

BOGUE CHITTO • HENNING • BOGUE HOMA • CONEHATTA  
CRYSTAL RIDGE • PEARL RIVER • RED WATER • STANDING PINE • TUCKER



# STATE *of the* TRIBE

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN



# Halito

It is my honor to present to you the annual Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' State of the Tribe Report for Fiscal Year 2022. Much progress has and continues to be made on our Tribal lands, despite the challenges and uncertainties facing many communities throughout our nation and globally.

Choctaw Self-Determination, the doctrine that has guided our Tribal economic, educational and community development for decades, remains the goal we aspire to every day. This is evident as we see more of our Tribal Members taking on management roles in our Tribal workforce and in our businesses. I am also proud of our youth who are succeeding in academics, athletics and other extracurricular activities. The Tribe has invested much into its members, and now we are seeing Tribal Members investing their dedication and energies into the Tribe. I am thankful for their commitment and drive to help further the success of our Tribe.

In this State of the Tribe Report, you will see images and read descriptions of the many projects and accomplishments achieved by our Tribal departments, programs and enterprises. We still face some challenges from the pandemic, though certainly not as difficult as just a couple of years ago. However, we navigated through the barriers and continued to work towards a time when we would be able to move forward at a quicker pace. That time has come, and we have many projects that will keep us busy in the coming months making great progress for the Tribe.

We enter the new fiscal year with great optimism, knowing we have very important Tribal projects on our drawing boards, one of which being the construction of a new travel plaza in the Crystal Ridge community and expansions and renovations to existing Resort facilities that will ensure the growth and continued strength of our Tribal economy. We, the people and employees of the Tribe, its government and its businesses, are united in purpose and energized by readiness to continue growing in many positive ways. As we anticipate a bountiful new year, let us celebrate as we look back at FY22.

May God continue to bless the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.




Cyrus Ben  
Tribal Chief





# BY THE NUMBERS

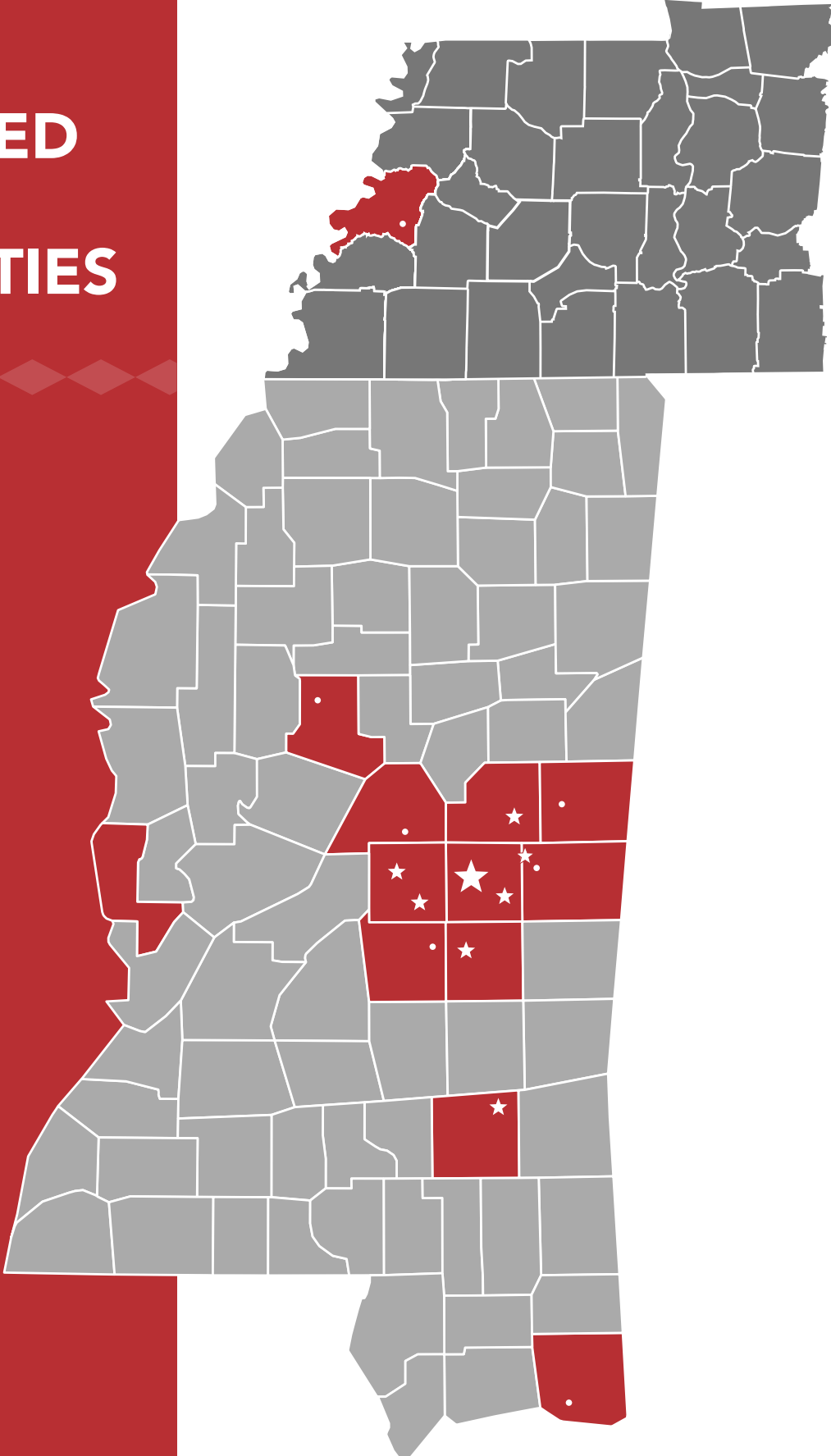
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is a sovereign nation and the only federally recognized Tribe located in Mississippi. The Choctaw Tribal Government operates under the auspices of the Tribe's constitution. Ratified in 1945, the Constitution authorized the Tribe's separation from the State of Mississippi and established a democratic form of Tribal government with representation from each of the eight recognized Tribal communities. Tribal lands include 34,000 acres in thirteen different counties in Mississippi and in Lauderdale County, Tennessee. Cyrus Ben currently serves the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as the 5th and youngest democratically elected Tribal Chief.



# RECOGNIZED TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



- Bogue Chitto - Henning
- Bogue Homa
- Conehatta
- Crystal Ridge
- Pearl River *(Headquarters)*
- Red Water
- Standing Pine
- Tucker



# TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

As of October 11, 2022, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has an enrolled membership of 11,028.

Age	Male	Female
<b>0 - 18</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>1686</b>
<b>19 - 56</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>3227</b>
<b>57+</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>727</b>

# TRIBAL WORKFORCE\*

**2,485**

## **Tribal Enterprise Workforce**

Chahta Enterprise, Choctaw Fresh Produce, Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise, Choctaw Holding Group (IKBI, Inc., Chahta Construction, Inc., Chahta Services), Choctaw Residential Center, Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (Silver Star, Golden Moon, Dancing Rabbit, Geyser Falls, Welcome Center, CRDE, Bok Homa, Dancing Rabbit Inn, Pearl River Graphics)

**2,026**

## **MBCI Tribal Employment**

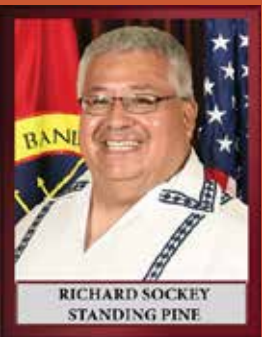
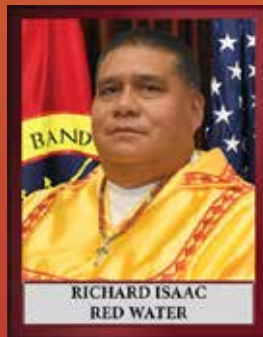
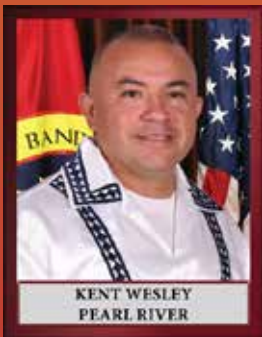
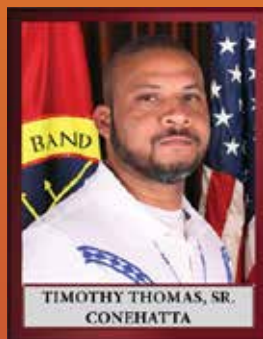
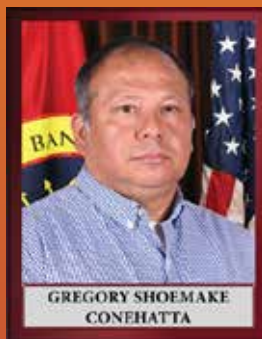
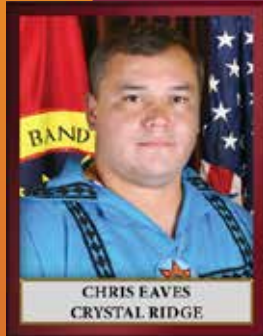
Tribal Government, Choctaw Health Center, Division of Schools

**37**

## **Choctaw Housing Authority**

*\*Denotes Full-time and Part-time*

# MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL



A 17-member Choctaw Tribal Council is the legislative body of the Tribal Government. Each council member is democratically elected in a staggered four-year term. The number of council members from a community is based on population. The Council has legislative and policy-making authority. The Council bi-annually elects three officers, a Vice-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer and Committee Systems Coordinator, who serve additional roles in the Tribal government.

# GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

*The Choctaw Tribal Government provides operational management of divisions and programs, financial planning and budgeting, checks-and-balances, human resources oversight, government-to-government relationships, emergency assistance, legal services and more. The successful day-to-day functions provides overall stability for the Tribe and ensures future growth for the next generation of Choctaws.*

## GOVERNMENT DIVISION DEPARTMENTS

OFFICE OF THE  
TRIBAL CHIEF &  
ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNMENT  
SERVICES

OFFICE OF  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES

OFFICE OF  
FINANCE &  
ACCOUNTING

OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

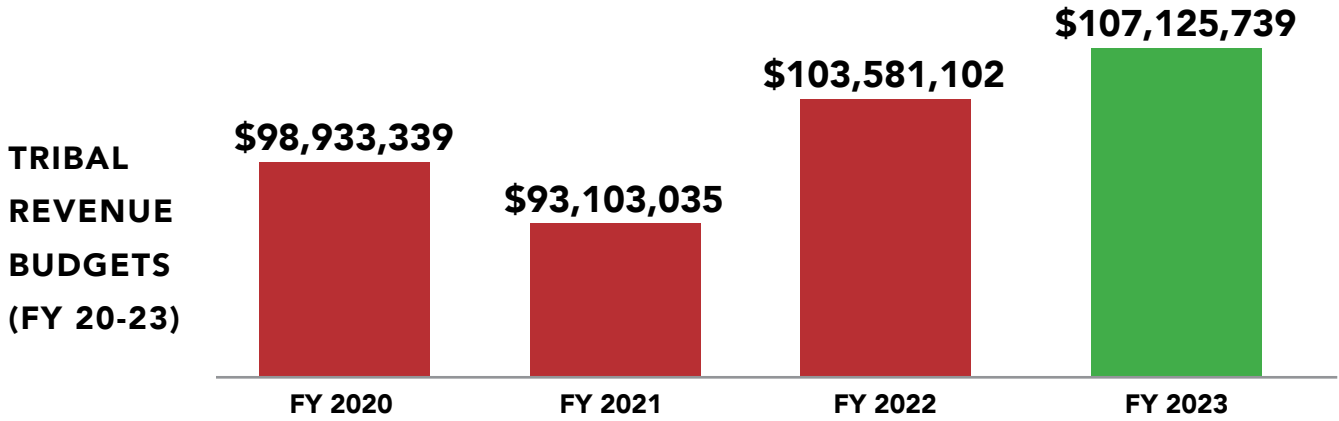
CHOCTAW  
TRIBAL  
COURTS

OFFICE OF  
ATTORNEY  
GENERAL



**BUDGETS**

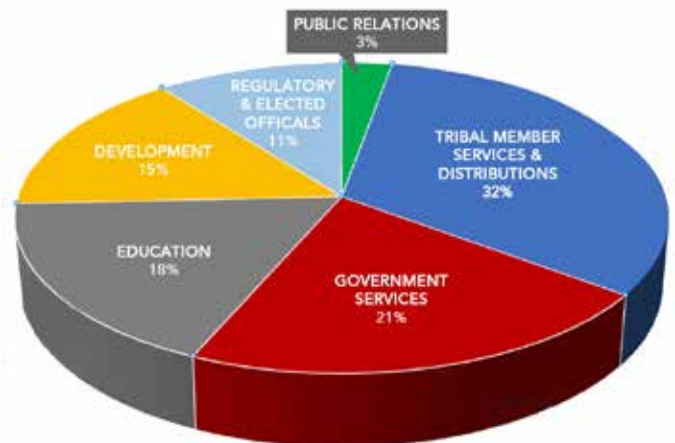
Each year the Office of the Tribal Chief presents Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies and Operations budgets to the Choctaw Tribal Council for review and approval. The Council approved Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Operating Budgets on September 29, 2022. A number of one-time funding requests were approved along with a one-time incentive payment for eligible MBCI Government employees.



**GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARIES**

**Fiscal Year 2023**  
 General Revenue Operation Budget  
 Tribal Projects, Equipment & Facilities  
 Choctaw Health Department

**Approved Budget**  
**\$107,125,739**  
**\$5,934,047**  
**\$74,103,035**



# SUPPORTING TRIBAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE

## **ANNUAL LEAVE CASH-OUT**

The MBCI Administrative Personnel Policy & Procedures, XII (B) was recently amended to allow any exempt or non-exempt employee who has worked at least 20 hours per week (including being on approved leave) each week during any fiscal year to redeem the annual accrued leave exceeding 480 hours, based on certain criteria.

## **INCENTIVE PAY**

RESOLUTION CHO 22-127, "A Resolution To Approve Fiscal Year 2023 Budgets For Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies And Operations" passed by the Choctaw Tribal Council on September 29th outlined a one-time incentive payment of \$850 (before tax withholdings) to be issued on January 5th, 2023, for all eligible Tribal Government employees.



## **TRIBAL COUNCIL AT WORK**

9 Ordinances & 126 Resolutions  
presented to Council in FY 2022.

## **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE PROCLAMATION**

Chief Ben and the Choctaw Tribal Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, establishing a special tuition assistance program to be offered to MBCI students (Tribal member and Tribal descendant) who plan to attend or are attending Mississippi College.

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES

*The Office of Government Services staff works with Tribal Members to provide emergency and relief support, funeral assistance and purchasing of Tribal arts and crafts. Additionally, they oversee the janitorial, custodial, switchboards, reception and mailroom operations for Tribal offices.*

- **Government Services Emergency Assistance to Members in FY 2022 – \$627,875.99**
- **Funeral Assistance Provided for Tribal Members in FY 2022 - \$166,909.90**
- **Purchase of Tribal Arts & Crafts in FY 2022 - \$97,590.00**



## CHIEF BEN NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben was recognized as the 2022 Citizen of the Year by the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Community Development Partnership during their annual banquet on Monday, September 26, 2022, at the Neshoba County Coliseum. Chief Ben's service, commitment and leadership in the Tribal communities and surrounding areas was highlighted. Chief Ben's family members, along with Tribal Council representatives, 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Raine Nickey, Tribal Administration, and Tribal officials, were on hand to celebrate this honor with him.

## MBCI MEMBER RHONDA HARJO APPOINTED TO TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tribal member Rhonda Harjo (MBCI/Mvsokoke Nation) and 15 other Tribal leaders from around the country were appointed to serve on the newly created Tribal Advisory Council at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Nominated by Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Ms. Harjo is a former Deputy Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and has a vast knowledge of Indian Country and the inner workings of Washington, D.C.



### SUMMER SLAM

Chief Ben hosted the annual Summer Slam Softball Tournament on August 5, 2022, at the Choctaw Sportsplex. The first 100 people were offered complimentary stadium cups with popcorn at each of the two concession stands.

**MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

On Monday, May 23, 2022, the Ferriss Trophy was presented at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson. The Ferriss Trophy is presented by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Pearl River Resort and is a part of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Outstanding Award Series. The Ferriss Trophy is named in memory of the former Major League star and long-time Delta State baseball coach Dave "Bo" Ferriss and is presented annually to the Most Outstanding College player in Mississippi each year. This year's recipient was Tanner Hall of the University of Southern Mississippi. This was the 18th presentation of the award. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben represented the Tribe and Resort and presented awards to the finalists and winners.



**ALUMNI OF THE YEAR – MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**

On July 12, 2022, Dr. Blake Thompson, President of Mississippi College, and Jim Turcotte, Vice President and Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, presented Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, a graduate of the university, with the 2022 Order of the Golden Arrow award. This award honors Mississippi College graduates who have accomplished outstanding personal and/or professional achievements during their lifetime.

**NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK**

National Skilled Nursing Care Week (also known as National Nursing Home Week) was observed May 8-14, 2022. The Choctaw Residential Center celebrated with various activities for staff and residents including a visit from Chief Ben.



## CHAHTA DRUG PREVENTION INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, the Chahta Drug Prevention Initiative Task Force (CDPITF) hosted an Opioid Awareness & Prevention Mini Conference at the Silver Star Convention Center for Choctaw Central High School students. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben gave opening remarks. Timothy L. Taylor, Chairperson of the CDPITF introduced guest speakers for the event. Guest speakers included Assistant United States Attorney John Meynardie, Office of the United States Attorney and Captain Brian Turner of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.



**TRIBE RECEIVES  
\$8 MILLION  
GRANT AWARD  
TO EXPAND  
BROADBAND  
INTERNET  
SERVICE ON  
TRIBAL LANDS**

Officials from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), state and local elected officials, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and members of the Choctaw Tribal Council were on hand as it was announced that the Tribe was the recipient of an \$8 million-plus grant award to greatly expand broadband internet access throughout Choctaw Tribal lands. The funding from the grant will be used towards the Tribe's partnership with MaxxSouth Broadband, whereby their existing broadband system will be expanded to serve over 2,000 Tribal homes in six of the eight Tribal communities. When completed in June 2023, Tribal homes who qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) through MaxxSouth Broadband will have access to a 650MB/sec broadband service at minimal to no charge per month, an unprecedented achievement for Indian Country. Also, there will be an expansion of the Tribal government network to enhance the ability of the MBCI to provide telehealth, remote learning, telework, and many other services.

## NANIH WAIYA DAY

Nanah Waiya Day Celebration at the Mound was held Tuesday, August 9, 2022.



## MEMORIAL DAY

A Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial on Thursday, May 24, 2022 to honor the men and women of the U.S. armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.



## TENNESSEE DELEGATION VISIT

Law & Order, Public Safety and U.S. Attorney office representatives from Tennessee were on hand for a special visit on May 16, 2022. While in Choctaw the Tennessee Delegation toured the Smith John Justice Complex, observed Tribal Court, spoke with Tribal judges and court staff, met with Public Safety officials, and participated in an in-depth learning session hosted by the Office of the Tribal Chief and Attorney General.



## CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR COMMITTEE PARTICIPATES IN ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Choctaw Indian Fair Committee members participated in Active Shooter Training on July 6, 2022, ahead of the 72nd Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. The special learning session and active shooter drills were presented and coordinated by the Fair Leadership Team and FBI Training Staff.



# CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURTS

The Mission of the Tribal Courts is to be the most effective Tribal Judicial Court system in Indian Country, compassionately assisting each other and family coming through our Courts System to help them make better choices, that will affect their lives in a positive way.

## TRIBAL COURT HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrated the 10th Annual State and State Indian Child Welfare Conference in Choctaw, Miss.
- All Tribal Court Clerks were cross-trained in each Court
- Installed and implemented temperature check points at both entrances at justice complex during COVID-19
- All Tribal Court employees have been vaccinated and some received booster shots
- The Tribal Peacemaking Courts was awarded \$55,000 to continue the project "Indigenous Law Project"
- Tribal Court Services was awarded the Edward Byrn's Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for \$22,799
- Judge Christopher Collins was sworn in as Justice ProTem for the Choctaw Appellate Court and Judge Rae Nell Vaughn was sworn in as ProTem judge for the Peacemaking court.

## 2022 TRIBAL COURT STATISTICS

- Supreme Court  
16 cases addressed
- Civil Court  
1,345 Cases addressed
- Criminal Court  
3,134 Cases addressed
- Youth Court  
1,309 Cases addressed
- Peacemaking Court  
71 Cases addressed
- Court Service  
1,665 Visited the department





**TRUNK OR TREAT**



**SENIOR NIGHTS**



**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**



**TRIBAL FEAST 2021**



**STATE OF THE TRIBE**



**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**



**NEW HENNING CEMETARY**



**READ ALOUD**

# DEVELOPMENT

*The Development Division of the Tribe provides a range of services from maintenance and construction programs to business development and natural resource management. This team's collaborative efforts have been recognized throughout our area and in Indian Country for progressive and visionary work while building and supporting important improvements in our Tribal Communities.*

## DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AT-A-GLANCE

CHOCTAW LOAN  
PROGRAM  
& TRIBAL  
HOUSING

DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES

OFFICE OF  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

CHOCTAW PUBLIC  
WORKS  
DEPARTMENT

PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT



# PUBLIC WORKS

The Choctaw Public Works Department provides a wide array of services to both Tribal Members and other departments/programs within the Tribal government. Those services include operation and maintenance of the Tribe's water, sewer, stormwater, natural gas, and broadband utilities; oversight of Tribal transportation assets, including roads, trails, and bridges; maintenance of Tribal government facilities and eligible Tribal residential properties; and planning, design, inspection, and contract management for Tribal infrastructure and facility construction projects. The Department also houses the Office of Environmental Protection, which administers numerous programs aimed at restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Tribal land, air, and water resources.

## **EMERGENCY LOGISTICS CENTER**

Construction was completed this year on the 4,500 square foot Emergency Logistics Center at the Choctaw Fire Department in Pearl River. The Center contains administrative space used by emergency management personnel. The facility also provides storage space for emergency supplies, equipment, food, water, and other relief materials. Having this space dedicated solely to response efforts enhances the Tribe's ability to provide relief services for Tribal Members during times of emergency.



**EMERGENCY LOGISTICS CENTER**

## **COVID EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITY BUILDINGS**

Construction of COVID Emergency Response Facility (CERF) buildings was completed in each Tribal community and Henning, Tennessee this year. These multi-purpose and highly adaptable facilities provide a convenient staging point in each community from which personal protective equipment, food, medicines, vaccines, information, and other needed supplies can be distributed to Tribal Members. The CERF buildings were designed and constructed to serve as storm shelters during times of inclement weather, and many of the facilities were activated for that use during 2022. The buildings include administrative and meeting spaces that can be quickly adapted to conform to the need at hand, whether that be emergency response or some other form of non-emergency community outreach or service.



**CERF FACILITY**

## **ELDER ROOFING AND DRIVEWAY REPAIRS**

The elder roofing and driveway repairs initiative continued through 2022. This program remains active and qualifying Tribal Members can submit applications to the Tribal Maintenance Department at their convenience. Tribal Members should contact the Maintenance Department at (601) 656-9742 to get information on these programs and to apply for services.

# CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR IMPROVEMENTS

This year was an exciting one for the Choctaw Indian Fair. Tribal Administration continued its commitment to improving and growing the Fair by funding and directing numerous enhancements and repairs on the Fairgrounds. Notable upgrades included:

## TUSHKA VILLAGE

Reflecting a strong commitment to cultural heritage preservation and education, Tribal Administration directed the reclamation and repair of Tushka Village, which recreates the look and feel of a traditional Choctaw village. During the Fair, this area was used by the Office of Chahta Immi for cultural activities and demonstrations.



## AYIPA VILLAGE

Ayipa Village upgrades included the additions of a wooden fence around the perimeter of the venue, further adding to the atmosphere and character of this new fair favorite. Crushed milled asphalt recycled from resurfaced Tribal roads was added to help with ground conditions, while tables with large shade umbrellas were available to fairgoers. The upgrades created a special oasis on the fairgrounds, making it better suited for hosting everything from gospel singing, social dancing, and live watch parties to cooking demonstrations, special entertainment and fair contests! CIF 2022 saw record crowds at Ayipa Village, further cementing its place as a permanent CIF fixture.

## UPDATES & REPAIRS

Much-needed repairs were made to the roofs of the Dance Ground pavilion and the Amphitheater stage. The materials applied to prevent leaking also insulate and reflect heat, so temperatures were several degrees cooler during the hot days of the Fair – a welcome change for performers at both venues!

Extensive stormwater erosion repairs were made, and piping and sod were installed at the Entertainment house to remedy an issue that had plagued that area for many years. With these improvements, the structure's foundation is protected from damage and stormwater is routed safely off the Fairgrounds.

The electrical system for the RV parking area was completely replaced in 2022. Construction will soon begin on replacing all water and sewer services in this area. With these improvements, RV owners attending CIF 2023 will find modern utility connections that will be much more serviceable than those provided in the past!

Equipment supports were replaced and enhanced at the Amphitheater stage. These improvements will help ensure that this venue remains safe and accommodating for entertainers and staff for many years to come.





## PEARL RIVER DRINKING WATER PLANT

For years, the condition of the drinking water plant in Pearl River has been a major concern for our leadership. The current facility was constructed in the late 1990s and is past its designed life span. We are excited to announce that Tribal Administration has secured over \$19.4 million in funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service for the construction of a new drinking water plant! This level of funding is unprecedented for a Choctaw Public Works project and is an indication of the confidence that the Tribe's federal partners have in our ability to provide solid and demonstrable benefits for our members when entrusted with public resources.

## CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER DRIVE-THROUGH PHARMACY

Conceived as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a drive-through pharmacy was constructed in 2022. With this feature, Health Center patients can pick up their medicines and supplies without having to park and enter the Health Center.

## TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Tribe's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update was completed and submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 2022. The LRTP is critical for planning improvements to the Tribe's roadway network and is used extensively by the BIA, the Federal Highway Administration, and Congress to determine transportation funding needs for the Tribe. This year's update was the first since 2008, and many new roadways were added to the plan for inclusion on the Tribe's official inventory of roads. Adding to the inventory is important, because it qualifies the Tribe for increases in road funding allocations. Road maintenance and repairs to begin soon.

## RECYCLING CENTER RELOCATION

Surveying and engineering design are well underway on a new Recycling Center in Pearl River. The new facility will include many improvements over the current facility that will make disposal of waste goods and recyclable materials much easier for Tribal Members. There are also plans to re-start the Tribe's bio-diesel production activities at the facility, which will provide environmentally responsible fuel alternatives for Tribal government vehicles. Construction of the new Recycling Center will be completed in 2023.

## NATURAL GAS CONVERSIONS

Throughout 2022, gas-fired furnaces and other appliances at numerous Tribal government and Tribal enterprise facilities were converted from propane to natural gas. This project will continue through 2023, as all convertible equipment will be switched to use natural gas. The conversion to natural gas promises to benefit the Tribe through significantly reduced energy costs.



### **PEARL RIVER EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITY ADDITION**

Utilizing funding secured through an education-focused new market tax credit transaction, additional instructional, storage, and recreational space was built at the Pearl River Early Childhood Facility. This facility will provide safe and efficient learning space for Tribal children for many years to come.



### **CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SLOPE STABILIZED**

A major soil erosion repair project was completed in 2022 on the campus of Conehatta Elementary School. Utilizing funds obtained through a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, contractors placed grouted riprap and replaced failed stormwater piping to stabilize a severely eroded slope that threatened to move onto the school campus.

### **COUNTY ROAD 604 SUBDIVISION**

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Housing Development on Road 604 on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. Construction of new homes for Tribal Members will begin in early 2023, immediately after completion of sitework, which includes roadways, utilities, and foundation pads.



**30 HOUSES WILL BE BUILT ON THIS LOCATION.**

## COUNTRY MUSIC TRAIL MARKER

In recognition of the significant contributions the Choctaw Indian Fair has made to the Country Music industry, the Fairgrounds in Pearl River was selected as a location for one of Mississippi's Country Music Trail markers. The marker was installed this year, just off Amphitheater Drive, on a foundation constructed to prominently display this honor within sight of the stage that has hosted innumerable country music stars over the years.



## UPGRADES TO NEW HARMONY WASTEWATER TREATMENT

In response to increased demands for services that will be realized with the construction of new housing in Pearl River, plans are being developed to expand the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant in the New Harmony area of Pearl River. Engineering design is underway, with construction expected to run concurrently with the construction of new homes in that area.

## WILLIS ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

The water main serving Willis Road in Pearl River is laid mostly in rocky soils and is prone to frequent breaks brought about by these poor soil conditions. Obviously, when the lines break, there are customer service disruptions. This year, our engineers have designed a full replacement project that will provide for the construction of a new water main for all Tribal homes along Willis Road. This project is partially funded, with additional funding expected in 2023. Construction on the project will begin as soon as all funding has been received.

## HOUSING WORKGROUP – HOUSE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

This year was extremely busy for the Tribe's Housing Workgroup. While overseeing the site selection, design, and construction of residential subdivisions, the Workgroup also worked with architects to develop model home plans. The focus of this effort was to develop plans that maximized efficiency while also providing the space and function that Tribal Members desire. Look for exciting opportunities in 2023 as these houses begin to become available!

## TRIBAL TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN

Be on the lookout for the Tribe's engineers in your community in 2023. Using the framework information and base maps that have been developed over the past eighteen months, our engineers will be reaching out to you in the coming months to get your input on traffic needs in your communities. Working with our consulting engineering contractor, an online reporting tool has been developed that will allow you to visit a website and specifically indicate on a map of your community where you see traffic issues. We will be asking for information on everything from missing signs and striping to areas where vehicular speeds are too high.

## BOGUE CHITTO SUBDIVISION

Engineering design has been completed and construction will soon be underway on a new residential subdivision in Bogue Chitto. These homes will be the first homes built in Bogue Chitto by the Tribe using Tribal revenue funds. Construction of 25 new homes for Tribal Members will begin in mid-2023, immediately after completion of sitework, which includes roadways, utilities, and foundation pads.

## SOLOMON DRIVE EXTENSION/NEW ROADS

Construction is nearing completion on three new roadways in Pearl River. These new roadways will open areas for residential housing development. The accessed land was designated as a potential housing area many years ago but has been inaccessible due to there being no serviceable roads into the property.

## NEW CCHS CAMPUS

One of this year's major efforts has been the planning and design of a new campus for Choctaw Central High School. Our planners, educational leaders, construction professionals, and engineers have worked tirelessly this year to develop a plan for a facility that will provide the educational, training, and athletic and extra-curricular opportunities needed by our Chahta youth. Site surveying and geotechnical investigations have been completed and site work will begin in 2023. Completion of plans for the school will be completed in 2023, with construction work to begin soon thereafter.



## NEW BOYS & GIRLS CLUB TEEN CENTER TO BE CONSTRUCTED

In 2022, the Tribe's Boys & Girls Club received a grant from the McKenzie Scott Foundation in the amount of \$2.3 Million. The grant funds will support the construction of a new Teen Center in Pearl River. Design of that facility is complete, and construction is scheduled to begin later this year. Once completed, the Boys & Girls Club will have a modern, safe facility that is properly equipped and sized to meet the needs of those Chahta youth who take part in the program. The facility will feature a gymnasium, meeting space, educational space, kitchen facilities, and plenty of storage. Many aspects of the project work including design and engineering were donated by project partners so grants funds to be used most effectively for the actual purchase of the building and equipment. Site development will start in November 2022 with completion of the project expected in Summer 2023.

## COMMUNITY PAVEMENT OVERLAYS

The Tribe will begin upgrades to nearly 40 Tribal roads across all communities. The work will consist of base repairs and pavement overlays that will correct deficiencies and restore full serviceability to the selected roads. In addition, all guidance and other safety amenities will be replaced, including signage, striping, and guardrails. The work will be completed by mid-2023. Once these roads are completed, plans for rehabilitation of a new grouping of roads will be developed, with a renewed emphasis being placed on keeping road projects underway as often as funding will allow.

## NANIH WAIYA TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

A workgroup consisting of representatives from a wide range of relevant Tribal departments, programs, and offices has been formed to study and recommend alternatives for constructing a cultural/environmental education trail between Nanih Waiya and the cave mound. While still in the early planning stages, this effort will focus on the possibility of developing a facility that will respect cultural sensitivities while fostering appreciation for Chahta history and the profound impact that the environment has had on the Tribe. Surveying and engineering for the site will begin in November 2022.



## **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – CRYSTAL RIDGE**

Tribal engineers have been working this year to secure funding for a centralized wastewater treatment plant in Crystal Ridge. This project will replace all septic tanks and other onsite treatment units in the community with access to a community-wide collection and treatment system. Funding has been secured from our federal partners for design of the treatment plant. As soon as design work is completed in early 2023 and the technology to be used has been determined, funding will be sought for construction of the facility.

## **NEW VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OFFICE BUILDING**

A new office building for the Vocational Rehabilitation program was constructed in Pearl River this year. The building replaced a mobile unit, which had served its useful life. The new facility includes office space, a break room, a safe room, and a locker room.

## **IMPROVEMENTS AT CRYSTAL RIDGE FACILITIES**

Repairs and upgrades were made to recreational facilities in Crystal Ridge this year. Significant work was completed on the concession stand and press box. A new sign and outdoor volleyball courts were installed. The parking lot and driveways serving the Crystal Ridge recreational area, gymnasium, facility building, and CERF building were repaved and striped this year.

## **CCHS BASEBALL FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Much-needed drainage repairs were completed this year at the Choctaw Central High School baseball facility. Drainage structures near the left field fence had become overgrown and blocked. These blockages caused rainwater to collect and stand in the left field area, causing the turf to be unstable and soft. Contractors cleaned debris from drainage ditches, cleared clogged pipes, and installed a subsurface drainage system beneath left field to return the field to playable condition.

## **RED WATER CEMETERY**

In response to calls from Tribal leadership and Tribal Members, the community cemetery at Red Water was expanded this year. Additional improvements included upgrades and repairs to the cemetery access drive and parking area, and new signage.

## **NEW WALKWAY COVERS AT PEARL RIVER DAYCARE**

Children and parents can now enjoy covered walkways in the drop-off and pick-up area of Pearl River Daycare. The covered walkways were constructed this year.



## **REPAIRS TO GYM ROOFS IN ALL COMMUNITIES**

Insulated waterproof coatings were currently being applied to the gym roofs in all communities this year. In addition to protecting the facilities from water damage, the coatings provide a reflective surface that significantly reduces heat absorption and transmission.

## **NEW RESTROOMS AT BOGUE CHITTO STICKBALL FIELD**

Restroom facilities were completed this year at the Bogue Chitto stickball field.

## **HENNING CEMETERY PROJECT**

An often-cited need has been addressed in Henning, Tennessee. In the northwestern corner of the Tribe's property, there is now a peaceful and serene cemetery for Tribal Members. The cemetery is conveniently located near the Facility and CERF buildings. The cemetery is approximately 0.4 acres in size and includes space for 105 burial plots. The cemetery can be expanded in the future, should need arise.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Economic Development (OED) provides a wide range of services to support the economic and community development goals of the Tribe. These services include investment analysis, supporting Tribal entrepreneurs, workforce development, project financing, and helping Tribal enterprises. OED is also responsible for the Tribe's Realty Program, which manages land leases, vehicle affidavits, and new land purchases for the Tribe. Some of the Department's notable accomplishments this year include:

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)

The Office of Economic Development created a new five-year CEDs that outlines the economic development strategy for MBCI. The new plan includes five main strategies: 1) Diversifying sources of business revenues, 2) Creating a more resilient workforce, 3) Creating more resilient infrastructure, 4) Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, and 5) Operating a professional and effective Economic Development Office. Several projects are outlined in this publication that support these fundamental strategies.

## NEW LAND PURCHASES

The Realty Program, managed within the Office of Economic Development, added to the Tribe's landholdings in FY 2022. Realty acquired three parcels of land totaling 353 acres of new land. Realty also coordinated four parcels of land acceptance into federal trust status.

## INDUSTRIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The Tribe manages approximately 800,000 square feet of commercial rental property in five separate counties. Some of these facilities are more than 40 years old and required upgrades and repairs. Economic Development secured a \$1 million 0% interest loan to help fund roof repairs, facility renovations, and the installation of energy-efficient lighting. The Tribe now has move-in-ready facilities, and the energy-efficiency improvements will save 1.6 million kilowatt hours (kWh) annually.

## CENTER FOR ADVANCED WORKFORCE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning is underway for a new Center for Advanced Workforce Training and Development (Center). The Office of Economic Development was awarded a \$5.8 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund renovations for a 50,000 square foot training facility. The Center will include dedicated equipment and classrooms to support vocational/technical, health care, computers/IT, and management skills training. The Center will also include a maker space and a small business incubator to support entrepreneurs. Renovations are expected to begin in 2023.



## SMALL BUSINESS COACHING PARTNERSHIP

The OED Small Business Center added a new partnership this year with Renaissance Community Loan Fund. Renaissance offers loans and one-on-one coaching to small businesses in Mississippi. The Tribe and Renaissance are working together to provide additional financial and coaching support to Tribal entrepreneurs. This new partnership supports the strategic goal of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the Tribal community.

## BROADBAND GRANT FUNDING

The Office of Economic Development partnered with Rural LISC, a community development entity, to prepare and submit a broadband grant. In summary, Rural LISC provided OED with grant funding to hire a professional grant-writing team with expertise in broadband planning. This funding enabled OED to partner with the Tribe's Utilities Department to submit a successful broadband grant application that will provide more than \$8 million to deploy broadband to homes throughout the reservation. This project exemplifies the benefits of having strong partners and effective collaboration between Tribal departments. As a result of this effort, more than 2,000 Tribal homes should have broadband access in 2023.



## CARBON OFFSET PARTNERSHIP

As part of the strategic effort to diversify the Tribe's sources of business revenue, OED formed a partnership with the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC) to develop a carbon offset project leveraging the Tribe's existing forests. This new project will take approximately 18 months to develop and is expected to generate a few million dollars of revenue for MBCI.



## NCCER VOCATIONAL TRAINING

There is a growing demand for employees with advanced vocational and technical skills. OED has been hosting NCCER training classes for existing Tribal employees to earn training certificates in HVAC, electrical, and industrial controls. Currently 24 Tribal Members are enrolled in these training courses, and 12 are expected to complete their certifications in the Fiscal Year 2023. OED intends to add new classes and expand the certification programs available in the new Center for Advanced Workforce Training.

## MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Office of Economic Development manages an aggressive social media strategy that includes posting daily content, inviting all who like a post to become followers, tagging any entities that are mentioned in the posts, and following a host of other accounts that we like and follow - in turn, getting reciprocal likes and follows from them. Posts include efforts specific to Economic Development and positive news about the Tribe and Tribal Members. These posts include photos and unique video content that is filmed at Choctaw. Followers have increased across all platforms over the past twelve months: Facebook +35%, Twitter +45%, LinkedIn+88%.

## CYBER-AWARENESS TRAINING AND VIDEO

The Office of Economic Development partnered with the University of Southern Mississippi to host three two-hour cyber-awareness trainings for Tribal employees. The purpose of the training was to make employees aware of common risks posed by computer hackers. This training was recorded and will be made available to all Tribal employees that have a Tribal email address.

## FAST START CLASSES

To support the strategy to grow more Tribal entrepreneurs, the MBCI Small Business Development Center is hosting FAST Start Classes. The classes last six weeks and can accommodate up to ten students each. Participants learn from subject matter experts how to evaluate their business ideas and create a business plan. In FY 2022, OED completed the third and fourth FAST Start cohorts, which have provided training for 40 Tribal Members. The next FAST Start class is planned for early 2023.

## CHAHTA ENTERPRISE LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

Chahta Enterprise Management Team secured funding for new equipment for their laundry operations. This new equipment will provide better quality along with other operational improvements. Chahta Enterprise has been operating since 1981 and employs more than thirty people.



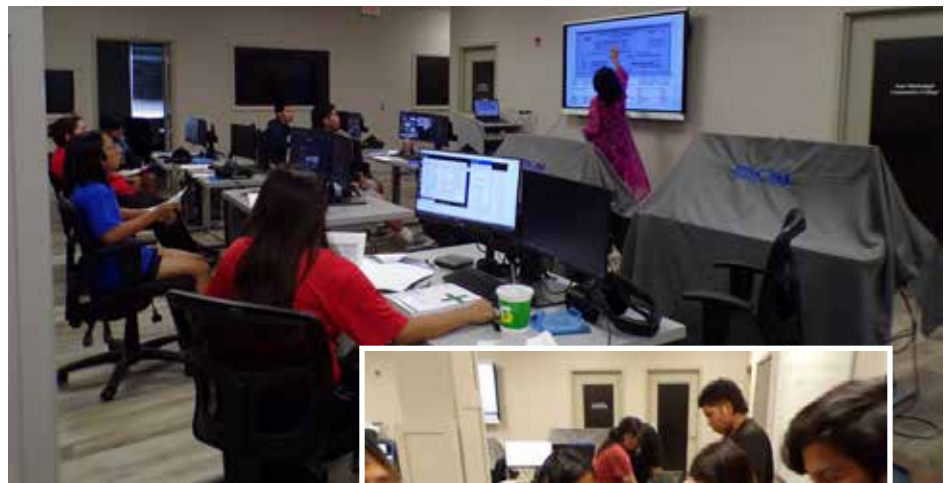
## WEBSITE WINS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

To support the Tribe's aggressive economic development marketing efforts, the OED managed a project to upgrade the Economic Development website – [www.mschoctawbusiness.com](http://www.mschoctawbusiness.com). The high quality of this website was recognized by the International Economic Development Council, and OED was awarded the Silver Award at the IEDC Annual Conference in September 2022. This website serves as the first impression from many businesses interested in partnering with the Tribe and will be an effective marketing tool for OED.



## COMPTIA SECURITY+ TRAINING

The OED also partnered with the University of Southern Mississippi to conduct intensive training for the Tribal IT Staff to learn advanced cybersecurity skills. The training was conducted by a USM instructor, and 11 MBCI IT staff participated in the 12-week training program. This project supports the strategic goal of having a more resilient and secure broadband infrastructure.



## COMPTIA IT FUNDAMENTALS FOR YOP STUDENTS

In July 2022, the OED hosted a one-month training for nine YOP students to learn IT fundamentals following the CompTIA IT Fundamentals curriculum. These nine students learned fundamental computer skills, and they were tested on their knowledge. Two of the students passed the CompTIA test, which is a nationally recognized certification.

# CHOCTAW LOAN PROGRAM & TRIBAL HOUSING

The purpose of the Choctaw Loan Program is to provide home and/or land loans to qualified MBCI Tribal Members who live in the MBCI service areas. The following counties qualify as MBCI service areas: Attala, Jasper, Jackson, Jones, Kemper, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Scott, Winston, and Lauderdale County Tennessee.

## THE CHOCTAW LOAN PROGRAM HAS FIVE ENTITIES UNDER ITS UMBRELLA.

HOUSING, LAND & MORTGAGE	HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE	RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM	REVOLVING CREDIT LOANS	SHORT-TERM LOAN
to purchase a home or land and/or build a home	to build a home in a subdivision owned by Choctaw Loan Program	for adults who wish to establish independent households but are not yet prepared for home ownership	loans to repair, renovate, or remodel existing home	Unsecured loans for personal use, emergencies, or debt consolidation

## FISCAL YEAR 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Tribal Housing and Loan Program received a Homeowners Assistance Fund Grant for <b>\$2.4 Million.</b>	The Program announced <b>eight new homeowners</b> in 2022.	Staff conducted <b>housing survey</b> to gauge needs and gather information for planning.	The Program <b>upgraded</b> much needed financial software package.	The Housing Policy was <b>revised.</b>
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An informational booklet was <b>created</b> for distribution to the communities.	Numerous community <b>meetings</b> were held.
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## LOOKING FORWARD

**As part of Chief Ben’s 100 homes plan, construction projects are in progress including the aforementioned 30 new homes on Road 604 in Pearl River and 25 homes in Bogue Chitto. Other communities will follow as part of the 100 homes plan.**

# NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Natural Resources manages MBCI and BIA funded programs. Programs provide services ranging from agricultural garden preparation, lawn services for approved elderly and disabled Tribal Members, youth educational opportunities, landscape maintenance on Tribal Government properties, and oversee forestry activities on all forested trust acres. Within the Department are three primary programs: Agriculture Extension, Forestry and Landscape and Grounds Maintenance.

## AGRICULTURE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Serviced **115 spring** garden applicants and **26 fall** garden applicants.
- Operated the Choctaw Farmer's Market curbside service from July to August 27th.
- Supported grounds maintenance operations at Lake Pushmataha, Louisville property, Nanih Waiya Mound, Malmaison, Red Water Hunt Field, and Henning.
- Hosted 4-H Club Meetings in all Tribal communities. 4-H program currently has **105 members** and **20 volunteers**.
- 4-H club participation at the 72nd Choctaw Indian Fair exhibits was great with **125 Youth entries, 52 Club member entries** and **13 Adult Entries**. More than **\$1,900 in cash prizes** was awarded.
- 4-H staff also assisted YOP Programs with conducting sessions for the New Beginnings Project.

## LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- A total of **144 Elderly/Disabled applicants** serviced with **1,140 grass cuttings**.
- Provided grounds maintenance and landscape around Tribal offices, Public Information office, Boardwalk entrance and Entertainment house/amphitheater.
- Supported yard and home site needs for vacant properties listed under the **Choctaw Housing Program**.
- Maintained grounds at Nanih Waiya Mound, various subdivision entries and playground areas, and BIA roadsides.
- Assisted MBCI Recreation with grass cutting at Oswald Road Youth Recreation area.
- Prepared and maintained landscape and event venues throughout the year including the Choctaw Indian Fairgrounds, Cultural Demonstration areas, State Games stickball sites, Choctaw Sportsplex.

## FORESTRY

- Removed **745 hazardous trees** and debris from **109 residences, 145 trees** from roads, buildings, ponds, cemeteries and other sites.
- Processed multiple trailer loads of wake firewood with a total of **124 loads**.
- Timbers sales in FY 2022 totaled **\$56,872**.
- Cleared site for new CCHS school site.
- Processed various locations for tree planting.
- Assisted with **Carbon Sequestration Project** for data collection of plots.



# EDUCATION

*Education begins very early in life and continues through adulthood. It has been a long held belief of the Tribe that people of all ages should have good opportunities in well organized instructional environments as long as they want them.*

## EDUCATION DIVISION AT-A-GLANCE

DEPARTMENT  
OF EARLY  
CHILDHOOD

DIVISION OF  
TRIBAL SCHOOLS

TRIBAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

YOUTH  
OPPORTUNITY  
PROGRAM

BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB

DEPARTMENT  
OF WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT





# EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) recognizes true success and achievement is only accomplished through the combined efforts of home and school. The DOECE accepts the primary responsibility for guiding the learning process while reinforcing the need for support and involvement from the parents and the community.

- DOECE provided services to a total of 440 children in all Early Childhood programs, which include Child Care, Early Head Start, and Head Start.
- Child Care served 141 children, Early Head Start Served 86 children, and Head Start served 213 children.
- Overall average daily attendance was 70%.
- Enrollment has risen with more than one center maintaining a wait list of children.

DOECE continues to encourage families to submit applications with the program as soon as possible to facilitate the enrollment process.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Parental involvement is the key to collaborate and encourage positive family participation in the program. The DOECE staff coordinated various events this year that involved parent participation including:

- American Indian Day Brave and Princess Pageant
- Virtual Grandparents Day Pictures
- 29th Annual Green Corn Festival held at the Pearl River Amphitheater
- Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Rock Your Mocs
- Christmas Spirit Week
- Pictures With Santa
- Creative Painting for Parents
- Dental Poster Contest
- March Madness
- Dr. Seuss Week
- Easter Pictures
- Week of the Young child "Listen to the Art" display
- Mothers Day Pictures at the center
- Virtual "Choctaw TikTok Challenge"
- Choctaw Dress Sewing Class
- Father's Day Pictures at the center
- Fishing Rodeo
- Grilling Competition
- 4-H and Youth Fair Exhibits



# YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The Youth Opportunity Program broadens and strengthens opportunities for positive development and participation in community life for youth. YOP staff works with our Tribal youth to develop temporary work opportunities to learn about career paths, instill a philanthropic understanding towards Tribal communities, and elevate pride in our Choctaw heritage. YOP also supports our youth in educational pursuits as they ready themselves for continued education beyond high school.

## YOP ACTIVITY IN FY 2022

- Provided College/Career presentations to 110 7th & 8th graders in Choctaw Tribal Schools for the month of January.
- Provided FAFSA assistance to three upcoming college students.



## CHAHTA ALLA YOUTH COUNCIL



- There were 39 Tribal youth that served in Chahta Alla Youth Council for 2021-2022.
- CAYC members served over 1,000 people from numerous Tribal, local, and state request in cultural and leadership activities.
- The members partnered with MBCI Boys and Girls club for the "Go Green" project. They went to 6 of our Tribal communities and picked up trash and recycled some materials.
- Members attended the U.N.I.T.Y Conference at Minneapolis, MN in July.

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

- With the help of 52 worksites, YOP employed 174 Tribal Members for the month of June and July with one employee obtaining a full-time position after summer employment.



### On to the Next Challenge

- YOP started a new program called "On to the Next Challenge" for 11th and 12th grade Tribal students. This program exposes students to college life on campus of their choice. YOP is also requiring these students to complete a Financial Literacy Workshop so they can be ready financially as they become college students themselves. So far students have visited the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, and Mississippi College. Since YOP has started this program, we have served over 40 youth but YOP is expecting to visit 20 more colleges and provide the college experience to 100 more youth before the new school year.

## **NEW BEGINNINGS GRANT-CHOCTAW TRIBAL STUDENTS VISIT MSU**

A 10-week program, funded under the New Beginnings for Choctaw Tribal Student Grant and spearheaded by Youth Opportunity Program, Tribal 4-H Program and Mississippi State Extension Service taught students how to prepare and think about their future career, college major, and entrepreneurial possibilities. As part of the curriculum, the students toured the Mississippi State University campus on April 26, 2022 for MSU's first Choctaw Preview Day .They were escorted by some of our very own Tribal MSU college students and Indigenous Students and Allies Association (ISAA) members. While on campus, participating Tribal youth taught Choctaw stickball to some of the MSU students.



Also as part of the grant, YOP and MSU are able to provide paid internships for 10 MSU Tribal students. If any MSU Tribal students are interested in these internships, please call the YOP office.



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

*The Boys & Girls Clubs of America is the largest Native youth service provider in the nation. With the various units located in the Choctaw Tribal communities, the Boys & Girls Club of Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians reach many Tribal youth from elementary age to teens. The clubs celebrate Choctaw culture, the strengths of our communities and work with our young people to be resilient, healthy, happy and successful. Programs support skill-building and character development in safe places with caring staff.*



*Kids and teens who regularly attend a Native Boys & Girls Club:  
 94% expect to graduate from high school.  
 95% say they try to help when they see someone having a problem.  
 96% say the adults at their Club care about them.*



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB SET TO OPEN NEW CENTERS

### **STANDING PINE READIES FOR NEW FACILITY**

With the recent availability of the former Early Childhood building in the Standing Pine community, the Boys & Girls Club is working to retrofit the facility for a new unit that will allow for a kids club area and a teen area. Repairs and upgrades are currently underway and the club is excited about the new opportunity to serve the youth population in Standing Pine.



## **\$2.3 MILLION GRANT FUNDED TEEN CENTER TO OPEN IN PEARL RIVER**

The Tribe's Boys & Girls Club received a grant from the McKenzie Scott Foundation in the amount of \$2.3 Million. The grant funds will support the construction of a new Teen Center in Pearl River. Once completed in the Summer of 2023, the Boys & Girls Club will have a modern, safe facility that is properly equipped and sized to meet the needs of those Chahta youth who take part in the program. The facility will feature a gymnasium, meeting space, educational space, kitchen facilities, and plenty of storage.



The MBCI Boys and Girls Club hosted its annual Day for Kids at the Choctaw Sportsplex in September. This day offers kids a chance to enjoy fun activities and for families to have a great time together.





## The MBCI Boys and Girls Club Annual Day



# TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - FALL 2022



## CURRENTLY FUNDING

**340 STUDENTS**

- 27** Dual Credit/Enrollment
- 154** 2 Year Institutions
- 186** 4 Year Institutions
- 50** Graduate School
- 3** Post-Grad School/Doctoral

## 21 GRADUATES

- 14** Associates Degrees
- 4** Bachelors Degrees
- 1** Specialist Degree
- 2** Masters Degrees



**NEARLY 3,000 TRIBAL MEMBERS FUNDED SINCE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM**  
**ALMOST 900 HAVE AT LEAST ONE DEGREE**

**43 COLLEGIATE LEVEL STUDENT ATHLETES** **34 COLLEGES** **AROUND THE COUNTRY**



- 1** Football
- 13** Softball
- 18** Basketball
- 2** Cross Country/Track
- 2** Cheerleading
- 6** Baseball
- 1** Soccer/Cross Country



# CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS

The Choctaw Tribal School System is fully accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and by AdvancED. It is the largest Tribally controlled, consolidated school system in the country with six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school with a dorm to house residential students.

## Current School Enrollment **2,335**

- 202** Bogue Chitto Elementary
- 249** Conehatta Elementary
- 485** Pearl River Elementary
- 181** Red Water Elementary
- 161** Standing Pine Elementary
- 154** Tucker Elementary
- 211** Choctaw Central Middle School
- 630** Choctaw Central High School
- 62** Choctaw Virtual Learning Center

## STUDENTS AND STAFF EARN HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS

- Choctaw Tribal Schools (CTS) grew 80 points in ELA and Math from the previous administration of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) Assessment in 2022.
- CTS rewarded 86 teachers and teacher assistants for growing 50% of their students and recognized over 600 students.
- In May 2022, Choctaw Tribal Schools created the Choctaw Collegiate Academy Middle College partnership with East Central Community College that enables students to begin taking college courses during their 10th grade year. We currently have 9 students taking a full-time college course load, while still in high school. We have 26 total students taking dual-credit courses.
- Average Daily Attendance (ADA) improved 3.7% to 91.39% in 2021-22; and so far in 2022-2023 attendance has continued to grow. Currently CTS is at 93.19% ADA which is an increase of 1.8%. This is a result of the hard work of our staff and students, along with a lot of help from parents and guardians.







## **CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATED 22 "PERFECT" MAAP SCORES IN 2022**

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements:

*Seth Lewis, Keydren Thompson, Ashlyn Killingsworth, Kanyon Tubby, Beawy Bell, Bryceton McMillan, Hunter Segenhagen, Jake Segenhagen, Jaysena Wishork, Keondrae Anderson, Chloe Wesley, Kinsley King, Alex Smith, Nylah Wilson, Kamarii Cantrell, Traih'sin John, Payton Meely, D'anthony Willis, Shyne Chickaway, lylah King, Connor Vaughn*

- CCHS recognized 35 students in Spring 2022 for scoring 21 or higher on the ACT.
- CCHS Lady Warriors Basketball Team won the 2022 MHSAA 4A State Championship.
- CCHS had 112 students graduate in 2022 making it the largest graduating class in school history.
- CTS made over 133,830 parent contacts in the first 9 weeks of 2022-2023 school during the current school year.
- CTS will be applying to the Mississippi Department of Education to become a District of Innovation.
- CTS has implemented a new Dropout Prevention Program that enabled CVLC to have a record 49 high school graduates in June 2022; CVLC has already had 6 students graduate this year with 62 more students enrolled in the CVLC dropout prevention program.
- Choctaw Virtual Learning Center had an all-time high 49 graduates in 2022.
- CTS Parent Center has documented 126,971 contacts with parents of students August 2021 - May 2022.
- ACT WorkKeys Scores at the Choctaw Technical Education Center include Platinum Certification 4; Gold Certification 10; Silver Certification 44; Bronze Certification 45; Total Work Industry Certification 103.



**DAYCARE VISITS**



Choctaw Indian Princess Shemah Crosby visits Standing Pine during her Early Childhood Center tour.

**ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING**



Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben hosted three days of mandatory training sessions for employees to help create a safe environment for our Choctaw Tribal Schools system. Sessions included presentations from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Attorney General’s Office, Choctaw Fire Department, Choctaw Behavioral Health and Greg Eklund, Coordinator MLEOTA- Lead Investigator for Pearl High School Shooting. Topics ranged from drug identification, search and seizure, first aid, team building and suicide prevention, and active shooter training.

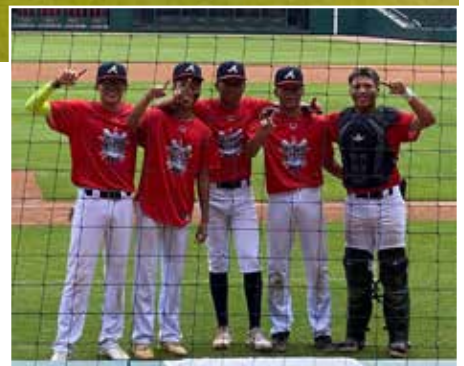
**CVLC GRADUATION**



On Friday, June 3, 2022, the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center held a graduation ceremony at the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino for 59 students who graduated from the center.

**BASEBALL SHOWCASE**

A group of Tribal youth athletes participated in the 7G Foundation’s first ever Native American Baseball Showcase hosted by the Atlanta Braves. These student athletes played the All-Star baseball game on Sunday, July 17, 2022. Participants from CCHS were Kethan Anderson, Kashton Grisham, Gage Lewis, Teyton Nickey, and Braylon Smith; representing Newton County was Dominic Bell. Also selected to participate but not able to attend was Andre’as Jim (CCHS) and Cameron Farmer (Riverside).



**BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION FOR CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATES**

Many 2022 graduates stopped by the Tribal Offices and received a special edition Under Armour MBCI logo Duffel backpack from Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE  
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM  
(SCSEP)

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

SEPTEMBER 19-23, 2022

**FOR TRAINEES!!**

*Basic Eligibility Guidelines:*

- Unemployed
- Age 55 and above
- Low Income
- Family income poverty guideline no more than 125 percent

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Provide Proof of age, Legal Residency, Two forms of Identification, Individual and Family Income

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPLICATION APPOINTMENT:**  
Contact: Deona Allen @ (601) 650-7474 or (601)650-7444

**INTIME STAFFING PRESENTS**

# JOB FAIR

**SEPT  
2nd**

**9:00A.M  
TO  
12:00PM**

\*Bring 2 PROOFS OF IDENTIFICATION.  
\*HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED.  
(NOT MANDATORY)

JOBS LOCATED IN FOREST & MORTON.

**MAN POWER**  
266 INDUSTRIAL ROAD,  
CHOCTAW, MS 39350  
PHONE: 662-861-9541

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The Choctaw Workforce Development Program provides services to students and clients for educational advancement, job training, and job placement opportunities for eligible Tribal Members. Specifically, various programs provide opportunities for students to attend community colleges for vocational education certificates or degrees. In addition, other programs provide job training for clients in order to enhance their skills for permanent employment. Furthermore, one of the programs provides students the opportunity to earn a GED diploma which will enhance their employment opportunity. Moreover, the programs within Choctaw Workforce Development offers basic computer training, resume building, job fairs, online application training, online job postings and opportunity for online job searches for all interested Tribal Members. Lastly, the Choctaw Workforce Development Program staff helps all Tribal Members find permanent employment with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and/or private employers in the area.

### **SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM FOR ELDERS**

- Served 34 elderly Tribal Members with a total of three participants obtaining employment.

### **THE CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- Served a total of 93 Tribal Member students with 35 completing their program of study.

### **THE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- Served a total of 65 Tribal Members. Of those students 18 attended local community colleges while 47 earned Certificate of Completion with the Workforce Development Classes.

### **THE VOCATIONAL & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM**

- Selected a total of 302 Tribal Member applicants. Of those applicants 182 were placed in work settings with 42 obtaining employment. Direct employment assistance was also provided for 155 Tribal Members.

### **THE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- Has classrooms in all eight Tribal communities and served 53 Tribal Members this year. There are 12 GED students at the threshold of completing their High School Equivalency diploma.
- Provided 2011 Federal Income Tax to 1,146 Tribal Members
- Provided services for Mississippi State Income Tax to 1,146 Tribal Members
- Provided services on Reservation Exclusion to 1,300 to Tribal Members
- Assisted 36 individuals with drivers' education materials
- Provided childcare services to 15 children while parents studied
- Provided transportation to and from classes and to GED test site

### **THE CHOCTAW EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM OPERATES THREE GRANTS:**

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant served a total of 38 adults:**
  - 11 were served in work experience and 7 employed
  - 3 attained credentials
  - 27 served in job search, job attainment, job retention, supportive services and became employed
  - 34 exited program employed
- **The Native Employment Works grant served a total of 23 adults:**
  - 7 were served in work experience and 3 employed
  - 3 attained credentials
  - 22 served in job search, job attainment, job retention, supportive services and became employed
  - 25 exited the program employed
- **The Supplemental Youth Service grant served 25 youth:**
  - 23 completed Job readiness
  - 23 completed Career Assessment
  - 23 completed Leadership Skills and Smart Start
  - 23 completed Summer Employment
  - 1 attained employment
  - 23 received completion bonus
  - 6 completed Forklift Operation Safety
  - 21 completed CPR certifications
  - 23 completed Digital Literacy
  - 14 received perfect attendance
  - Received Workkeys certifications:
    - 1 Platinum, 1 Gold, 7 Silver, 9 Bronzes

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES



### **NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PERSONAL AND VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT CENTER OFFICE**

The Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services operates a Personal and Vocational Adjustment Training Center for Tribal Members who experience physical or mental impairments that are barriers to their employment. The Training Center prepares an individual for the competitive workforce by helping them to become adjusted to work. Sometimes individuals need physical “adjustment,” a service called work hardening, physically building skills necessary to work an entire work shift, for example. Sometimes, individuals need personal adjustment, like learning to prioritize work expectations in their day-to-day life, for example; or arranging for reliable child care as another example. Many individuals need to become adjusted to employer expectations.

The PVAT Center provides this service by both performing real work tasks and in classroom formats, teaching transferable work skills that one will utilize in any job type. Transferable work skills are those general work skills that all employees need; for example having good attendance, working fast, having good

work quality, following instructions from a supervisor, among others. The Training Center utilizes several work activities in teaching these work skills. Many have noticed the landscaping plants around the Resort and Tribal Grounds. These plants were grown by the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program in its Personal and Vocational Training Center as these job seekers learn about work. The participants of the Program, with varying types of physical or mental conditions that impact their employment, often describe the horticulture activities as “healing” or “therapeutic.” Bringing Tribal Members to a reconnection place with their work abilities has been a benefit that has helped individuals become ready for employment in the competitive workforce in a number of ways: building skills necessary for employment, improving self-esteem, healing from the pain caused by experiencing a physical or mental impairment or the loss it may have brought with it, and gaining strength for their future endeavors by adding to their skill bank.

**Services Provided FY 22**

- 145 Individuals

**Employment Outcomes FY 22**

- 26 individuals left services into competitive, integrated employment AND maintained that employment for at least 90 days or more
- 6 additional individuals continue in follow along or other services until they have met the 90-day criteria for successful case closure.

**Day Training Program**

- 83 trainees currently active with 98 trainees becoming employed this past year; 63 trainees have been employed for six months or longer
- Continued project in partnership with CCHS to support students at risk of vacating high school diploma with expansion of the program into the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center



**CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT**

A new state-of-the art school campus in design development to be located on the corner of Highway 16 and Oswald Road in the Pearl River community.

The new site will include:

- Choctaw Central Middle School
- Choctaw Central High School
- C-TEC Building
- Basketball Arena and Event Center
- Football Field and Track
- Band Hall
- Physical Education gym
- Cafeteria
- Dormitory
- Bus Barn



# TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES

*The Tribal Member Services Division operates numerous essential services to members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. From newborn, to families, to elders, these programs provide a variety of healthcare, safety, comfort, nutrition, recreation, and other functions essential to the quality of life in our communities.*

## TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES AT-A-GLANCE

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER







ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING



PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP



FAMILY COMMUNITY TRUCK OR TREAT



VETERAN'S PARADE



FOOD DISTRIBUTION GROCERY



VICTIM'S SERVICES



RECREATION

# DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Family and Community Services coordinates the services of seven major service programs operated by MBCI. These programs provide services to individuals and families who are in need. The department currently has a combined total of 16 federal and state grants.

## ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM

- The Assistance Services Program served 282 clients under the LIHEAP grant. During FY 2022:
  - Propane - **\$26,295.97**
  - Electric - **\$62,712.28**
  - Water - **\$23,748.00**

**TOTAL**  
**\$112,756.25**

- BIA burial contract services provided- 93 (\$287,228.00)
- The program also distributed LED blankets, blankets, box fans, infrared heaters, generators, and air conditioners to those applicants who were eligible under the poverty guidelines.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

- Children and Family Services took part in various trainings during FY 22 including the Child Welfare Leadership Academy, JSU Social Work, Conference, Suicide Prevention, American Indian Justice Conference, ICWA, and CPR Certification.
- An emergency pantry was created to help meet the immediate needs of children taken into custody.
- Foster Children/ Foster Parent Activities included ham deliveries to each foster or relative family, sanitary and disinfectant care packages distributed to all foster children/families, Christmas celebration, end of school year activity for foster children, National Foster Care Awareness Month fishing rodeo for foster parents, and Spirit of Life hosted event which included activities, haircuts for children, appreciation gift, and meal.
- Conducted transitional living sessions for eligible foster children ages 12 and up, hosted by Mississippi Department of Child Protection.



# SHOTS FOR TOTS



## ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Elderly Nutrition Program operated curbside until August of 2022.

- Home delivery meals were also provided to participants who qualified.
  - Home delivery meals served - 3,433
  - Curbside meals served - 17,863
- To date, there are a total of 875 elders with an active enrollment on file.
- During FY 22, the program staff also provided turkeys, hams, fruit bags, food/cleaning supply care packages, and holiday bags.



The Choctaw Elderly Activity Center hosted their Re-Opening Celebration on Monday, August 22, 2022. Chief Ben, Department Director Alyssa Ben and Pastor Thomas Ben all offered remarks and prayer. A celebratory day of food, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Also in attendance was 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess, Cadence Nickey.



The Choctaw Elderly Activity Center hosted their American Indian Day Princess and Brave Pageant on Thursday, September 22, 2022. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben was in attendance and crowned the winners, Anita McCombs and Larry Bell.

## CHOCTAW CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

The Center provides therapeutic services, case management and referrals to other agencies due to identified needs. The CCAC also works with Children and Family Services, Choctaw Police Department Investigators, and the Attorney General's office by completing forensic interviews on child abuse victims.

- CCAC staff provided training to the Department of Early Childhood Education and participated in numerous outreach activities.
- Internal Training included Tribal Sexual Assault Services Programs Annual Training Institute, American Indian Justice Conference, 38th International Symposium on Child Abuse, Tribal Justice, Safety and Wellness Summit and 40-hours Sexual Assault Advocacy Training.

## CHOCTAW FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- Choctaw Food Distribution officially reopened its doors in April 2022.
- Renovations were made to the grocery store and the restrooms. Work was also completed for office space. The new climate-controlled warehouse is now being utilized.
- A new diesel generator was also installed during FY 22.
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) began September 2022. The program is open to eligible Tribal Members age 60 and up. It is expected that 125 clients will be eligible.
- There are currently 426 households certified for Food Distribution.



## FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIM SERVICES

- The Family Violence and Victim Services program focused on awareness activities throughout FY 22. Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness, Elder Abuse Awareness, Sexual Assault Awareness, and MMIW Awareness were highlighted during this time.
- The program held a domestic violence training for the Choctaw Police Department in October 2021.
- Staff of FVVS conducted a presentation on Teen Dating Violence at the local Boys and Girls Club Teen Center.
- FVVS Victim Assistance Coordinator assisted and transported families with federal court proceedings.
- Vulnerable Adult Meetings were held monthly with Law Enforcement and the Attorney General's Office.



## VETERAN'S DAY

The Choctaw Veteran's Affairs Committee organized days of activities to honor Choctaw Veterans starting November 4th through the 12th including a Virtual & In-Person Run, Poster Contest, Veteran's Day Brunch hosted by Chief Ben, Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony at the Veteran's Wall.



## VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

Program Manager attended Veteran's Service Officer training and is now certified to provide services to veterans with benefit claims to the VA and appeals. Program Manager also assisted veterans/ families with information regarding VA medical enrollment, benefits, loans, and obtain DD214 replacements.



# CHOCTAW FIRE/RESCUE



The Choctaw Fire Department, established in 1991, is the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian's main fire department and consist of two fire stations. The Central Fire Station is in the Pearl River community and an outlying station is in the Bogue Chitto Community. The Department has a staffing of 34 employees many of which are not only State Certified Firefighters, but also Nationally Registered EMT-Basics & Paramedics.

The Fire Department's services is not limited to Tribal lands, but also serves on non-Tribal lands with Mutual Aid agreements with the Philadelphia Fire Department and volunteer fire departments in the surrounding reservation communities.

The Choctaw Fire Department services include: Fire Suppression, Vehicle Extrication, Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, Dive Rescue, Fire Prevention/Public education, Building Inspections and Fire Extinguisher Training. The Choctaw Fire Department is also a training center for the American Heart Association and conducts classes on: First Aid, CPR, & AED, Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardio Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).



## CHOCTAW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Maintains personal protective equipment in the new Logistics Building for COVID-19 response and protection.
- Working with the State of Mississippi on the construction of three communications towers to improve radio communications.
- Coordinated with surrounding emergency managers during summer flooding event.
- Hosted multiple training events for emergency support functions and active shooter training for all agencies.
- Multiple activations and monitoring of severe weather throughout the year.
- Working with Mississippi Wireless Commission staff on programming upgrade for radio communications.
- Maintains COVID personal protective equipment and supplies in new Logistics Building.
- Updating the Tribal comprehensive emergency management plan.
- Created response guidelines for emergency management for various incidents.
- Hosted Emergency Operation Center training for disaster personnel.
- Emergency management personnel were on stand-by for various events & incidents throughout the year.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The mission of the Law Enforcement Services Program is to protect and serve the people who reside in or visit the Tribe's communities through a comprehensive public safety program which provides both law enforcement and detention services.



- The Choctaw Police Department manages a Tribal sex offender registry program of approximately (75) convicted registered sex offenders.
- The Choctaw Police Department utilizes a WeTip anonymous crime reporting system.
- The Choctaw Police Department in collaboration with Choctaw Behavioral Health collected approximately 100.5 lbs. of drugs during the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take Back Day on April 30, 2022.
- October 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
  - 6,695 calls for service
  - Total arrest of 857 adult offenders
  - Total arrest of 47 juvenile offenders

**REPORT CRIME  
ANONYMOUSLY**

CALL

**WeTip** OR VISIT  
WWW.WETIP.COM

**You will remain anonymous. The information you provide could help solve this crime, and you could be eligible for a reward.**

YOU CAN CALL THIS NUMBER 24 HOURS A DAY AND REPORT YOUR CONCERNS TO US. NO ONE WILL ASK YOUR NAME, YOU WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

**855-4-THE-REZ**  
**(855-484-3739)**

# DEPARTMENT CHAHTA IMMI

The Department of Chahta Immi operates the Cultural Affairs Program, Choctaw Tribal Language Program, Chahta Immi Cultural Center and the Special Projects/ Media Program.

**513,982**

People Served

**68**

Workshops  
Conducted

**106**

Technical Services  
Provided

**40**

Staff Training &  
Meetings Conducted

**192**

Items Identified  
for Resources

**13,338**

Produced  
Multi-Materials

**164**

Translation Projects  
Completed

**10,943**

Distributed Language  
& Culture Materials

**23**

Events /  
Presentations

**59**

Partnerships

**494**

Resources  
Acquired

**\$52,588**

Retail Outlet for Tribal Artisans



## FISCAL YEAR 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Oral History Interview** – Choctaw Cry
- **Videos Recorded** – Cane Harvesting, Cane splitting & Dyeing
- Assisted with drumming at the **DOECE Green Corn Festival**
- Provided **traditional cooking demonstrations** at the Choctaw Residential Center
- Provided Cultural Overview presentation at **Columbus Air Force Base**
- Provided Choctaw Expressions at the **Two Museums in Jackson**
- Completed the **Bishkoko storybook** project
- Completed the **Greenwood LeFlore and Malmaison** project
- Provided **Cultural artform workshops and language classes** at Henning
- Produced the **Choctaw Cultural Legacy Facebook page**
- **Traditional Pottery** Documentation Project
- **Choctaw Cultural Connections Grant** Project
- **Ancient Choctaw Calendar Presentation** – Staff Training
- **Co-Lang Workshop** – Univ. of Montana – Staff Training
- **Choctaw Cultural Legacy Facebook Page** – 71 Posts
- **Cultural Media** Resources Provided to DOECE
- Program assisted with **Choctaw Expressions Activities**
- Collaborated with the **Youth Opportunity Program** to teach YOP interns in making Rabbit Sticks, Blowguns, Achahpi, Stickball Sticks and Stickballs
- Assisted **Choctaw Tribal Schools' elementaries** in their Spring Festivals
- Provided **Cultural Connection classes** for Vocational Rehabilitation program
- Collaborated with the **Boys & Girls Club** to provide workshops for teens in pottery and basketry
- Collaborated with the **USDA/ MSU Extension office and 4-H** to provide cultural resources



# TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES PROGRAM

The Department of Chahta Immi operates the Cultural Affairs Program, Choctaw Tribal Language Program, Chahta Immi Cultural Center and the Special Projects/ Media Program.

## **MEMBER SERVICES**

The program utilizes firewood as a heat source for Tribal Member's eligible according to member services program guidelines (57 or older, Handicap/Disabled, or Female Head of Household). The program starts October 1st every year and runs through February of the following fiscal year weather permitting. Contractors are Tribal Members from within the communities to cut and deliver firewood at \$300 per cord. The Tribal Member Services Program provided services to 120 Tribal Members servicing nine communities for fiscal year 2022.

## **FACILITY BUILDINGS**

The program provides indirect services in each community including grass cutting services in the Tribal communities to eligible Tribal Members. Yards are cut twice a month for beautification purposes. The program starts March every year and runs through September of the fiscal year weather permitting. In FY22 facility building program provided services to Tribal Members cutting 462 yards in nine communities.

## **TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OFFICE**

The Enrollment Office issued 2,135 Certificate Degree of Indian Blood and 72 not enrolled CDIB since the beginning of FY 2022. Tribal enrollment continues to increase in FY 2022 with 175 applications for membership approved by Tribal Council on October 11, 2022.

## **RECREATION**

The program provides recreational activities to Tribal Members for both adults and youths in communities such as gymnasium, ball fields, and swimming pools. Leagues are formed and compete in various sports that interest Tribal Member.

- Basketball remains the most popular sport with over 93 adult teams and 141 youth teams participating in leagues games.
- Adult Volleyball League is finishing up their end

## **CHOCTAW LEGAL DEFENSE**

The program provides legal consultation and representation by attorneys serving Tribal Members to many different courts in Mississippi and Tennessee. The main core representation is in the youth, collection, civil and criminal courts of the Choctaw Tribal Court by this program.

- By the Numbers
  - 1,293 active cases in FY 2022
  - Legal Defense closed 693 cases with in-house attorneys closing more cases than contract attorneys
  - Majority of the cases are represented in Tribal Court
- Top Ten Criminal Case Types
  - Battery, DUI, Recklessly Endangering Another, Child Neglect, Abuse of a Child, Intoxication, DLOC, Criminal, Damage to Property, Burglary and Extradition
- Top Ten Civil Case Types
  - Collection, Child Support, Child Custody and/or Visitation, Divorce, Paternity, Power of Attorney, Wills/Estates, Minor Guardianships, Protective Order, and Deeds

of the season tournament beginning October 11th with 63 teams participating.

- The NAYO Basketball Tournament held in Choctaw on Easter weekend had 91 teams.
- Spring Sports included NAYO baseball and softball tournament in Atmore, Alabama in July 2022, NASA Adult softball tournament in Atmore, AL in August 2022.
- The Chief's 4th Annual Summer Slam Softball Tournament at the Choctaw Sportsplex was widely attended.

## CHOCTAW TRANSIT SHARES KNOWLEDGE ON PRACTICES DURING COVID-19

Choctaw Transit shared agency practices for a forthcoming study on “Effects of Transportation Changes during COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities and Older Adults.” The Transit program was specifically identified for this topic to highlight the collaboration between Tribal Departments to keep transportation in service to take Tribal elders to dialysis appointments as well as delivering meals to their homes. The focus was on how Choctaw Emergency Management, Public Health, the Office of Public Information and Pearl River Resort worked together to provide supplies to keep our buses sanitized and safe for our passengers during the pandemic. The Study Taskforce was highly impressed with the stories of how Choctaw Transit, Administration, and Tribal Maintenance worked together to assess and perform repairs on homes of elders that needed immediate renovations ranging from wheelchair ramp construction, porch repairs and driveway overhauls. The taskforce will use the information gathered from various agencies, including Choctaw Transit, to create a template that will be used as a training module across the United States on “How to Operate and Continue Services During a Pandemic.”

## CHOCTAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The program provides transit services to 11,050 Tribal Members, providing access to employment, education, healthcare, and more.

**Total of 61,678 rides provided in FY 2022.**

Statistically, the three primary groups utilizing transit services are:

- General public at **15,768** rides
- Elders at **1,386** rides
- Disabled at **13,685** rides

Further insight on ridership in FY 2022 is as follows:

- Medical **16,878**
- Nutrition **405**
- Employment **11,690**
- Shopping/Personal **619**
- Education/Training **972**
- Mental Health **14**
- Medicaid **0**
- Other **261**

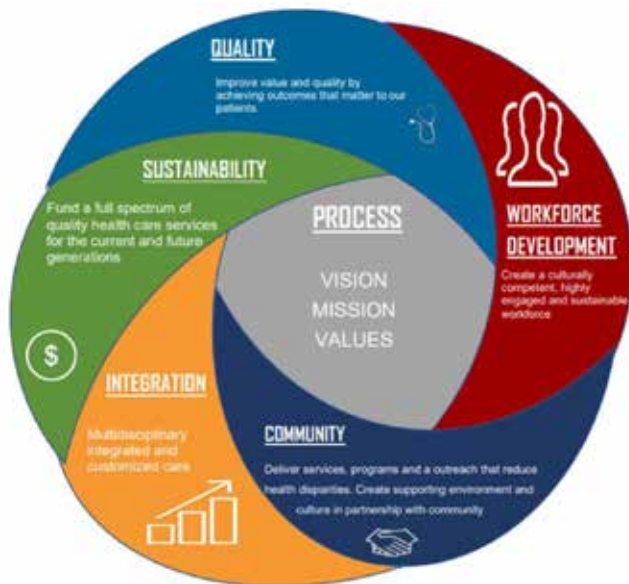


# CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

The mission of the Choctaw Health Center is to raise the health status of the Choctaw people to the highest level possible. The vision is to achieve a healthy community through holistic health services in a culturally sensitive environment, in partnership with satisfied customers, dedicated employees, and the Choctaw community.

## CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER STRATEGIES PLAN 2020-2025

This plan was developed to efficiently achieve outcomes that matter to our patients by identifying priorities and goals, allocating resources and engaging everyone in the organization in support of its vision, mission, and values.



## POST COVID

Choctaw Health Center Fully Resumed Services on May 18, 2022.

## COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

In January 2022, CHC completed the Det Norske Veritas (DNV) re-accreditation survey and received full accreditation. DNV accreditation validates Medicare compliance and offers a complete foundation for quality management. Achieving accreditation through DNV demonstrates that a health system has proven its dedication to a culture of continuous quality and safety improvement for the patients it serves.



**PATIENT VISITS**  
**141,462**  
FY 2022



**424.29**  
**ACTIVE EMPLOYEES**  
**2022**



**FY 2023 BUDGET**



**\$74.1 M**  
**5% Cost of Living**  
**Increase in FY 2023**  
**for CHC Personnel**

## NEW FRONTIER: MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS' FIRST TRIBAL MEMBER PHYSICIAN

Choctaw Health Center Proudly Announces Christina Wallace, MD. to staff. Dr. Wallace, a graduate of the University of Mississippi Medical Center specializes, in Internal Medicine.

CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER  
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

CHRISTINA  
WALLACE, MD



### Specialty: Internal Medicine

601-389-4300

210 Hospital Circle, Choctaw, MS

christina.wallace@choctaw.org

www.choctawhealthcenter.org

### EDUCATION

2004

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

Bachelor of Arts: Major in Chemistry, Minor in Biology

2011

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Master of Science: Major in Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

2014

University of MS Medical Center, Jackson, MS

Master of Science: Biomedical Sciences

2019

University of MS Medical Center, Jackson, MS

Doctor of Medicine

### CERTIFICATIONS

USMLE Step 1	Basic Life Support
USMLE Step 2 CK & CS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
USMLE Step 3	Support

### HONORS & AWARDS

- Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
- James E. Griffith Pulmonary Award
- Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS), Jeanette D. Pullen Chapter, Member

### LEADERSHIP

- UMMC Dean of Medical School Admissions Student Search Committee Member
- Medical Student Council American College of Physicians - Mississippi Chapter, 2017

### SERVICE

- Jackson Free Clinic Medical Volunteer

### WORK EXPERIENCE

2014-2015

**Choctaw Health Center  
Customer/Patient Relations Specialist**

Patient liaison for CHC and rural health clinics, maintained HIPAA compliance program.

2008-2013

**MBCI Office of Environmental Protection  
Environmental Manager/Specialist**

Management and coordination of the Office of Environmental Protection, while serving as point of contact for matters pertaining to the protection of tribal lands. Oversight of water quality research activities for water resources.


2005-2008


**MS State Dept. of Health, Public Health Laboratory**


Performed chemical analyses on various sample media via CDC methodologies in the Biomonitoring and Chemical Terrorism section of the Public Health Laboratory, while serving as a member of the Chemical Terrorism Preparedness team.


## COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP: CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER


Choctaw Health Center welcomed Dr. Walt Willis as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Willis joins the staff with 36 years of diverse experience in the fields of Family, Emergency, and Hospital Medicine.



 601-389-4250

 [www.choctawhealthcenter.org](http://www.choctawhealthcenter.org)

 [walt.willis@choctaw.org](mailto:walt.willis@choctaw.org)

 210 Hospital Circle  
Choctaw, MS 39350

**CHOCTAW  
HEALTH CENTER**

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR  
NEW CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

**WALT WILLIS, M.D.**




Dr. Willis will join the Choctaw Health Center Medical Team on Monday, June 20, 2022. Dr. Willis joins us with 36 years of diverse experience in the fields of Family, Emergency, and Hospital Medicine.

**MEDICAL EDUCATION**

- Graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine with honors | May 1986
- Residency at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa in the Family Practice Residency Program
- Undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University in General Science | May 1982

**EXPERIENCE**

- 30 Years as a Physician Leader
- Previous role as Medical Director of Rush Critical Access Hospitals and Primary Care Clinics



## COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP: WOMEN'S WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Choctaw Health Center welcomed Heather Patchin, MSN, WHNP-BC, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Mrs. Patchin joins the staff with 12 years' experience in obstetrics, gynecologic care and family planning.



### CONTACT



601-389-4420



Heather.Patchin@choctaw.org



www.choctawhealthcenter.org



210 Hospital Circle, Choctaw, MS

### CERTIFICATIONS

- Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner, 06/17/2010
- RNC-OB, Inpatient Obstetric Nursing, 12/27/2002
- C-EFM, Electronic Fetal Monitoring Certification, 10/22/2020
- MS Board of Nursing



### Choctaw Health Center Proudly Announces

**HEATHER PATCHIN, MSN, WHNP-BC**

**WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER**

### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mrs. Patchin brings 14 years' experience in labor and delivery, recovery, and postpartum care, with 12 years' experience as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner providing obstetric, gynecologic care and family planning. Heather currently resides in Union, MS.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Staff/Charge RN

June 2020 - Present

Staff/Charge RN, Labor and Delivery, Recovery and Postpartum at Rush Foundation Hospital, Meridian, MS.

#### Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner

July 2010 - June 2020

Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner, Woman's Group of Meridian/Rush Central Clinic, Meridian, MS. Performance of routine gynecologic exams, prenatal care, treatment of routine gynecological problems, family planning (including insertion/removal of subdermal and intrauterine devices), with referrals to higher levels of care for complicated obstetric and gynecologic problems.

#### Staff/Charge RN

August 2000 - April 2011

Staff/Charge RN, Labor and Delivery, Riley Memorial Hospital, Meridian, MS

### EDUCATION

#### University of Cincinnati - 03/15/2010

Master of Science in Nursing, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Track

#### University of Southern Mississippi - 12/2007

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

#### Meridian Community College - 05/2000

Associate Degree in Nursing

#### Mississippi State University - 12/1994

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

**HEALTH AWARDS**

The Choctaw Health Center COVID-19 Planning and Response Team won two prestigious awards in FY 2022. Indian Health Services selected CHC as the 2021 recipient of the Pandemic Heroism Award. Additionally, the National Indian Health Board selected CHC as a recipient of the Local Impact Award in 2022. Both awards are meant to honor CHC's work that contributed to improving First American healthcare or affected change on an area basis.

**CHC EXPANDS SERVICES**

Rehabilitation Services now includes the following options:

- Spinal/ Extremity Manipulation
- Dry Needling/ Electrical Dry Needling
- Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization
- Cupping
- Blood Flow Restriction Therapy
- Sports Medicine
- Vestibular Rehabilitation
- Manual Therapy

**CELEBRATORY MOMENTS**

- Employee Service Awards 2021 honored 39 staff members for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 45 years of continuous dedicated services.
- National Hospital Week observed May 2022.
  - Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben visited the Choctaw Health Center to offer his gratitude to the hardworking and dedicated staff. A luncheon was held in the staff's honor.

**VISION CENTER ENHANCES SERVICES**

Choctaw Health Center Vision Center offers routine vision services, emergency services, and ocular disease management services.

- Minor Surgical Procedures:
- Excision and removal of non-cancerous lid lesions and chalazion.
- NEW selection of glasses frames for the family from children to adults.
- MBCI members glasses allowance have increased:
  - \$125.00 Children
  - \$150.00 Adult

**PHARMACY ADDITION**

- CHC Pharmacy began providing drive thru services in January 2022 to the MBCI community.
- CHC Pharmacy provides patients with prescription services, medication reconciliation services, and medication therapy counseling on any prescription or over-the-counter medication.
- CHC Pharmacy filled a total of 182,455 prescriptions in FY 2022.
- CHC Pharmacy is a designated drop site in the medication take-back program. A drop box is in the pharmacy lobby to dispose of unneeded medication.
- CHC Pharmacy continues to mail eligible patient medications and refills. Community Health Technicians work with CHC Pharmacy to deliver non-narcotics to eligible patients' homes.

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FACILITY (CERF): PHASE 2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT PROJECT**

This project consists of building out the designated health spaces in the CERF building which is approximately 1,200 square feet in Plan A and 900 square feet in Plan B sites. Projected completion for this project is Spring 2024. The project is broken into three phases: Phase 1- complete construction of all CERF buildings, Phase 2 & 3 - build out health specific space to expand COVID-19 mitigation efforts and provide health support in designated Tribal emergency situations. Phase 3 also designates plans to incorporate technology advancement with tele-health.

**NEW AIR COMPRESSOR INSTALLED**

This installation of an additional air compressing unit separates the medical gas air and instrument air sources, removing the potential of cross contamination. Thus, preventing and enhancing quality healthcare in patient services.

**UNITY WALK**

The 15th Annual Unity Walk/Run was held in the Pearl River Community on Saturday, June 25.

World Series Stickball teams walked from their respective practice fields and arrived at the Choctaw Central High School softball field parking lot. From there, the teams walked together to the Pearl River Amphitheater.



## SDPI COLOR RUN

The MBCI Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) hosted a Color Walk/Run on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, in the Pearl River Community. Participants walked or ran a 1.5-mile route from the old Pearl River recreational ballfield parking lot to the Manpower Building and back. Volunteers sprayed colored powder on participants as they made their way through the route.

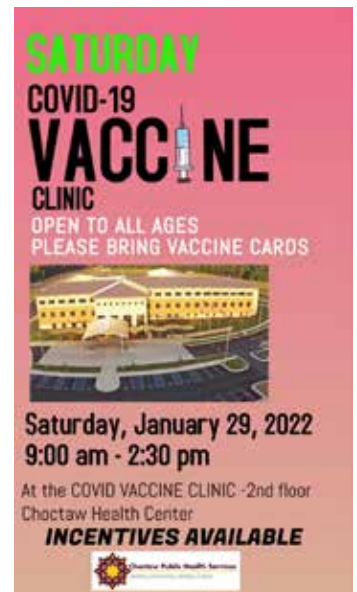


## THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 CONTINUES

- CHC's goal is to provide easy access to vaccination and booster in all communities with presence in Choctaw Tribal Schools, Choctaw Indian Fair in sponsoring the Healthplex, hosting a variety of Community Fairs and COVID-19 vaccination on-site monthly clinics in each Tribal community.
- In following CDC guidelines, CHC progressed eligible ages from 12-years-old to 6-months-old. At the end of FY 2022 CHC was vaccinating ages 6 months and older.
- CHC COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic offers vaccinations during the work week with walk-in and scheduled appointment times.
- COVID-19 Testing: Over 26,000 total administered tests through CHC resources. CHC provided multiple locations for ease of testing: Outside testing tent, outlying clinics, Primary Care Clinic, Emergency Room, and Mobile Unit.
- Clinical Treatment: Provided life-saving Monoclonal antibody infusions to high-risk patients. Bamlanivimab and Bebtelovimab monoclonal antibody infusions totaled 283 doses administered to high-risk patients.
- Public Health Services continues to provide COVID-19 updates through the COVID-19 Dashboard.
- Public Health Services Helpline is available to answer any questions related to COVID-19. They present up-to-date information and guidance for Quarantine and Isolation orders through social media, Tribal news sources, and hand-delivered fliers. CHC's goal is to be as current and accurate as possible.
- Continues Mental Health and Wellness in clinic, tele-health, and within Tribal communities. Behavioral Health professionals evaluate and treat COVID-19 related mental illness.
- Continues to provide tele-health options to Tribal Members including tele-mental health services, telephone clinics, and electronic referrals.
- CHC provides COVID-19 free at home test kits and face masks in amounts that sustain a concerted effort of mitigation of risk of spread of COVID-19.
- CHC Environmental Health Services provide Tribal programs with disinfection spraying.
- CHC augments personnel in areas to maximize COVID-19 prevention and clinical efforts in Tribal communities.



The federal government awarded MBCI relief funds under the American Rescue Plan Act for COVID-19 mitigation efforts. **THE TRIBE RECEIVED \$65 MILLION +.** Tribal Leaders and Health Board Leaders put the health of their citizens at the top of the priority list.



# SNAPSHOT OF COVID-19 ACTIVITIES



**5,427 OR 53.3%**  
**Fully Vaccinated**  
*Out of 10,186 User Population*



**COVID-19 Disinfection**  
*Spraying: Tribal Programs & CHC*



**Additional Personnel**



**Continued Medical Testing and Treatment**



**Continued Community Outreach and Education**



# ENTERPRISE SPOTLIGHT

## RESORT EXPANSION PROJECT IN WINSTON COUNTY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



Plans have been announced for a new Travel Plaza on the Tribe's land in Winston County near the City of Louisville. On Friday, September 9, 2022, during a special call meeting of the Choctaw Tribal Council, Resolution CHO 22-118, a Resolution to Expand Gaming Operations and to Designate a Resort Area in the Crystal Ridge Community of the Choctaw Indian Reservation, was passed unanimously in a 17-0 vote by the Tribal Council.

### Features:

- Convenience store
- Retail and Commercial fuel pumps
- Restaurant
- Gaming Slots
- Sportsbook



## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT:

- Address the growing needs of the Tribe such as:
  - Improve Tribal Infrastructure (roads, facilities, housing, water systems, IT and Broadband)
  - Investment in Education facilities, operations, projects
- Provide new employment opportunities
- Diversify Tribe's business holdings

### Proposed Distribution Strategy of Net Cash Flow



Debt Service (Interest & principal, if any) - 15%



Additional Cap Ex Reserve for Resort Properties - 15%



Resort Expansion - 20%



Tribal Infrastructure - 25%



Tribal Education - 25%

## MORE GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT PEARL RIVER RESORT



In addition to this, there have been renovations to the Welcome Center, Creaky Leaky at Geyser Falls, Phase 1 of Dancing Rabbit Golf Club and slot improvements. Currently projects in progress include the renovation of Dancing Rabbit Inn and Phase 2 of Golden Moon Gas Installation/Conversion. The Resort Planning Team is also in the design/planning phase for expansion of the Bok Homa Casino facility, Phase 2 of Dancing Rabbit Clubhouse and Bunkers Renovation, Geyser Falls improvements and renovation of Silver Star. All of these are necessary to keep our business relevant and successful in a competitive market.





CHAPEL HART



CHOCTAW DAY AT GEYSER FALLS



PEARL RIVER RESORT CONCERT SERIES



ASSOCIATE TAILGATE



ASSOCIATE TAILGATE



POISON AT SILVER STAR

# CHAHTA HOLDING GROUP

Chahta Holding Group currently has 3 active companies:

- IKBI Inc., which is the oldest, is an SBA HUBZone certified small business.
- Chahta Construction Inc. is an SBA 8(a) and HUBZone certified small business.
- Chahta Services Inc, the newest, is an SBA 8(a) certified small business.

During FY22, CHG entities combined worked on over 26 Tribal projects and 2 federal projects:

- IKBI worked only MBCI Tribal projects, which include housing and roads, building maintenance for schools, in addition to elderly roofing and driveways.
- Chahta Construction (CCI) is currently under contract with USACE-Mobile for grounds Maintenance at Okatibbee Lake. CCI was recently awarded a SATOC with Department of Commerce: NIST at Gaithersburg Maryland and also worked on Tribal projects with sister company IKBI.
- Chahta Services (CSI) joined forces with other small business companies to build teams with experience and skills to enter the federal contracting marketplace.

Coming up in the next year:

- IKBI plans to continue working on Tribal construction jobs for MBCI, concentrating on housing.
- CCI plans continued interaction with federal contracting, including more task orders under the SATOC at NIST Gaithersburg, MD.
- CSI plans to develop in the federal contracting environment with JVs and teaming partners.



# CHOCTAW SHOPPING ENTERPRISE CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING

On October 24, 2022, a ribbon cutting was held at the Big Creek Property in Bogue Chitto Community to formally open the store "Obeid's Food Mart". The new store manager is a MBCI Tribal Member, Onnie Obeid.



# CHOCTAW HOUSING AUTHORITY



*Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee*

Choctaw Housing Authority has a total of 17 new homes to be completed before the end of 2022. This includes 8 three bedroom/ two bathroom homes, located on Oswald Road, Indian Hills Circle, Choctaw Street and Lagoon Road in the Pearl River Community, one in Henning, Tennessee, and 8 two bedroom/ two bath houses on old Frog Level Road also located in the Pearl River Community.

Choctaw Housing Authority has 16 units that will be on the 2023 calendar. Six of these units will be in Bogue Chitto Community, five in Tucker Community and five units in the Standing Pine Community.











Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
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