

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MCALESTER REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER'S APPLICATION TO THE USDA FOR A DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE GRANT

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE a Resolution supporting McAlester Regional Health Center (MRHC) in its application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant;

WHEREAS, MRHC provides healthcare to many Choctaw Nation Members in Pittsburg County;

WHEREAS, the USDA is offering grant assistance to rural medical providers that will allow them to increase telemedicine services by purchasing or supporting audio, video, and interactive video equipment, computer hardware, software, and network components, and broadband facilities used for distance learning or telemedicine;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted many rural healthcare delivery system flaws. As a result of the weaknesses identified by COVID-19, MRHC desires to apply for this grant to install telemedicine equipment in its hospital, three rural health clinics, and long-term care facility;

WHEREAS, MRHC also wants to donate telemedicine equipment to the most remote school districts in its service area to reduce student absenteeism when seeking healthcare appointments. The goal of this equipment is to provide greater access to care for MRHC's rural patient population through partnerships with other regional healthcare systems;

WHEREAS, MRHC has reached out to Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority leadership and asked for a resolution from the Nation supporting MRHC's application since MRHC is within the Choctaw Nation Tribal Statistical Area; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Services Authority wishes to support MRHC's application to increase telehealth services to the Coal County area and increase partnerships with other local rural healthcare providers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the application of the McAlester Regional Health Center to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Distance Learning & Telemedicine Health Grant.

CERTIFICATION

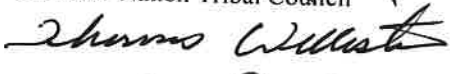

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at a Special Session of the Tribal Council hosted virtually from Durant, Oklahoma on January 14, 2023. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CR- 06 -23 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MCALESTER REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER'S APPLICATION
FOR A USDA DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE GRANT**



Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 1-17-23

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Purpose/Need of Council Resolution: The purpose of this Resolution is to support McAlester Regional Health Center's application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant. This is a grant available to rural healthcare providers to increase telemedicine availability and connectivity. McAlester Regional Health Center leadership has asked for the Nation's support of their application since Pittsburg County is located within the Nation's Tribal Statistical Area.

Title of Council Resolution: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MCALESTER REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER'S APPLICATION FOR A USDA DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE GRANT

Agency: Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by: Todd Hallmark, Executive Officer, Department of Health; Teresa Jackson, SEO, Member Services