

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE

**General Resolution Number 20-048
Authorization for Chickasaw Nation Health System to
Apply for a USDA Rural Utilities Service
Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the Office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Nation has the inherent sovereign authority to provide for the health and general well-being of the Chickasaw people, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA) Rural Utilities Service has announced the availability of competitive grant resources for the development of distance learning and telemedicine projects in rural areas, and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the expanded needs of the Chickasaw people, additional health service needs have been assessed, and it has been determined that teleradiology imaging services are a high priority need for the Chickasaw Nation Health System (CNHS) service population, and

WHEREAS, the CNHS is proposing to implement a teleradiology project to connect the various CNHS facilities in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of patient imaging services throughout the CNHS service area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby supports the CNHS effort to apply for the USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes funds to be utilized from tribal business revenues through the General Funds for a 31% match to the CNHS application for the USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

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Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on April 17, 2003, by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Chairperson
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Concur: _____
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Date: _____

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Application Due Date:

May 2, 2003

Application Budget Amount:

Approximately \$257,000

Matching Requirements:

15% minimum amount required

31% requested for higher application score; estimated amount is \$115,500

Project Period:

Approximately twelve (12) months, anticipated to start on or about October 1, 2003.

Project Abstract:

The Chickasaw Nation Health System (CNHS) will collaborate with the Chickasaw Nation Information Technology Department to implement a teleradiology project that will consolidate the service needs of patients located at the remote facilities of the CNHS.

Obtaining adequate radiology reading services can be difficult and expensive. Cost analysis indicates that there is an approximate \$4 difference in the "per-film" reading rate between the central and satellite sites (\$11 per film versus \$15 per film, respectively). This difference in cost equates to an extra \$10,000 per year for the CNHS. Additionally, the turn around time between imaging and reporting interpretations back to the patients can be as long as five days at the satellite sites, whereas turn-around time at the central site is within 24 hours.

The use of a teleradiology system will consolidate the reading services and help alleviate the burden of recruiting appropriate health professions to provide this service at each location. The proposed system will also improve response time to patients and reduce patient travel between sites. In addition, the consolidation of several contracts for radiology reading is expected to produce an overall cost savings for the CNHS.

An estimated 52.2% of CNHS patients have no type of medical insurance or alternative

coverage resource available. Due to such lack of revenue generating capacity, the CNHS is applying for financial assistance to implement a high-cost system that will facilitate timely and needed medical service to a rural AI/AN population. The proposed project will be used entirely for telemedicine purposes.

Requested By: Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Presented By: Steve Woods, Chairman
Human Resources Committee