

DEFINING TRIBAL SPONSOR

WHAT IS A TRIBAL SPONSOR?

- *A Tribal Sponsor will always be an employee of the Cherokee Nation, and should be an authority in the area of your subject matter.*

The role of the Tribal Sponsor is to serve as the point of knowledge for the researcher concerning the community and/or the community pool for the duration of the study. They will also provide clarification if requested by the CN IRB, support for the project after it is approved and a written letter of support to CN IRB. Should your research involve ANY form of Advisory Board the Tribal Sponsor needs to be an active member included in, or at the very least briefed on, all meetings that take place. Any planned changes to research design must be made known to your Tribal Sponsor, as they too will bear some of the burden of responsibility for the research activity.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Some research may require two or more Tribal Sponsors depending on the field of study. See the following example.*

A study wanting to perform clinical trials with a heart medication would only need to contact a director at Cherokee Nation Health Administration in search of a Tribal Sponsor. However, should the investigation look at “food deserts” and nutritional gaps within Cherokee Nation the researcher would need to contact directors at both Human Services and Health Administration. Human Services handles SNAP services and Cherokee Nation Food Distribution Centers, while Health Administration takes care of the WIC program and employs many dieticians and nutritionists. Therefore, both programs involvement is needed.