The purpose of this announcement is to inform Cherokee Nation citizens and other residents of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Jurisdictional area of the availability of funds for which the Nation can apply for housing, economic development, or other community development purposes. In our region there is a maximum of $800,000 for which Indian tribes can apply. Funding is awarded competitively so there is no guarantee that the Cherokee Nation will receive funding. Award decisions to the tribes are expected to be made by late May of 2005. Application due date for the Cherokee Nation to the Department of Housing and Urban Development is December 13, 2004.

Funding may be applied for housing rehabilitation, economic development, community infrastructure (such as waterlines), community buildings, microenterprise funds, and other community projects.

The Cherokee Nation invites citizens and other interested parties to meetings to address concerns regarding housing and community development needs. The following meetings will involve tribal funding of community work projects but shall also be available for citizens and other residents to comment upon housing and community development issues, especially those either being funded or able to be funded with federal funds. These meetings are as follows:

City Date Location
Stilwell November 1, 7pm Indian Capitol Area Vo-tech
Catoosa November 1, 7pm Cherokee Hills Golf Course
Dewey November 1, 7pm Washington County Adult Center
Tahlequah November 2, 7pm Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Chambers
Warner November 2, 7pm Housing Authority Office at Houston Johnson Heights
Locust Grove November 2, 7pm Willard Stone Heights
Oakhill Piney (near Jay) November 4, 7pm Community Building
White Oak November 4, 7pm Community Building
Sallisaw November 4, 7pm Housing Authority Office

The Cherokee Nation also wishes to announce its Community Development Statement for the purpose of applying for a 2004 Indian Community Development Block Grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Nation intends to apply for a Microenterprise Program/Project. This will consist of setting up a pool of funds from ICDBG and tribal sources to loan to establish, stabilize, or expand microenterprises owned by Native Americans within the Cherokee Nation tribal jurisdictional area (i.e. part or all of 14 counties in northeastern Oklahoma). These businesses must consist of five or fewer employees [including the owner(s)] and the owners and employees must be low- or moderate-income according to HUD county income limits. Funds will be required to be paid back and a revolving loan fund will be created to assist additional businesses. Loans shall only be made to individuals/businesses who qualify under established criteria, which involves meeting of five standards, including credit worthiness, equity, training/experience, etc. Approximately $800,000 in loan funds would be available (if funded) with a maximum loan amount per selected applicant of $25,000. There would be additional assistance in the form of business technical assistance and supportive services, such as child care, transportation, counseling, etc. potentially available to aid those selected for loans.

Citizens and other residents are invited to review and comment on this information. Any comments are due by 5p.m., November 19, 2004. (Comments may be made orally or in writing, including at the meetings listed above.)

Comments or additional information on this potential project (based on whether the Nation receives the funding or not) may be obtained by contacting Denise Honawa by mail at Cherokee Nation, P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465 or by phone at 918-456-0671, extension 2248, or by fax at (918) 458-6152 or by e-mail at dhonawa@cherokee.org

CHEROKEE NATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR A FISCAL YEAR 2004 INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT - CLOSED