

ᄀᄀ ᄀᄀᄀᄀᄀ PROGRAM

Policy

The ᄀᄀ ᄀᄀᄀᄀᄀ Program formerly known as the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) operates on a fiscal year (October through September) and serves low-income Native Americans within the Osage Reservation (Osage County). This program is designed to provide financial assistance for youth to participate in sports, art initiatives, after-school activities, and promote proper nutrition by assisting with school lunch costs, while strengthening and encouraging family unification. This initiative includes a family participation goal of 50%, pending funds are available. Allowable expenses will be paid to offset the cost of these activities for parents/guardians.

Completed applications include the following attachments:

- Copy of an Osage Nation membership card for Osage preference, or a non-Osage tribal membership card or CDIB for each person in family unit
- Copy of photo identification for each parent or legal guardian
- Copy of Social Security card for each person in family unit
- Proof of residency (current utility bill in applicant's name or certification of address form)
- Copy of birth certificates or guardianship papers for each youth in the family unit
- If applicable, Veterans must provide DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) - for purposes of benefit and services. A person who served in active military service and who was discharged, or released, under conditions other than dishonorable is considered a veteran
- If applicable, disabled applicants must provide verification of Social Security Disability (SSD or SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Eligibility Requirements

Requirements to be considered eligible for the ᄀᄀ ᄀᄀᄀᄀᄀ Program includes:

- Reside within the boundaries of the Osage Reservation (Osage County)
- Youth participants in the family unit must belong to a federally recognized tribe
- Income must be below 125% of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Federal Poverty Guideline
- For purposes of this policy youth participants must be 18 years or younger

Priority in eligibility is given to households that include one of the following:

Osage preference priority method:

- Member of the Osage Nation must be included in the household
- Spouse or Parent of an Osage Nation member
- Member of a federally recognized tribe

Veteran preference priority method:

- Disabled Osage Nation Member Veteran
- Member of the Osage Nation
- Disabled Veteran Parent or Spouse of Osage Member
- Veteran Parent or Spouse of Osage Member
- Disabled Veteran of a federally recognized tribe
- Veteran of a federally recognized tribe

Income verification for the past thirty days is required from the parent(s) or legal guardian in the family unit. Applications and eligibility is valid for 30 days. Eligibility is determined from the following:

- Wages (net income)
- Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits; excluding Medicare deductions
- Supplemental Security Income Benefits (SSI)
- Retirement/pension benefits
- Self-employment Income
- Rental Income
- Alimony
- Child Support

Enrolled members of the Osage Nation will receive a standard deduction of \$250 per enrolled member in the family unit.

Example for a family unit of five (5) enrolled Osages

Net Income \$3,800 per month (ineligible)
 Deduction \$1,250
 Adjusted Net Income \$2,550 (eligible)

Allowable Activities

The organization providing the activity must be fully operational, accredited, and sanctioned. Each activity must be pre-approved before expenses are paid. The following is a list of activities approved for funding:

Brownies	Girl Scouts	Cub Scouts
Boy Scouts	Gymnastics	Tumbling
Martial Arts	Boxing	Ballet
Jazz	Tap	Hip Hop
Cheerleading	Softball	Baseball
Soccer	Football	Camps
Golf	Swimming	4-H
Workshop	After-School Programs	Other – with Director Approval

Allowable Costs

Costs associated with sports, art initiatives and after-school programs may include fees, equipment, uniforms, supplies, materials, and other related expenses. A list of required items must be provided by the entity that is providing the activity. Costs not listed may be submitted to Director for review, to determine whether or not the cost is allowable.

Costs associated with school lunch programs, school field trips lunches, and other school sponsored activities that require students to provide their own lunches.

These costs are available per youth participant within a family unit; however the total amount per family unit, per fiscal year, cannot exceed \$750.

Assistance Procedure

Parents/Guardians must provide an invoice from the youth activity vendor. All invoices must contain the pertinent information for each child and amounts due. Reimbursements to parents/guardians must be pre-approved and include a detailed receipt. A completed form W9 is required from all vendors and parents / guardians seeking reimbursement.

Participation Incentive

In order to strengthen and encourage family unification, the program will provide an incentive to parents or guardians that participate with their youth(s) activities. The family participation goal is 50% and proof of participation is required. The parent /guardian must submit the youth activity schedule of events, to support the application. The parent/guardian and an official from the activity must sign a participation record. Participation is defined as attending activities, volunteering, carpooling, organizing, etc. Participation for school lunch program applicants can be meet my parent/teacher conferences, attending field trips, homeroom parent, etc. Parents / guardians that meet the goal of 50% participation are eligible for the, one time, \$100 incentive to be applied to youth activities and/or lunch account.

Application Procedure

- Applicants must submit a complete application to the Osage Nation Financial Assistance Department. Applications are not considered complete until all required and requested documents are submitted.
- Complete applications will be processed to determine eligibility within five (5) business days from the application completion date.
- Each applicant will receive an approval or denial letter within (10) business days after the application completion date
- Applicants will have (10) business days from date of denial to appeal decisions

Vendor Payment Procedure

- Checks will be mailed directly to the vendor
- All vendors must submit a completed W9 form
- If reimbursement, applicant must complete and submit W9 form