## GWYA DBP
# CHEROKEE NATION®

# REPORT OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DATA SOVEREIGNTY, AND CYBERSECURITY TASK FORCE

Prepared for:

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Speaker of the Council of the Cherokee Nation, Mike Shambaugh


Prepared by:

Paula Starr, Chief Information Officer, Chair

Dr. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff, Co-Chair

Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State

Chad Harsha, Attorney General

Paiten Qualls, Director of Legal Division

Todd Gourd, Health Chief Information Officer

Ben Phillips, IT Director of Enterprise Applications

Jon James, IT Director of Information Security

Tricia Moreland, IT Director of Infrastructure and Operations

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## Executive Summary

The responsibilities of the Cherokee Nation Government are significant and demanding. Preserving what has always been ours, given to us by the Creator, enforcing what has been agreed upon as ours by Treaty, and creating a better present for Cherokee citizens while building better futures for the generations to come are sacred duties.

Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) can and must be harnessed to support the important role that the Cherokee Nation Government plays in Cherokee citizen outcomes, lifeways preservation, and language preservation. While AI presents generational opportunity, it also presents generational challenges which must be addressed. It is important that we use this technology in a responsible and protected way that does not cede Cherokee data sovereignty or forsake the privacy of Cherokee citizens.

On October 9, 2024, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. introduced the Executive Order on Data Sovereignty and Self-Governance (2024-07-CTH) calling for Task Force recommendations in the critical areas of AI, data sovereignty, and cybersecurity. In an impassioned speech on that day, Chief Hoskin Jr. asserted that as Cherokee people we "were not meant to fall behind" but that we "were meant to be the people who surged ahead."

This report contains recommendations to help us surge ahead while leveraging technology in a responsible way that helps us continue the Cherokee story of resourcefulness, resilience, and respect for our world and each other.

### Summary of Recommendations

***Emerging Technology and Governance***

1. Adopt the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework (RMF).
2. Create an AI Governance Committee to ensure responsible and purposeful deployment of AI initiatives.
3. Clearly communicate new releases and usage of technologies that impact citizen service delivery.
4. Institute an AI questionnaire for evaluation, procurement, and uses of generative AI.
5. Expand the Cherokee Futurists program for growth in workforce innovation.

### *Data Collection, Governance, and Sovereignty*

1. Adopt the Data Management Association (DAMA) framework to ensure data sovereignty, quality, and privacy.
2. Create a Data Governance Committee responsible for management and safeguarding of data, including formalizing an internal data sharing agreement.
3. Create a data literacy program to promote data education in the Cherokee Nation workforce.
4. Streamline and rationalize citizen-serving applications for increased resourcefulness and consolidation of data and reporting.
5. Standardize the Cherokee Nation Citizen ID as mandatory on all records of citizen data.

### *Citizen Outreach on Emerging Technology & Cybersecurity*

1. Create a Cherokee Nation chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to promote STEM education among Cherokee citizens.
2. Integrate cybersecurity education into existing camps and programs.
3. Organize a Tribal Innovation Summit to generate ideas for using emerging technologies to address real issues facing Cherokee communities.

## Objectives of the Executive Order

The Executive Order on Data Sovereignty and Self-Governance (2024-07-CTH), issued on October 9, 2024, by Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr., outlined the Cherokee Nation's commitment to leverage emerging technology in self-determination and covered ten objectives that we have categorized into three categories of consideration:

- **Emerging Technology and Governance**
  - Objectives
    - I) Review emerging technologies, such as generative AI.
    - II) Standardization process for introducing new technologies to Cherokee Nation citizens, implementation in the workforce and education efforts of such.
    - IX) Make recommendations for general guidelines for the evaluation, procurement, and uses for generative AI and other emerging technologies.
- **Data Collection, Governance, and Sovereignty**
  - Objectives
    - III) Undertake an examination of Cherokee Nation departments that routinely administer programs and services that intake personal data from citizens.
    - IV) Make recommendations for strategies to improve gathering of personal data.
    - V) Analyze disproportional data patterns or characteristics for citizens who do not routinely participate in programs and services.
    - VI) Standardization process for achieving a data sharing agreement across Cherokee Nation executive branch departments.
    - VII) Implementation of data governance and establishment of a Cherokee Nation unified data model.
    - VIII) Recommend an institutionalized strategy to define Cherokee Data Sovereignty.
- **Citizen Engagement in Emerging Technology and Cybersecurity**
  - Objective
    - X) Make recommendations for educational outreach focused on emerging technologies and cybersecurity for citizens and students across the Cherokee Nation reservation.

## Guiding Cherokee Community Values

As we consider questions of how and why we adopt emerging technologies at Cherokee Nation, we approach this work with Cherokee Community Values in our hearts and minds. There are three Values that closely align with this work and are core to our approach:

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*Live and be very skilled in all areas of life, be resourceful.*

We engage with new technologies with the thought that they augment our talents and skills. New technologies help us adapt to changing environments and gain agility. New technologies make us better; they do not replace us.

**ᏕᏣᏓᎬᎨᏳᏎᏍᏗ** detsadageyusesdi
*Be stingy with one another's existence, like a mother with child.*

We strive to protect the data of our citizens as we would protect their existence. Cherokee data sovereignty is inextricably linked to our right and ability to govern ourselves.

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*Encourage and instruct one another in a gentle and thoughtful way.*

Meeting the challenges of the future and staying forever resilient requires that we all understand how we better leverage technology. We can do this work together, Cherokee citizens and employees, in harmonious collaboration.

## Commitment to Cherokee Citizens, Employees, and Future Generations

We live in a time of rapid technological advancement and widespread adoption. By thoughtfully adopting new technologies, we can better serve Cherokee communities, the Cherokee Nation workforce, and future generations. It is essential to keep these important perspectives in mind as we plan technology roadmaps. We must stay committed to the well-being of Cherokee Nation citizens, employees, and future generations in all that we do, including technology deployment.

### *Commitment to Cherokee Citizens*

- Emerging technologies, including AI, will be evaluated with the intent that they serve and elevate Cherokee communities.
- We will continue to use technology to enhance the ways in which we connect with and support Cherokee citizens.
- We will use AI to enable us to build stronger connections with Cherokee citizens. As technology takes on repetitive and mundane tasks, our Cherokee Nation workforce will be able to increase their efforts towards meaningful interactions with citizens.
- We will respect individual privacy, upholding the dignity and autonomy of each citizen.
- We recognize the significant role that technology can play in language preservation, but we will pursue this effort in a respectful manner under the guidance of those who speak the Cherokee language.

### *Commitment to Cherokee Nation Employees*

- Technology will be pursued that serves to enhance, not replace, the invaluable skills and contributions of our workforce.
- We are dedicated to deploying technology that eases the burden of our workforce and helps them quickly adapt to changing external environments.
- We aim to empower Cherokee Nation employees with innovative tools and resources that streamline processes, improve efficiency, and foster a more supportive working environment.
- We strive to ensure that every member of our workforce feels confident and prepared to embrace new technologies through comprehensive training programs and ongoing support.

***Commitment to Future Generations***

- We recognize that our actions today will shape the world our future generations inherit and we are committed to ensuring that technology serves to enhance and preserve our traditional lifeways. We strive to integrate our traditions, language, and cultural practices into the technological frameworks we develop.
- We understand that the deployment of technology must be done with care for our planet. We will employ sustainable practices in AI development and deployment. We are mindful that we must foster a balance between innovation and conservation.

## Task Force Recommendations

**Emerging Technology and Governance**
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Live and be very skilled in all areas of life, be resourceful.

Emerging technology at Cherokee Nation is focused on leveraging innovative solutions that align with our mission of protecting our sovereignty while promoting our culture and values. As we explore advancements such as artificial intelligence, these tools must be accessible and explainable to all citizens, ensuring all citizens understand their purpose and benefits.

Our commitment to preserving human connections remains paramount; we aim to enhance the Cherokee Nation workforce's capabilities without displacing members of our workforce family. By integrating technologies that improve efficiency, we empower our employees to serve the needs of our communities better, prioritizing the well-being and quality of life for future generations of Cherokee Nation citizens. Upholding our community values, we strive to implement tools that enrich our collective experience and strengthen our Nation.

**Recommendations**

***Adopt the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) AI Risk Management Framework (RMF).***

To ensure responsible deployment of AI technologies, it is critical to adopt a framework for best practice guidance.  The key principles of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF) will help Cherokee Nation ensure that AI is deployed ethically.

- **Transparency:** Ensuring that AI initiatives are clear and understandable.
- **Accountability:** Holding individuals responsible for AI actions and decisions.
- **Ethics:** Adhering to ethical standards in the development and deployment of AI technologies.
- **Privacy:** Protecting the privacy of individuals and data involved in AI systems.
- **Security:** Implementing robust security measures to safeguard AI technologies.
- **Fairness:** Ensuring that AI applications are fair and free from harmful biases.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Continuously improving AI processes and systems to enhance their effectiveness and reliability.

*Create an AI Governance Committee to ensure responsible and purposeful deployment of AI initiatives.*

Establishing an AI Governance Committee is highly recommended as it serves a pivotal function in overseeing AI initiatives and ensuring their compliance with Cherokee Nation Government standards and principles. By providing a structured framework for the approval and scrutiny of AI tools, the committee aims to protect our valuable data, initiatives, and intellectual property. Without this oversight, any AI tools that have not been reviewed and sanctioned by the committee may pose significant risks and could ultimately be prohibited from use. For instance, AI note-taking applications are being used without any assurance that the companies behind them respect Cherokee Nation's sovereignty or take adequate measures to protect the data generated. The committee's oversight will ensure that all AI initiatives are aligned with our governance values and safeguard our community's interests.

**AI Governance Committee Responsibilities**

- **Policy Development, Review, and Approval:** Developing, approving, and updating AI-related policies. Ensuring policies meet Cherokee Nation Government standards, aligning with the NIST AI RMF.
- **Strategic Improvement:** Identifying areas for enhancement in AI initiatives. Implementing strategies for better AI performance.
- **Communications, Advocacy, and Engagement:** Promoting AI governance initiatives. Engaging stakeholders effectively.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Tracking the progress of AI governance efforts.
- **Change and Risk Management:** Managing changes and mitigating risks associated with AI initiatives.

**AI Governance Committee Roles**

- **Chairperson:** Leads the committee and sets the agenda, providing stewardship to help balance the opportunities and risks that AI can introduce.
- **AI Governance Manager:** Oversees Information Technology-related governance aspects, ensuring that AI initiatives comply with relevant regulations and standards and operate transparently and securely.
- **AI Stewards:** Ensures AI initiatives adhere to ethical standards and comply with data sovereignty, privacy, and security measures.
- **Legal Advisor:** Representation from the Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General to provide legal guidance.

***Clearly communicate new releases and usage of technologies that impact citizen service delivery.***

To enhance communication regarding new releases and the implementation of technologies that impact service delivery to Cherokee citizens, it is essential to establish a dedicated page on the upcoming Cherokee.gov website. This page should outline the release dates of upcoming technologies that directly affect citizens and explain any AI being utilized. Additionally, incorporating information about testing measures will help citizens understand the reliability and effectiveness of these technologies before they are fully deployed. By proactively sharing this information, we seek to foster transparency and ensure that Cherokee Nation citizens are well-informed and engaged with our evolving technological landscape.

***Institute an AI questionnaire for evaluation, procurement, and uses of generative AI.***

Implementing an AI questionnaire is essential for the Cherokee Nation to systematically evaluate, procure, and implement generative AI technologies. Given the unique challenges and risks associated with AI, such a questionnaire would ensure that vendors not only meet cybersecurity standards, but also adhere to ethical guidelines, transparency, and accountability in their AI solutions. This approach mirrors the existing Cherokee Nation cybersecurity questionnaire required of technology vendors, providing a framework to assess the implications of generative AI on privacy, data use, and potential bias. By establishing a comprehensive AI evaluation process, Cherokee Nation can safeguard data sovereignty while fostering innovation in a responsible manner.

While the AI Governance Committee should have the latitude to finalize the AI questionnaire, it is recommended that the following elements be included at a minimum:

- Testing and Implementation Plan
- Inclusion and Explanation of Human Oversight Measures
- Explanation of Data Sources and Data Privacy Measures
- Explanation of Bias Mitigation Measures
- Explanation of Any Decisions Influenced by Algorithms
- Support Plan to Address Any Issues with GenAI Results
- Description of Worst Realistic Outcome and the Controls to Prevent Those Outcomes

***Expand internal emerging technology education through the Cherokee Futurists employee group.***

The Cherokee Futurists, a group that emerged from the Information Technology (IT) department in 2024, unites employees who share a passion for technology and is dedicated to fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional growth. By expanding this group and offering increased educational and collaboration opportunities, we can fully leverage the vast technology tools available to the Cherokee workforce, furthering the technological advancement of the Cherokee Nation.

**Data Collection, Governance, and Sovereignty**

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Be stingy with one another's existence, like a mother with a child.

Data governance and sovereignty are crucial for the Cherokee Nation as we navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape. By establishing clear frameworks for data management, Cherokee Nation can protect our collective data sovereignty, uphold the rights of Cherokee citizens, and ensure that information is used ethically and responsibly. Effective data governance fosters transparency, accountability, and trust, while also empowering our leaders and decision-makers to drive sustainability and better outcomes.

**Recommendations**

***Adopt the Data Management Association (DAMA) framework to ensure data sovereignty, quality, and privacy.***

The Data Management Association (DAMA) framework is a set of principles and best practices that serve as a blueprint for effective data management. It encompasses all facets of data management, including data governance, data quality, data architecture, and data integration. By adopting this framework, Cherokee Nation can further transform data into a strategic driver of informed decision-making, innovation, and improved citizen outcomes.

Adopting a data management framework is recommended to achieve the following goals:

- **Improved Data Quality:** By standardizing our data management practices, we can significantly enhance the accuracy and reliability of the data we collect. This clarity will empower us to generate insightful reports and analytics, ultimately leading to impactful decisions that benefit Cherokee communities.
- **Stronger Data Governance:** The DAMA framework instills robust governance protocols, establishing clear roles and responsibilities.
- **Strategic Deployment of Data:** Leveraging the DAMA framework positions Cherokee Nation to utilize data as a strategic asset. This will enable us to identify emerging trends, anticipate community needs, and allocate resources more efficiently.
- **Heightened Operational Efficiency:** By promoting standardized processes and breaking down data silos, the DAMA framework can dramatically enhance our operational efficiency. This translates into reduced redundancy, minimized errors, and a streamlined approach to managing our data.

- **Sustainable Growth and Adaptability:** The DAMA framework fosters a resilient data management culture that can adapt to our citizens' evolving needs. This sustainability is essential for ensuring that Cherokee Nation continues to thrive and effectively meet the demands of the future.

Adopting the DAMA framework is not just a strategic opportunity; it is a pivotal step towards optimizing Cherokee Nation's data management practices and enhancing the overall quality of life for our members. By making data a cornerstone of our decision-making process, we can drive meaningful change and progress within Cherokee Nation.

*Create a Data Governance Committee responsible for management and safeguarding of data, including formalizing an internal data sharing agreement.*

The establishment of a Data Governance Committee at Cherokee Nation is essential for effectively managing and safeguarding citizen data. In line with the Data Management Association (DAMA) standards, this committee would play a crucial role in ensuring data sovereignty, quality, security, privacy, and compliance.

**Data Governance Committee Responsibilities**

- **Protecting Sovereignty:** Affirming that Cherokee data sovereignty is inherent, and that Cherokee laws and regulations govern Cherokee data.
- **Establishing and Enforcing Policies:** Defining and implementing data governance policies that ensure data quality, security, privacy, and compliance.
- **Strategic Planning:** Engaging in strategic planning to align data practices with Cherokee Nation goals and objectives.
- **Decision-Making:** Making critical decisions regarding data management, including data ownership and resolving data-related issues.
- **Risk Management:** Identifying and managing risks associated with data governance, ensuring that data is protected and used responsibly.
- **Review and Improvement:** Continuously reviewing and improving data governance practices to adapt to changing regulatory demands and organizational needs.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Tracking the progress of data governance initiatives and reporting on data quality, security, and privacy.

**Data Governance Committee Roles**

- **Chairperson:** Leads the committee and sets the agenda, providing comprehensive data stewardship.
- **Director of Information Security / Data Privacy Officer:** Provides input on data privacy and security measures.
- **Data Stewards:** Manages data quality and integrity. Provides departmental- or program-level expertise on data.
- **Legal Advisor:** Representation from the Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General to provide legal guidance.
- **Data Engagement Officer:** Engages with data stakeholders and ensures their needs are met.

***Create a data literacy program to promote data education in the Cherokee Nation workforce.***

It is recommended that the Cherokee Nation create a data literacy program to foster a culture of data literacy among the workforce, enhancing decision-making, improving services, and driving innovation. This program would ensure that all employees have the skills to understand, communicate, and utilize data effectively in their roles.

A workforce that can interpret and leverage data is crucial to our future adaptability. Attaining greater data proficiency, means that employees will be able to analyze trends, assess program effectiveness, and identify opportunities for improvement, enhancing the ability to make strategic decisions that align with the Nation's goals.

A tailored curriculum should be designed to cater to different workforce roles. This could include beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels of training covering data interpretation, visualization, and ethical data use.

Interactive elements, such as hands-on projects and real-world data scenarios, should be incorporated to enhance the learning experience.

Data literacy should be an ongoing journey, not a one-time training event. Establishing Cherokee Futurists webinars, Cherokee Nation Technology Summit sessions, and continuously available online resources will encourage continuous skill development and adaptation to new data practices.

***Streamline and rationalize citizen-serving applications for increased resourcefulness and consolidation of data and reporting.***

As we commit to enhancing citizen services, we must streamline and rationalize the applications we use. We need to optimize our existing resources to better support innovation. We have invested in a solid foundation of flexible tools embedded with AI functionality, which can significantly improve our citizen-serving capabilities. Before adopting new tools, the AI Governance Committee should evaluate existing solutions and determine how we can leverage their potential to meet our needs more efficiently.

Our goal should be to create an ecosystem where applications are purposeful and collaborative rather than repetitive. This approach will not only enhance operational efficiency but also allow us to dedicate more time and resources to innovative initiatives that truly benefit our citizens. By thoroughly reviewing the tools we already have, we can make informed decisions about whether new applications are necessary or if we can adapt our current solutions to better serve our needs.

As we aim to streamline our processes, let's prioritize optimizing our current applications and ensuring that our innovations align with our core mission of serving our citizens effectively.

***Standardize the Cherokee Nation Citizen ID as mandatory on all records of citizen data.***

In our ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of our data management systems, we must standardize the collection of the Cherokee Nation Citizen ID as a mandatory field across all Cherokee citizen data records. While we recognize the need for further development of a more comprehensive unified data model with additional common elements, the immediate priority is ensuring that the Citizen ID is recorded for every Cherokee citizen participating in a program or service.

The need for a common data field arises from the complexities of managing information across multiple systems. Implementing a standardized identifier will streamline processes, improve data accuracy, and foster better communication across various departments and services. The Cherokee Nation Citizen ID is uniquely ours; it encapsulates the identity of our citizens and serves as a vital link to their individual and collective histories within the Cherokee Nation.

Standardizing this identifier will facilitate coordinated efforts in service delivery, building toward a future where our citizens receive the support they need without the confusion that often arises from disparate data systems. It will enhance our ability to track services, analyze data trends, and make informed decisions that benefit citizen outcomes.

**Citizen Outreach on Emerging Technology & Cybersecurity**
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Encourage and instruct one another in a gentle and thoughtful way.

In early 2025, Dr. Rahul Dodhia, Deputy Director of the AI for Good Research Lab, visited with the Cherokee Futurists to discuss opportunities and challenges in AI deployments.  Dr. Dodhia discussed a passage in his book, AI for Social Good, where he wrote that, as AI reshapes our world, there is a possibility that the "well-to-do, who have the resources to navigate and adapt to this changing skills landscape, will pull away even further from the have-nots."

Dr. Dodhia advised the Cherokee Futurists that widespread AI and data literacy efforts are the key to keeping pace in the new AI landscape. As a Task Force, we agree with Dr. Dodhia and recognize the importance of greater digital literacy across the Cherokee reservation.


**Recommendations**

***Create a Cherokee Nation chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to promote STEM education among Cherokee citizens.***

Establishing an AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) chapter promoting STEM education among Cherokee citizens will help us engage with communities to foster a strong interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among our youth.

As technological advancements continue to shape the job landscape, it is essential that we prepare our young people to adapt to these changes. An AISES chapter would provide resources, mentorship, and hands-on learning opportunities to equip our youth with the necessary skills for emerging job markets. We envision workshops, community events, and local communities collaborating to ignite curiosity and confidence in emerging technologies.

By building a network of support and encouragement within our communities, we aspire to empower Cherokee youth to pursue careers in STEM and ensure they are well-prepared to thrive in an evolving workforce.

***Integrate cybersecurity education into existing Cherokee Nation camps and programs.***
The importance of cybersecurity cannot be overstated as we venture further into the realm of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI technology becomes more integrated into everyday life, it brings not only enhancements and efficiencies but also significant vulnerabilities and risks.

With the widespread adoption of AI, more devices and systems are interconnected than ever. This connectivity creates numerous entry points for cybercriminals to exploit. Cybersecurity education helps individuals and organizations understand these risks and implement protective measures.

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, particularly in the context of AI. By integrating cybersecurity education into camps and programs, participants can learn how to identify, respond to, and mitigate various cyber threats, fostering a more resilient community.

Investing in cybersecurity education within Cherokee Nation camps and programs can empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate a world increasingly shaped by AI, ensuring a safer digital future for all.

***Organize a Tribal Innovation Summit to generate ideas for using emerging technologies to address real issues facing our communities.***

The potential to harness emerging technologies to benefit our communities has never been more promising. To catalyze this potential, we propose organizing a Tribal Innovation Summit, a collaborative platform where community members, innovators, and technology enthusiasts can brainstorm and develop actionable ideas. This summit would address pressing issues faced within Cherokee communities by leveraging cutting-edge solutions tailored to our unique needs. By fostering an environment of creativity and cooperation, this initiative could empower individuals and strengthen our collective resilience and adaptability in the face of evolving challenges.

Recommended elements of this Summit include:

- **Creation of a Collaborative Environment**: Encourage collaboration through panel discussions, workshops, breakout sessions, and a hands-on hackathon focused on solving community-based challenges.
- **Focus on Real Issues**: Identify and prioritize the key issues facing communities and tailor the summit's agenda to address these specific challenges.
- **Showcase Emerging Technologies**: Highlight the latest advancements in technology that can be applied to solve community problems.
- **Interactive Demonstrations**: Include hands-on demonstrations and interactive exhibits to allow participants to experience the technologies firsthand and understand their potential applications.
- **Networking Opportunities**: Provide ample opportunities for networking and building partnerships.
- **Follow-Up Actions**: Ensure that the summit leads to actionable outcomes by creating a roadmap for implementing the ideas generated during the event. This could include forming working groups, securing funding, and setting timelines for projects.

## Proposed Timeline for Implementation of Recommendations

| Milestone | Activities | Timeline |
|---|---|---|
| **Initial Setup and Planning** | Form AI and Data Governance Committees | CY2025 Q2 |
| | Develop Policies and Frameworks | CY2025 Q2 |
| | Create Dedicated cherokee.gov Page | CY2025 Q3 |
| **Training and Education** | Develop and launch a Data Literacy Program | CY2025 Q3 |
| | Integrate Cybersecurity Education | CY2026 Q1 |
| | Expand Cherokee Futurists Group | CY2025 Q3 |
| **Technology Implementation** | Institute an AI Questionnaire | CY2025 Q2 |
| | Implement Standardization of Citizen ID | CY2025 Q4 |
| **Community Engagement** | Establish AISES Chapter | CY2025 Q3 |
| | Organize Tribal Innovation Summit | CY2025 Q3 |
| **Monitoring and Continuous Improvement** | Track Progress of AI and Data Governance Initiatives | CY2026 Q1 |
| | Collect Feedback and Make Adjustments | CY2026 Q1 |

## Conclusion

The Task Force report for the Executive Order on Data Sovereignty and Self-Governance underscores the Cherokee Nation's commitment to leveraging emerging technologies to enhance self-governance, data sovereignty, and citizen engagement. By adopting frameworks such as the NIST AI Risk Management Framework and the DAMA framework, the Cherokee Nation can ensure responsible and ethical deployment of AI and data management practices. The establishment of AI and Data Governance Committees will provide oversight and strategic direction, safeguarding the interests of Cherokee citizens and employees.

The report emphasizes the importance of integrating Cherokee Community Values into technology adoption, ensuring that new technologies augment rather than replace human skills and connections. By fostering a culture of data literacy and cybersecurity awareness, Cherokee Nation can empower our workforce and citizens to navigate the digital landscape confidently.

The recommendations outlined in this report, including the creation of a Cherokee Nation chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and the organization of a Tribal Innovation Summit, aim to promote STEM education and generate innovative solutions to address community challenges. By prioritizing the well-being of current and future generations, the Cherokee Nation can continue to thrive and preserve our cultural heritage in an increasingly digital world.

Ultimately, this report serves as a roadmap for the Cherokee Nation to harness the power of emerging technologies while staying true to our values and commitments to citizens, employees, and future generations.