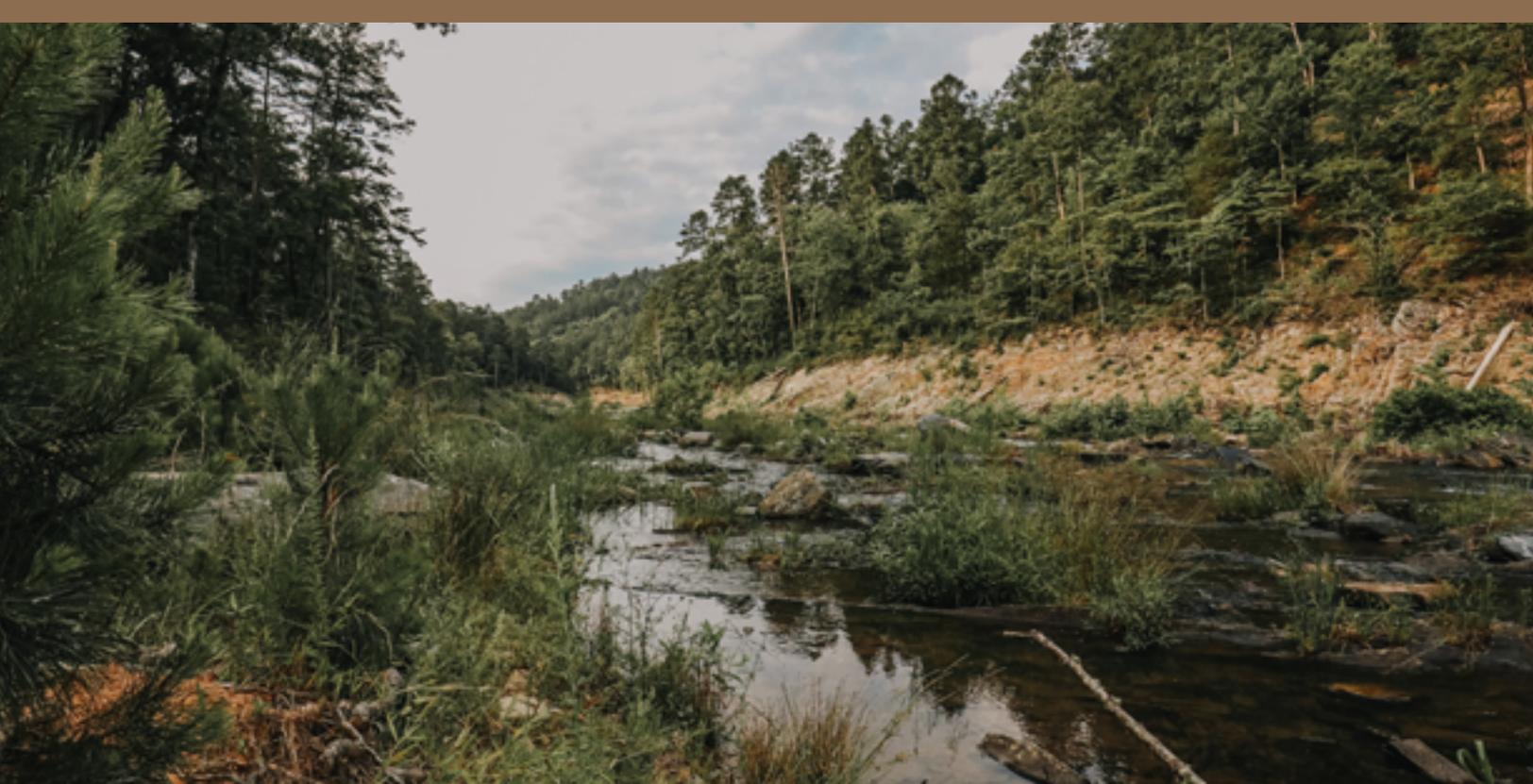
On Saturday evening, festival goers flocked to the amphitheater to hear live music from Choctaw artists Jeremy Rowe, Braiden Williams and the Jerry Tims Band. This year's headliner was Clint Black. While celebrating Choctaw culture is always the primary goal of Labor Day festivities, guests also enjoyed a huge selection of fair food, shopping, games and carnival rides.



STICKBALL

The Labor Day Festival was extra special for the Tvshka Homma Ohoyo, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's women's stickball team. The tough-as-nails team battled hard throughout the tournament, finally rising to first place on Sunday with a 6-3 win over Toli lhoo (Chickasaw). This is the first championship win for the team.

The men's team also made it to the finals in the stickball tournament, but took home second place, falling to Bok Chito (Mississippi Choctaw).



CONSERVATION

Taking care of the land, air and water we rely on is a large part of Choctaw traditional lifeways. Our ancestors knew how to balance what they took from the land with what they gave back because they wanted to ensure that natural resources would be available to their families for generations to come. The Tribal Conservation District works alongside the USDA to provide for protection, conservation and restoration of tribal trust, fee, restricted and individually owned tribal lands. This partnership gives the Choctaw Nation a voice in determining what our conservation needs are and how those needs should be addressed.

The Office of Wildlife Conservation works to maintain the same balance our ancestors knew through monitoring wildlife populations and upholding our tribal hunting and fishing codes. Even though the hunting and fishing compact the Choctaw Nation held with the State of Oklahoma was not renewed in 2021, tribal members who adhere to the Choctaw Nation's codes can still hunt and fish within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation reservation using their tribal membership card as their license.





CHOCTAW COUNTRY

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS MAKING
LIFE-LONG MEMORIES WITH THE ONES YOU LOVE.**

Choctaw Country has an almost limitless number of unique opportunities to hurry up and slow down. From the exciting world of gaming to exploring the great outdoors, there's something for everyone here. Each year, the Choctaw Nation publishes the Pathfinder Travel Guide, which details hundreds of hot spots throughout the reservation.

Download the Visit Choctaw Country app in the Apple App Store or on Google Play to plan your next adventure.



STRATEGIC GOAL:

BECOME THE EMPLOYER OF CHOICE



CHAHTA ILEFEHNACHI LI

*I AM CHOCTAW PROUD:
SHELIA KIRVEN*

Shelia Kirven began working for the Choctaw Nation when she was 15 years old as part of the Summer Youth Program. After two summers, she had graduated from high school and was offered a part-time position in the LIHEAP program. That was November 30, 1981, and she has been with CNO ever since. Over the past 41 years, Shelia has had the opportunity to work for several departments, including Food Distribution, Indian Child Welfare, Social Services, Human Resources and Communications. She currently serves as a Content Specialist on the Content Development team, where she helps craft messages for the Choctaw government and writes for the Biskinik.

The Choctaw Nation has changed so much since the early 1980s when Shelia was just beginning. She has seen the Tribe move from typewriter to computers, as well as the advent of the internet and email. Perhaps the biggest changes, however, are watching the Tribe grow from 10,000 members and about 100 employees to over 200,000 members and 12,000 employees.

Keeping her family, past and present, in mind every day helps focus her work efforts. "I want to make life better for our members, keeping my ancestors in the forefront in my mind, along with my children and grandchildren, and I know by doing my best, I can make life better for them as well as every tribal member."

When asked what her favorite things are about working for CNO, Shelia mentioned the wonderful benefits, educational opportunities and customer service. Her favorite thing of all, though, is the way CNO takes care of its members and elders. Shelia said, **"It's honestly true what they say about us being one big family. We care for each other and help one another as much as we can... It's very rare. I have never wanted to be anywhere else."**



CNO RECOGNIZED FOR WORKPLACE QUALITY

This year, both Forbes magazine and HRDUS, a highly respected online journal for Human Resources Directors in the United States, recognized the Choctaw Nation as an exceptional place to work.

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA WAS SELECTED AS A WINNER IN BOTH HRDUS' AND FORBES' 2022 "EMPLOYER OF CHOICE" COMPETITIONS:

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma received recognition as one of six Best Places to Work in the United States as selected by HRDUS
- Choctaw Casinos & Resorts received recognition from Forbes as a Best Employer for Diversity in the Travel & Leisure category.
- Forbes also recognized the Choctaw Casino and Resorts as one of America's Best Employers for New Graduates.

A criterion for these awards was based in part on anonymous surveys of CNO associates and former associates. Other elements evaluated include key factors like employee engagement, turnover rates, average tenure of staff, compensation and benefits, health and wellness programs, diversity initiatives, professional development, corporate culture, flexible work options, reward and recognition and green programs.



12,093

TOTAL HEADCOUNT



ONE NATION, MANY PATHS

A career with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma can take many directions. We have a diverse portfolio of innovative businesses, including gaming operations, restaurants, ranches, travel plazas and more, that create jobs and develop leaders. We continue to expand our high profile, world-class hospitality and entertainment destinations. And our Tribal Services programs assist members through healthcare, education, housing, senior care and other social services.

Working for the Choctaw Nation means being part of a family. We constantly seek out opportunities to make life better for our associates and their families through a wide range of benefits.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE BENEFITS OFFERED TO ASSOCIATES:

- Free Employee Health Clinics for associates and their families
- Access to twelve Choctaw Nation Wellness Centers
- Employee Assistance Program
- Employee Education Assistance Program
- 401K with 5% match
- Life Insurance



**THIS YEAR, WE ADDED PET
INSURANCE AND EVEN MORE
WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

VISIT [CAREERS.CHOCTAWNATION.COM](https://careers.choctawnation.com) TO LEARN MORE.

STRONG CULTURE. STRONG CAREERS.



INTERNSHIPS

The modern workforce is diverse and dynamic, always presenting new challenges and opportunities. One way we help students prepare to enter the workforce is through our Choctaw Nation Internship program. Not only do they earn college credit during their time with us, but they also gain the knowledge and skills they need to land a successful career in their fields.

This year, 43 Choctaw students representing 20 different educational institutions participated in the program. The majority of interns in this class worked in the IT, Cultural Services, Legal and Finance departments. Unlike many internships, the Choctaw Nation's program offers temporary paid positions. Some interns are even hired on full-time at the Nation when they finish school.



81

INTERNSHIPS

STRATEGIC GOAL:

ACHIEVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



I AM CHOCTAW PROUD: CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS 1918

OurWorlds Inc., A San Diego-based tech start-up and XR experience, entered their film, “Choctaw Code Talkers 1918” into the 2022 South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival in the Extended Reality category. The film tells the pivotal story of the original Code Talkers, a group of 19 Choctaw soldiers from Oklahoma who fought bravely on the fields of France during WWI and used their Native language cryptographically to help turn the tides of war—even as their language was forbidden to be spoken at home. When it came to choosing the topic, Kilma Lattin (Pala Tribe), founder of OurWorlds, wanted to share a piece of Indigenous history that isn’t well known. The OurWorlds team worked closely with the Choctaw Nation to ensure that the film authentically and factually told the stories of the Code Talkers. The Choctaw Nation School of Language, the Choctaw Nation’s historic project officer Judy Allen and Choctaw Author Sara Elizabeth Sawyer were all involved in the project.

On March 10, OurWorlds was announced as the winner of Launch, the fast-paced live pitch event at SXSW EDU presented by Schmidt Futures and the Walton Family Foundation. According to Lattin, with this win, OurWorlds became the first-ever Native American-owned technology company to win an international technology conference. DG Smalling, Choctaw artist, Choctaw Code Talkers Association board member and great-grandson of Code Talker Calvin Wilson, attended the festival on behalf of the Choctaw Nation. According to Smalling, the Choctaw Code Talkers Association hopes to work with the OurWorlds team in the future to share this story with Choctaw tribal members and visitors. For more information the film, see the April 2022 issue of the Biskinik online.



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

In April, the Choctaw Nation hosted its third Emerging Aviation Technology Conference. The conference offered opportunities for stakeholders to network and provide input on emerging aviation technology initiatives, including drone operations. The Choctaw Nation is working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to create appropriate regulations to support the unmanned aerial infrastructure necessary to ensure safe operations.

Our innovative Emerging Aviation Technology Center spans more than 44,500 acres and is ideal for safely testing and developing emerging aviation operations. **As part of the Center, CNO has included important safety infrastructure, including:**

- **Ground-Based Radar Systems**
- **Advanced Command and Control (C2) Communication Networks**
- **Facilities to Support Development and Testing**

On August 3, Chief Gary Batton and CNO Executive Director of Advanced Technology Initiatives James Grimsley participated in the White House Summit on Advanced Air Mobility. Chief Batton delivered a keynote presentation titled “Emerging Aviation Technology in Local Communities,” which was followed by the panel discussion “Exploring the Benefits of UAS/AAM to the Public” including Grimsley.





B R O A D B A N D

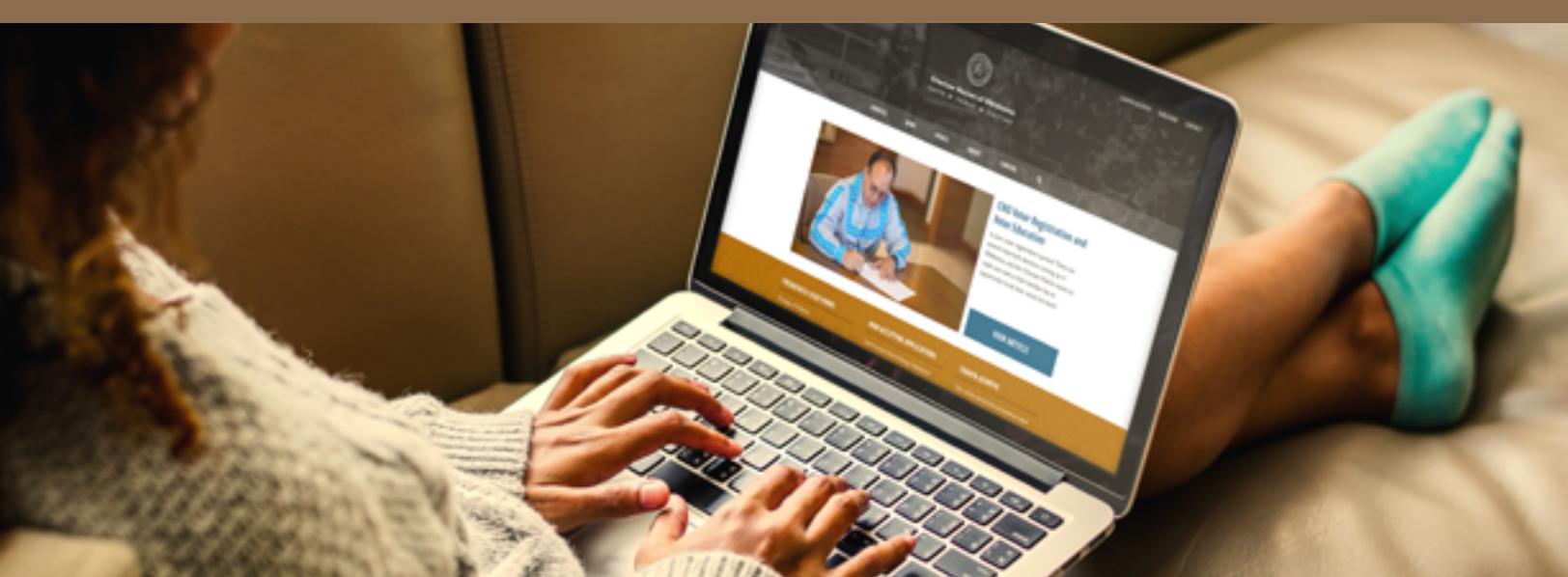
Whether we are applying for jobs, catching up with family on social media or just looking for information, our fast-paced, modern lives often require access to the internet. In June, the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act (House Bill 3363) passed to create a State Broadband Governing Board tasked with providing 95% of Oklahomans with adequate internet access by June 30, 2028.

The Connect Home program helps bridge the digital divide that exists among low-income communities and their connected counterparts. In addition to access, the Connect Home program provides devices, equipment and digital literacy training for those who live in Choctaw-owned or Choctaw-managed housing. For those who do not live in Choctaw housing, the Affordable Connectivity program may be an option. This Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program helps qualifying low-income families pay for internet access and connected devices.



914

HOMES SERVED THROUGH THE
CONNECT HOME PROGRAM



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Seven more programs added online applications in the Chahta Achvffa Member Portal:

- **Emergency Services**
- **Biskinik Address Updates**
- **Higher Education**
- **STAR Program**
- **Student School and Activity Fund (SSAF)**
- **College Clothing Allowance**
- **Bear Harvest Reporting**



The Choctaw Nation's website went through a complete redesign this year to make it easier to use and provide consistent information across all programs and services. The development phase was complete in April, and Phase I launched in May. Phase II is scheduled to roll out soon.

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority increased the accessibility of lab results in the CNHSA app.

Travel Plazas in McAlester, Atoka and Grant launched self-order kiosks.

Students took part in the Youth Events & Activities Tech IKBI Camps in March at Durant, Poteau, Broken Bow and Antlers. The main goal of Tech IKBI Camps is to expose students to a broad range of technology applications they have not seen before.

In April, the Housing Authority began successfully processing online payments.

STRATEGIC GOAL:

STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL GROWTH
AND ECONOMIC STABILITY



CHAHTA ILEFEHNACHI LI

I AM CHOCTAW PROUD: CARL BROWN

When Carl Brown left Oklahoma at age 21 to find fame and fortune in California, he landed a successful career in the mortgage industry. For 35 years, he watched as clients outsourced jobs to overseas companies more and more, and he wanted to change that. Brown saw an opportunity to bring more of those jobs back home to Southeastern Oklahoma through a business model that could compete with the offshore companies. Cavanal Services was born from his desire to see fellow Native Americans and others living in Indian Country find success through quality career-building opportunities in the mortgage business.

The Cavanal Services approach to service is aligned with the community-centered values of the Choctaw Nation. According to Brown, Cavanal Services is a “resume job.” His goal is for his employees to learn the industry and gain valuable experience in an entry-level position and use what they learned to leverage more lucrative positions along their career paths. Brown’s unique approach to onshore outsourcing has been effective. In the fall of 2021, Cavanal Services expanded to include a second location, and the LeFlore County Development Coalition awarded Brown the Civic Improvement Award for 2021-2022. **This year, Cavanal Services was named District 4 Business of the Year, and Brown won the Small Business Development program’s highest honor, Chahtapreneur of the Year.**



CHOCTAW LANDING

CHOCTAW LANDING WILL OPEN IN EARLY 2024

In June, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma broke ground on Choctaw Landing, the Nation's newest entertainment and resort development in Hochatown, Oklahoma. The Nation plans to invest \$238 million in the project. Choctaw Landing was designed to be part of the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape with a goal to keep as many of the native trees and plants intact as possible. **The four-story, 200,000 square-foot entertainment destination will feature:**

- 100 Hotel Rooms
- 600 Slot Machines
- 8 table games
- New Restaurants and Bars
- A Pool
- An Outdoor Venue with an Amphitheater
- A Beer Garden
- A Family-Friendly Game Zone

In addition to the casino and hotel, a 12,000 square-foot mercantile will adjoin the resort, offering a small grocery store/market, three dining options and a fuel station with 24 pumps.





BUILDING COMMUNITIES

One of the Choctaw people's traditional values is being a good neighbor. When we work together to care for those around us, we all succeed. Two of the Choctaw Nation's programs are especially designed for this purpose. The Choctaw Community Partnership Fund (CCPF) awards dollars quarterly to towns and counties that host non-gaming businesses within our reservation boundaries. These municipal partners use the funds to support and develop their communities in ways that serve everyone, tribal and non-tribal. The Choctaw Development Fund (CDF) was created to stimulate community, economic and small business development and promote economic growth within the Choctaw Nation's reservation boundaries. These funds are awarded through an application process where proposals are evaluated on how they will benefit the community. **Our CCPF and CDF help support municipal improvement projects such as:**

- Improvements to parks
- Street repair
- Community beautification
- Vehicle and equipment purchases
- Renovations and safety upgrades
- Water and sewer projects
- Community Storm Shelter
- Land Surveys

CCPF 18 TOWNS
10 COUNTIES

\$2,291,200
TOTAL AWARD DOLLARS

CDF 12 CITIES
1 COUNTY

\$1,077,351
TOTAL AWARD DOLLARS

\$887,351 TOTAL AWARD DOLLARS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

\$190,000 IN FORGIVABLE \$5,000 LOANS TO 38 SMALL BUSINESSES



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Small business is the heartbeat of our local economy. Each one starts with a dream and a passion for service, as well as a strong work ethic and commitment to the community. It is also crucial to have a good support system. That is where the Choctaw Nation Small Business Development Department comes in.

Choctaw tribal members who own a small business can tap into a wealth of information and resources when they register with the Chahtapreneur program. Here are just a few of the services we offer:

- Planning
- Counseling
- Training Scholarships
- Marketing
- Networking Opportunities
- Connections to Lenders
- Tax Workshops
- Bid Assistance
- Forgivable Loan Program



2,078
ACTIVE CLIENTS



1,275
CHAHTAPRENEURS IN BUSINESS

3,867

TOTAL JOBS SUPPORTED
BY OUR CHAHTAPRENEURS



258
JOBS CREATED

48

BUSINESS START UPS

28

BUSINESS EXPANSIONS



162
TRAINING EVENTS

2,745

TRAINING ATTENDEES

2,351 HOURS

ONE ON ONE COUNSELING



COMMERCE, RETAIL AND GAMING

The Choctaw Nation is able to make a positive impact on Southeastern Oklahoma because of commerce, retail and gaming. The revenue we earn from our business ventures not only helps the Tribe continue to operate, but it also funds our programs and services that improve the quality of life for our tribal members and their communities. We had a banner year in 2022. Here are just a few of our commerce, retail and gaming highlights:

● JANUARY



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma broke ground on an expansion project at Choctaw Print Services (CPS) in Durant, Oklahoma. The new facility will have an additional 15,000 square feet of space offering more room for services and sales operations, as well as in-house screen printing, embroidery and increased print production.

● MARCH



Choctaw Casinos & Resorts launched Choctaw Slots, a new way to play favorite casino games. The launch of Choctaw Slots brought a unique, free-to-play gaming experience available on all mobile application platforms including Facebook and online at ChoctawSlots.com.

● MAY



Gilley's at Choctaw Casino & Resort—Durant celebrated its 10th anniversary. The iconic Texas entertainment venue was made famous in the 1980 blockbuster movie Urban Cowboy. Country music star Mickey Gilley founded the first Gilley's in Pasadena, Texas in 1989.

● AUGUST



Choctaw Casino & Resort – Durant celebrated 35 years of exceeding guests' expectations in the gaming and resort industry. The property celebrated all month long with concerts, \$2 million in cash giveaways, specials throughout the resort, guest appearances at The League sports bar and activities at The District entertainment venue.

● OCTOBER

Choctaw Casino & Resort—Grant hosted the first-ever Taloa Music Festival. Taloa, meaning “to sing” in Choctaw, included performances by Gary Allen, Elvie Shane, Callista Clark, Frank Ray, Meghan Patrick and Neon Union.



FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal responsibility is a top priority for the Choctaw Nation. When we invest our people, small businesses and local communities, we are ensuring the financial stability of our tribe for generations to come.

REVENUE

- 46%** BUSINESS OPERATING INCOME (NET)
- 38%** FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS
- 11%** MEDICARE AND THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE
- 2%** GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE
- 3%** HOUSING INCOME

EXPENSES

-  **74%** MEMBER SERVICES
-  **26%** MEMBER SERVICES SUPPORT PROJECTS

..... Values above are taken from the 2021 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma audit.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Choctaw Nation continues to have a positive economic impact on Oklahoma by investing in local businesses, supporting jobs and contributing to community projects and infrastructure.

FY 2023 BUDGET: \$2.1 BILLION

\$2,519,532,303
TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$838.6 MILLION
IN WAGES AND BENEFITS

18,152 JOBS SUPPORTED
According to the most recent Economic Impact study (2019)



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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