



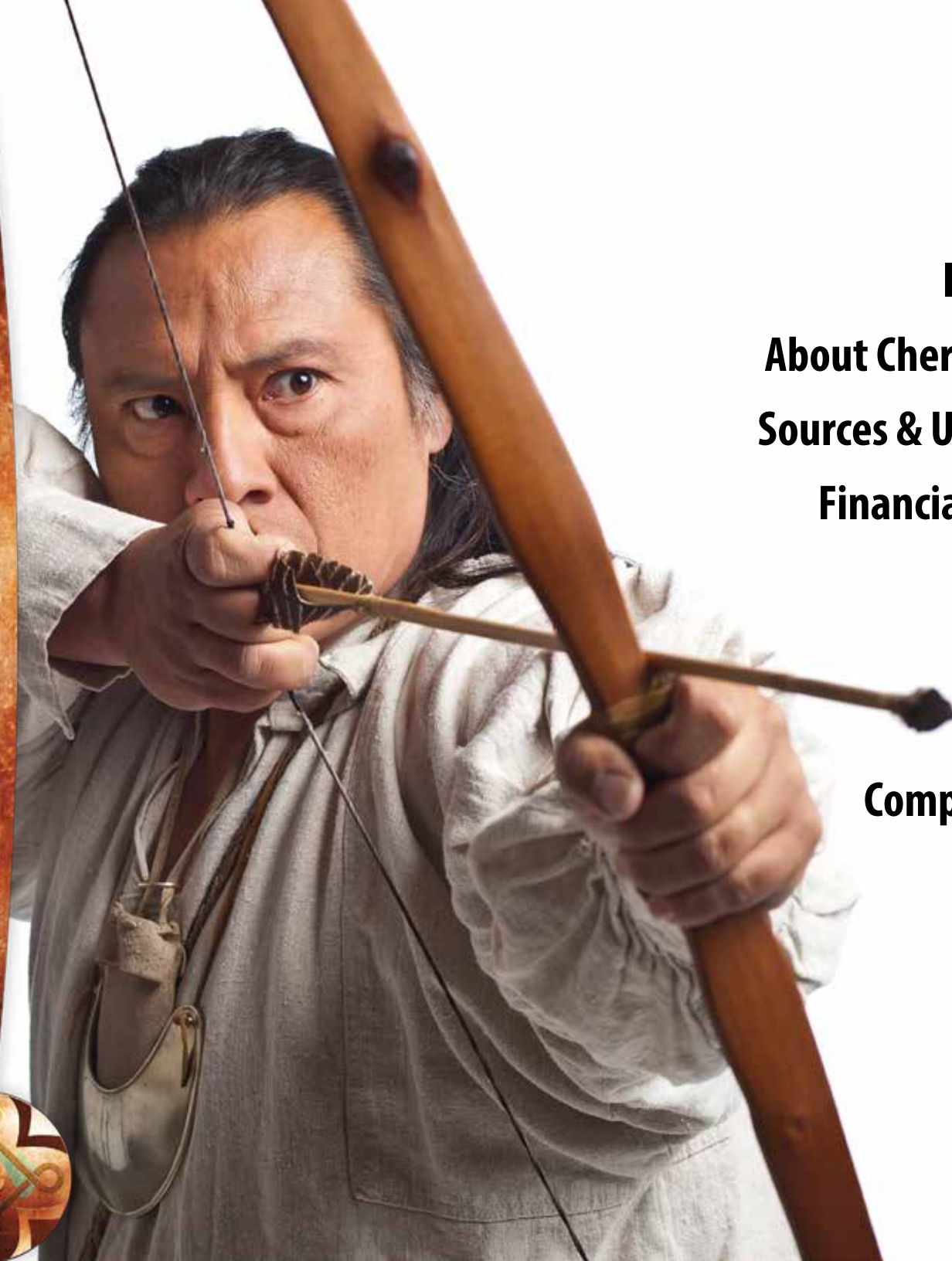
GWY.9 D3P
CHEROKEE NATION®

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

HOMES. HEALTH. HOPE.





Introduction	3
About Cherokee Nation	4
Sources & Uses of Funds	5
Financial Highlights	6-7
Homes	8-9
Health	10-11
Hope	12-13
Component Units	14
Directory	15



Dear Cherokee Nation Citizen,

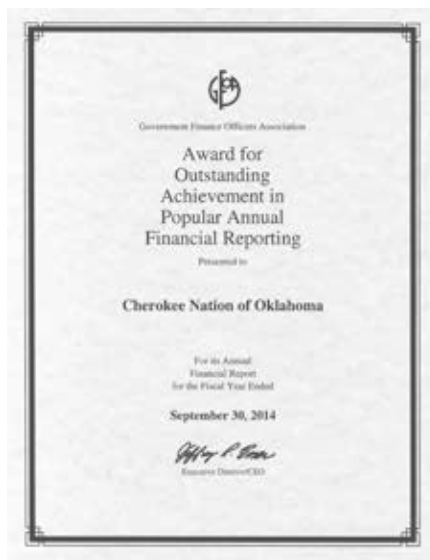
We are pleased to present the Cherokee Nation’s fourth Popular Annual Financial Report. This report was prepared for you and is part of our continuing effort to keep you better informed. Many of you have asked for financial information and highlights of the Cherokee Nation in a format that is easy to read and understand. In this report, you will find financial and statistical information about the Cherokee Nation and its service departments and programs, specifically those serving our mission to the Cherokee people: “Homes, Health and Hope.”

The information in this report summarizes the Cherokee Nation’s financial position based on the detailed financial statements found within our Fiscal Year 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The financial statements were prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and audited by an independent accounting firm. Cherokee Nation received an unmodified, or clean, audit opinion. For additional information and details, please visit www.cherokee.org to view the current year’s CAFR.

The balances presented in this report are for the general government and are presented in an unaudited, non-GAAP format. Cherokee Nation’s subsidiary component units contact and general information can be found on page 14.

We deeply appreciate and thank the Cherokee Nation’s professional staff in Financial Resources and Communications for their time and talent in preparing this report.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. It is our honor and privilege to serve you.



Bill John Baker
 Bill John Baker
 Principal Chief

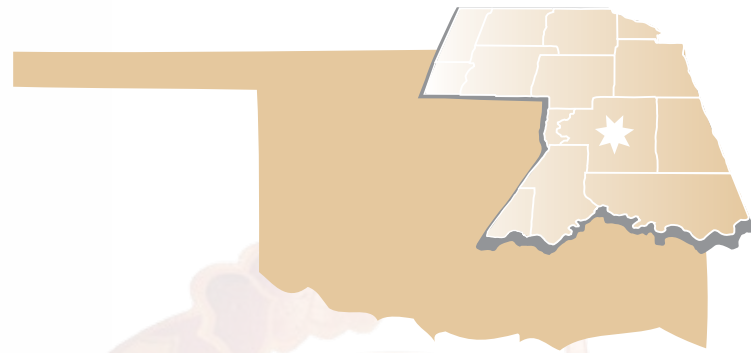


S. Joe Crittenden
 S. Joe Crittenden
 Deputy Principal Chief



Lacey A. Horn
 Lacey A. Horn
 Treasurer





ᎠᎩᎩ
Osiyo!

The Cherokee Nation is a sovereign tribal government. Upon settling in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma) after the Indian Removal Act, the Cherokee people established a new government in what is now the city of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A constitution was adopted on September 6, 1839, 68 years prior to Oklahoma's statehood.

Today, the Cherokee Nation is the largest tribe in the United States with nearly 325,000 citizens worldwide. More than 124,000 Cherokee Nation citizens reside within the 14-county tribal jurisdictional service area that covers most of northeastern Oklahoma.

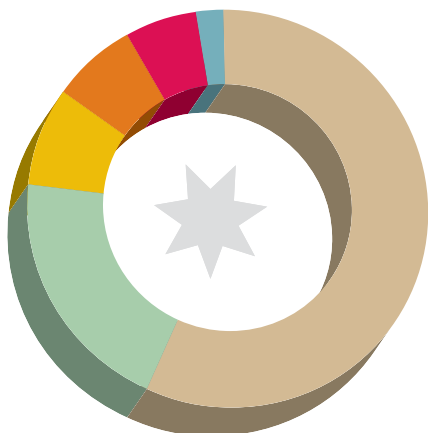
The services we provide include health and human services, education, employment, housing, economic and infrastructure development and environmental protection.

With approximately 10,000 employees, Cherokee Nation and its subsidiary component units are, collectively, one of the largest employers in northeastern Oklahoma. The tribe has a \$1.55 billion impact on the Oklahoma economy.

ᎠᎿ ᎠᎳᎠ ᎠᎳᎠᎠᎠᎠ

Where the Money Comes From

2015 Sources

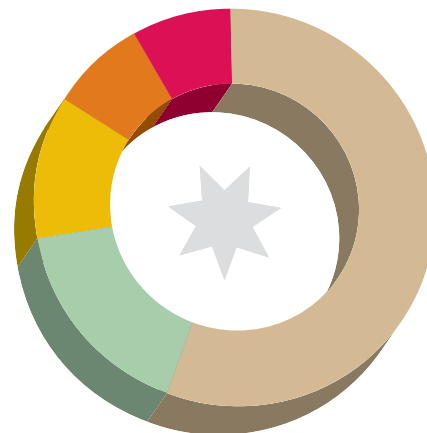


- ★ Restricted Grants & Donations : 57%
- ★ Charges for Services : 20%
- ★ Dividends : 8%
- ★ Taxes : 7%
- ★ Investment Earnings : 6%
- ★ Unrestricted Grants & Donations : 2%

ᎠᎿ ᎠᎳᎠ ᎠᎳᎠᎠᎠᎠ

Where the Money Goes

2015 Uses



- ★ Health Services : 57%
- ★ Community Services : 17%
- ★ Education : 12%
- ★ Human Services : 8%
- ★ Tribal Government : 6%

Capital Projects in 2015

In FY2015, Cherokee Nation invested \$18.7 million into infrastructure upgrades such as the W.W. Keeler Complex in Tahlequah so that our citizens can have better and easier access to services. In FY2015, \$5.5 million was expended on this project.

In 2015, Cherokee Nation Health Services, the largest tribally-managed health care system in the U.S., was awarded an Indian Health Services joint venture construction project to build a 450,000+ square foot facility in Tahlequah. Once completed, IHS will provide in excess of \$80 million per year for staffing and operations of the new facility. Planning and design of the facility is underway in FY2016.

Right: Cherokee Nation W.W. Keeler Complex construction in Tahlequah.



Statement of Net Position

Assets

	TOTAL
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 243,467,000
Investments	27,770,000
Accounts receivable, net	20,505,000
Due from Component Units **	1,249,000
Inventories	4,227,000
Notes receivable	2,825,000
Other current assets	9,340,000
Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	43,200,000
Long-term notes receivable	10,387,000
Other assets	65,000
Equity interests in Component Units **	726,366,000
Capital assets, non depreciable	21,226,000
Capital assets, depreciable, net	183,515,000

TOTAL ASSETS **1,294,142,000**

Deferred Outflows of Resources

TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES **867,000**

Liabilities

Accounts payable	15,588,000
Accrued liabilities	35,141,000
Other current liabilities	11,977,000
Unearned revenue	137,582,000
Notes payable and long-term debt	35,125,000
Compensated absences	7,366,000
Derivative instrument - rate swap	867,000
Other noncurrent liabilities	3,007,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES **246,653,000**

Net Position

Net investment in capital assets	176,048,000
Restricted	822,453,000
Unrestricted	49,855,000

TOTAL NET POSITION **\$ 1,048,356,000**

**Component Units listed on page 14.

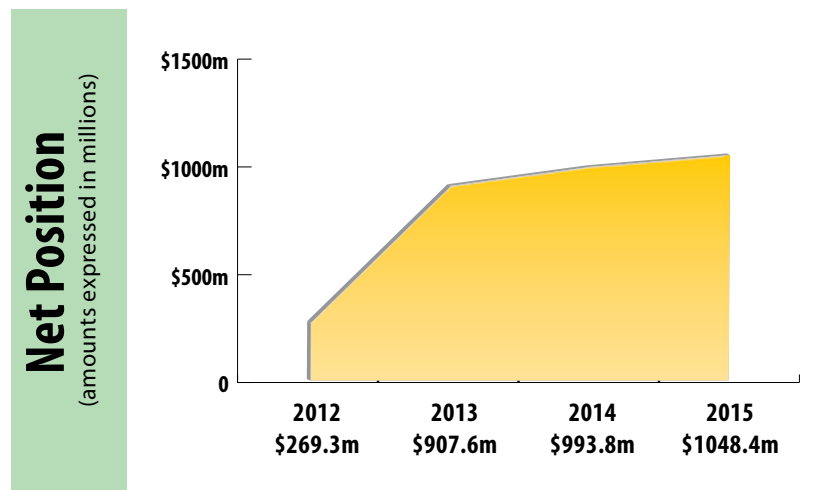
Awards and Credit Rating



For the 14th consecutive year, Cherokee Nation received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting; the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting award for the third consecutive year; and the Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the first year. These awards are the highest honors given to governments for extraordinary financial reporting and budgeting by the Government Finance Officers Association.

BBB

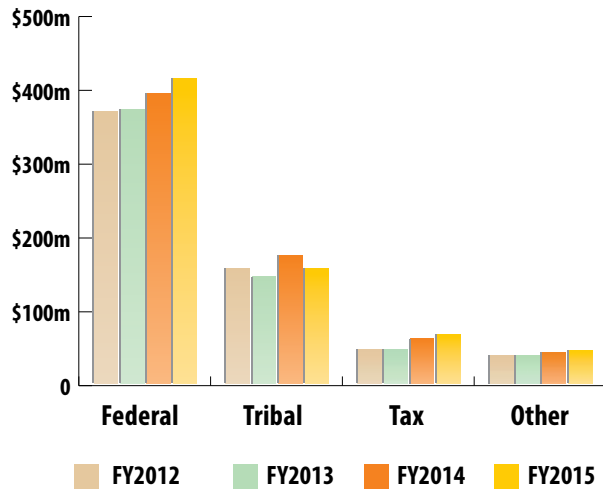
In FY2015 the Cherokee Nation's BBB bond rating by Fitch Ratings, Inc. was reaffirmed. Fitch stated the Cherokee Nation's rating was affirmed based on several key drivers, including strong gaming performance and stable health care operations.



For additional information, please see notes to basic financial statements in the CAFR at www.cherokee.org

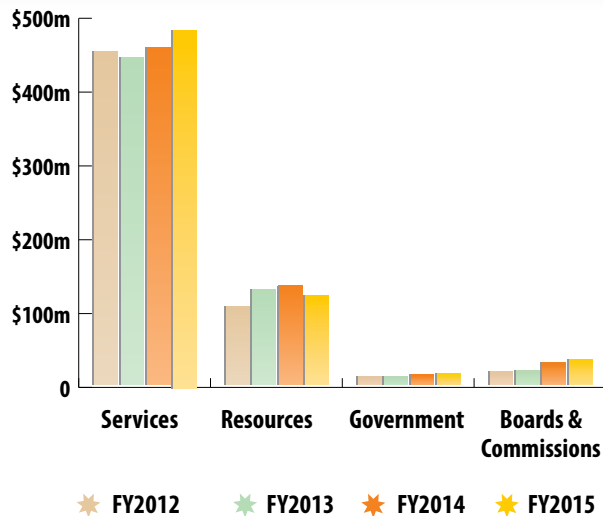
Revenues by Source

(amounts expressed in millions)



Expenses by Function

(amounts expressed in millions)



Year	Revenues	Expenses	Change in Net Position
2012	\$ 462.2m	\$ 437.3m	\$ 24.9m
2013	\$ 509.2m	\$ 457.3m	\$ 51.9m
2014	\$ 564.8m	\$ 478.6m	\$ 86.2m
2015	\$ 580.7m	\$ 526.2m	\$ 54.5m

For additional information, please see notes to basic financial statements in the CAFR at www.cherokee.org

Statement of Activities Functions/Programs

	TOTAL
General revenues:	
Motor fuel tax	\$ 8,008,000
Motor vehicle tax	13,638,000
Tobacco tax	14,217,000
Sales tax	3,654,000
Unrestricted grants and contributions	12,740,000
Unrestricted investment earnings	533,000
Dividends from Component Units **	45,448,000
Increase in equity in Component Units **	31,749,000
Litigation settlement	1,839,000
Miscellaneous revenue	6,552,000
Total general revenues:	138,378,000
Program revenues:	
Charges for services	109,320,000
Operating grants and contributions	296,053,000
Capital grants and contributions	36,954,000
Total program revenues:	442,327,000
TOTAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS	580,705,000
Governmental activities:	
Tribal government	27,535,000
Health services	300,161,000
Education services	65,059,000
Human services	42,996,000
Community services	88,575,000
Interest on long-term debt	1,140,000
Total governmental activities:	525,466,000
Business-type activities:	700,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	526,166,000
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	54,539,000
Net Position - beginning	993,817,000
NET POSITION - ENDING	\$ 1,048,356,000

** Component Units listed on page 14.

For the year ended September 30, 2015



Among Cherokee Nation's top priorities is for Cherokees to have safe, functional and affordable homes and utilities. Cherokee Nation and its subsidiary component unit, the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation, operate several housing programs.



3,611

LIHEAP RECIPIENTS - LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED WITH UTILITY PAYMENTS

2,673

FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH RENTAL ASSISTANCE TOTALING \$3.8M

610

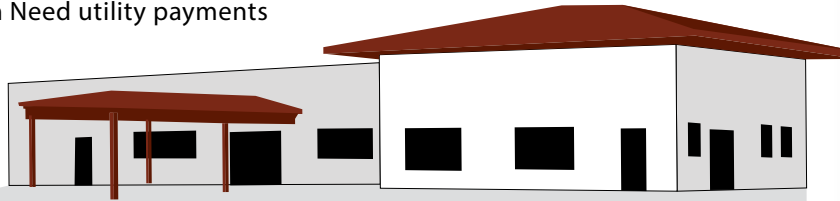
HOMES RENOVATED FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY AND/OR EMERGENCY REPAIRS

156

FIRST TIME BUYERS ACQUIRED A NEW HOME THROUGH THE MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TOTALING \$3.7M

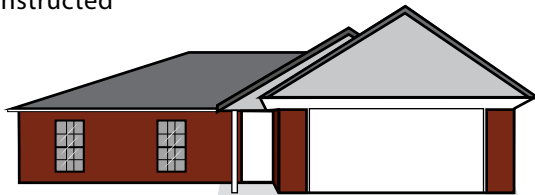
Elder Assistance = \$1.1m

30,412 Meals served at nutrition sites
 10,737 Warm meals delivered to homes
 2,633 Elders In Need utility payments



Housing = \$26.1m

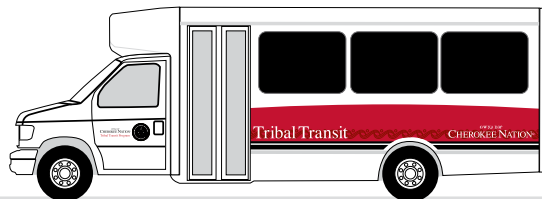
356 New homes in progress
 18 Replacement homes constructed
 158 New homes built



71.77 miles of road and bridge development

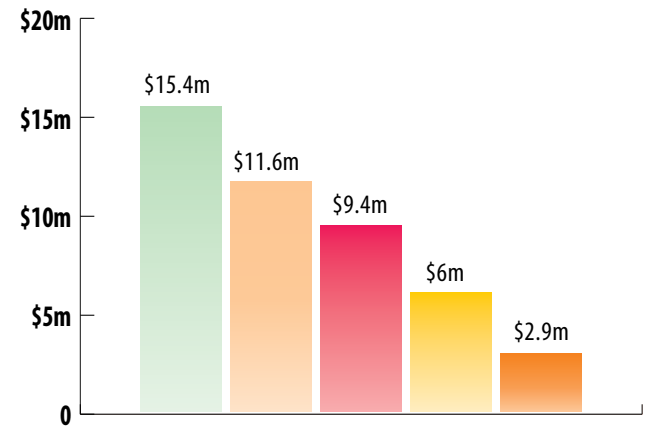
Environmental Health = \$5.9m

273 New sanitation installations
 370 Well and septic tank repairs
 414 Indoor pollutant testing



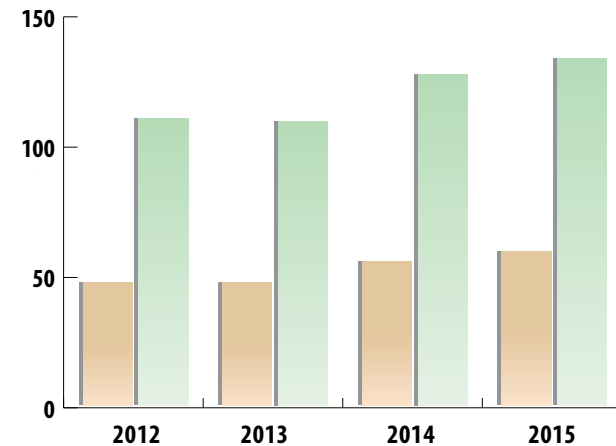
54,556 Transit passengers

Community Improvement



- ★ Roads & Bridges
- ★ Food Distribution
- ★ Housing Rehabilitation
- ★ Engineering & Sanitation
- ★ Community Development

Food Distribution Recipients



- ★ Families (59,339 served in FY2015)
- ★ Individuals (133,190 served in FY2015)



Health and wellness are a top priority for our administration. The Cherokee Nation is determined to set the standard for exceptional health care. The Cherokee Nation's \$100 million health care capital improvement plan demonstrates our dedication to creating a world-class health care system that is more accessible.



3,243

WOMEN SCREENED THROUGH CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN FY2015

12,346

DIABETES PATIENTS RECEIVED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN FY2015

5,543

CALLS RESPONDED TO BY CHEROKEE NATION EMS IN FY2015

100

YOUTH TREATED AT CHEROKEE NATION'S JACK BROWN SUBSTANCE ABUSE CENTER IN FY2015



Health Accreditations in 2015



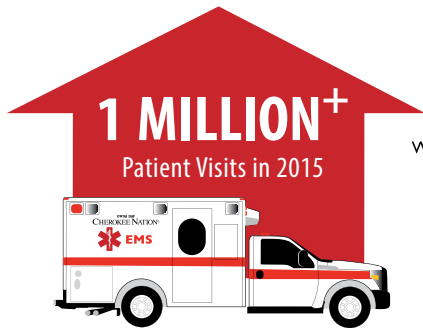
Cherokee Nation is one of only five tribes in Oklahoma to have an accredited Institutional Review board for the health and welfare of Native Americans in our care.



Cherokee Nation is one of the first tribes to receive a five-year accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Programs for teaching paramedics to the highest national standards.

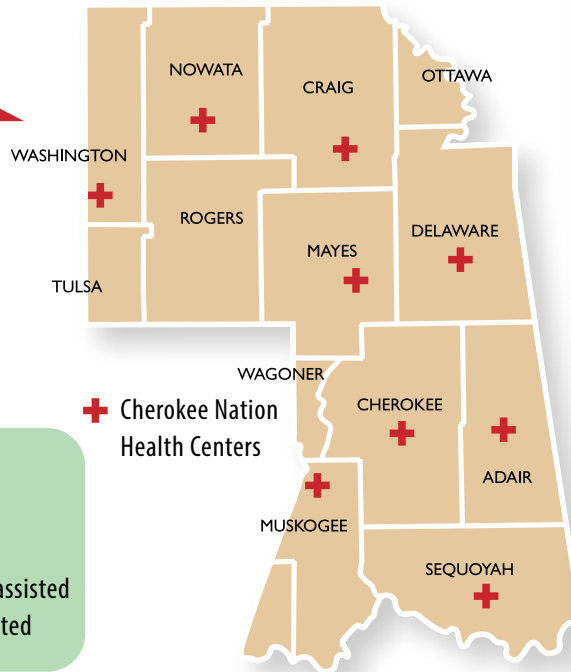


In 2015, Cherokee Nation W.W. Hastings Hospital was officially designated a "baby-friendly" hospital by the national accrediting agency Baby-Friendly USA.

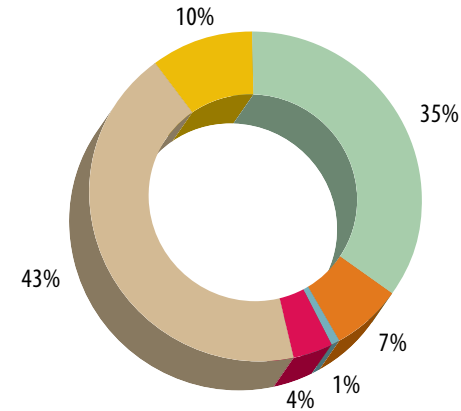


WIC Program

- 83,633 WIC Recipients
- 2,786 Breastfeeding women assisted
- \$5.2M Food vouchers distributed



Patient Visits by Type



★ Primary provider	381,953
★ Dental	74,604
★ Behavioral Health	11,254
★ Optometry	30,695
★ Pharmacy	480,390
★ Other visits*	108,127

*Other visits include public health nursing, WIC, education, dietary and lab.

Patient Visits by Location

• AMO Health Center - Salina	93,819
• Cooweescoowee Health Center - Ochelata	23,382
• Ga-du-gi Health Center - Tahlequah	4,652
• Redbird Smith Health Center- Sallisaw	110,624
• Sam Hider Health Center - Jay	77,614
• Three Rivers Health Center - Muskogee	164,026
• Vinita Health Center - Vinita	86,022
• Will Rogers Health Center - Nowata	53,074
• Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center - Stilwell	113,172
• W.W. Hastings Hospital - Tahlequah	360,638

TOTAL 1,087,023



Through prioritizing job creation, record scholarship awards and other initiatives, the Cherokee Nation continues to bring hope to tribal citizens by offering them resources to create a better life for themselves and their families.



In 2015, Cherokee Nation exercised its sovereignty and signed a compact with the state of Oklahoma that allows every Cherokee Nation citizen over the age of 16 to receive an annual hunting and fishing license and hunting tags free of charge.

\$4.9M

COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT DOLLARS COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED TO CUSTODIAL PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

30

JOB FAIRS CONDUCTED IN FY2015

671

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED A NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED DEGREE, CERTIFICATE OR CREDENTIAL FROM OUR JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

332

PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN TALKING LEAVES JOB CORPS EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM



Investing in the Future

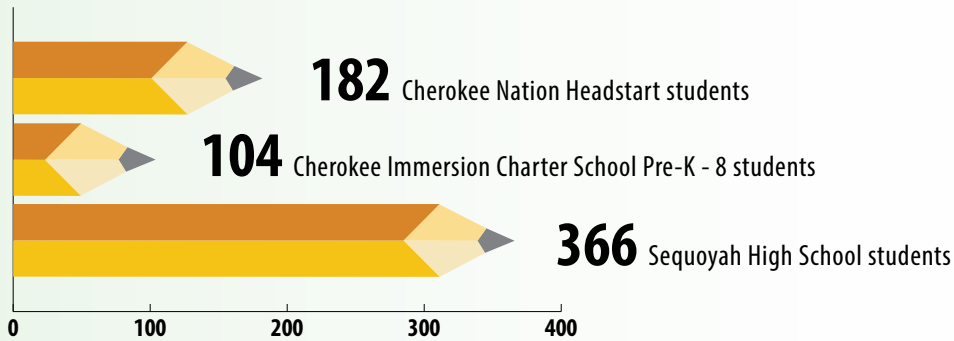
In 2015, Cherokee Nation was awarded \$6.5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to invest in the tribe's job training programs, and is the only tribe in the country to receive the funding.

24
Businesses
received small
business loans



188
Jobs created
from small
business loans

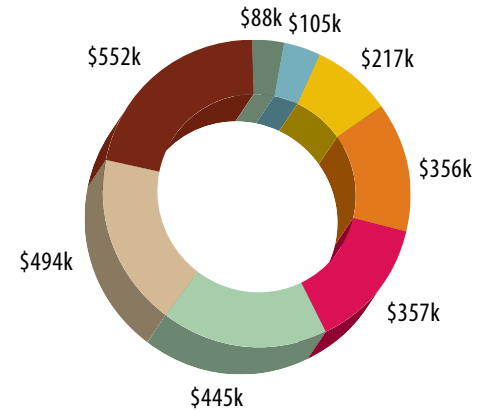
Our Schools' Enrollment



Contributions to Our Public Schools

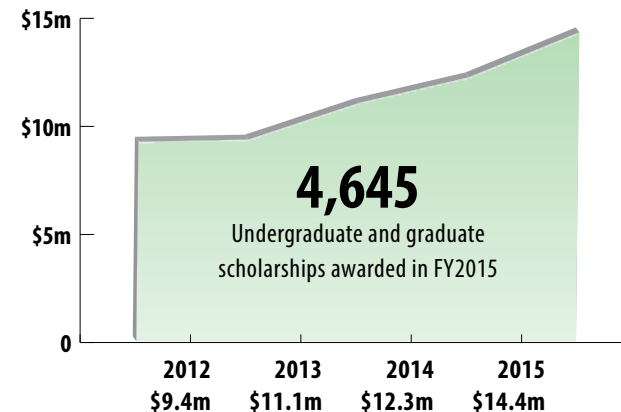
In FY2015, Cherokee Nation contributed a record \$4.3 million in unrestricted funds to 128 school districts.

Contributions to Our Cherokee Communities = \$2.6M



- ★ 62 Improvements to communities
- ★ 131 Rural fire departments
- ★ 189 Youth programs
- ★ 39 501(c)3 organizations
- ★ 73 Local law enforcement agencies
- ★ 29 Native American cultural programs
- ★ 52 Food pantries
- ★ 150 Rural cemetery restoration projects

Scholarship Funding



Cherokee Nation Businesses

777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK 74015

918-384-7474 www.cherokeemnationbusinesses.com

Cherokee Nation Businesses is the parent company of a diversified portfolio of businesses owned by the Cherokee Nation. Industries include environmental consulting, gaming, health care, hospitality, manufacturing & distribution, real estate and technology.

Cherokee Nation Comprehensive Care Agency

1387 W. 4th St., Tahlequah OK 74464

918-453-5554 www.eldercare.cherokee.org

The Cherokee Nation Comprehensive Care Agency is a community PACE program that enhances the quality of life and autonomy for elders, while enabling them to live in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Cherokee Nation Waste Management

925 W. Hickory, Stilwell, OK 74960

918-696-5490

Cherokee Nation Waste Management includes a landfill, green technologies and recycling.

Cherokee Nation Home Health Services

1630 N. Cedar, Tahlequah, OK 74464

888-281-6910 www.cnhhs.org

Cherokee Nation Home Health Services is a tribally incorporated not-for-profit home health care agency that is Medicare and Medicaid certified to provide state-licensed home health care. Services provided include home health, outreach and hospice.

Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation

1500 Hensley Dr., Tahlequah, OK 74464

918-456-5482 www.housing.cherokee.org

The Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation provides Cherokee citizens with various means of housing assistance. Services include home construction, insurance, mortgage and rental assistance, college housing assistance, senior housing and low-income rental housing.

Cherokee National Historical Society

P.O. Box 515, Tahlequah, OK 74465

918-456-6007 www.cherokeeheritage.org

The Cherokee National Historical Society, dba Cherokee Heritage Center, is a 501(c)3 historical society and museum that seeks to preserve the culture, art and history of the Cherokee people.

Cherokee Nation Foundation

115 E. Delaware, Tahlequah, OK 74464

918-207-0950 www.cherokeemnationfoundation.org

The Cherokee Nation Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that provides higher education assistance to Cherokee students and strives to preserve the Cherokee language.

Cherokee Health Partners

1400 E. Downing St., Tahlequah, OK 74464

918-453-2140

Cherokee Health Partners is a partnership with Tahlequah City Hospital that provides state-of-the-art medical imaging services.

Cherokee Nation Directory

Main: 918-453-5000 / 800-256-0671 • Fax: 918-458-6219

Administration

918- 453-5618

Career Services

918-453-5555

Cherokee FIRST Information Center

918-207-3936

Commerce/Small Business Assistance

918-453-5534

Communications/PR/Web

918-453-5541

Community Services

918-207-3879

Education Services

918-453-5341

Financial Resources

918-453-5402

Health Services

918-453-5657

Human Services

918-453-5422

Human Resources

918-453-5292

Main Operator

918-207-3865

Marshal Service

918-207-3800

Tax Commission (Car Tags)

918-453-5100

Tribal Council

918-207-3900 or 800-995-9465

Tribal Registration (Enrollment)

918-458-6980

Veterans Office

918-453-5695





**Scan this QR code to view Cherokee Nation's FY2015
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.**

ᏍᏏᏉᏍᏏᏉᏍᏏᏉ
CHEROKEE NATION®

P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948
918-453-5000 • 800-256-0671
www.cherokee.org
www.facebook.com/TheCherokeeNation
Twitter: @CherokeeNation

Cherokee Nation - Winner of
"Best Use of Social Media by a Government/Public Affairs"
by Ragan Communications

©2016 Cherokee Nation. All Rights Reserved.