

## **Implementation Plan**

Below is a complete listing of our CARES Act projects to be implemented for the COVID response.

### **Food Security**

Much of the Osage Nation, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, is in a food desert. Access to food is limited, and for many Osages, the closest establishment to purchase food is a dollar-type or convenience store, greatly limiting their options for healthy choices. Post-COVID, the options for all Osages were made that much worse with the store shortages and supply chain disruptions. In an effort to feed our people as a direct, necessary response to COVID, the Osage Nation is proposing to spend a portion of their CARES Act funds towards food production to ensure food security. Due to the extensive nature of this focus and the limited time to implement it, this is the first priority.

#### **Meat Packing Plant – \$8,000,000.00**

A major tenant of this approach is the construction of a 25,000 square foot meat processing plant. Utilizing existing Osage owned cattle and bison, we will bring enough protein to market to properly feed our people in the midst of this pandemic. Not only did Osages face a lack of meat protein in local stores, or high prices for what little was available, even departments of the Osage Nation such as Early Learning and Elder Nutrition faced shortages from their off-reservation suppliers. This plant will be constructed in Hominy, OK on Osage trust land in our industrial park. The Osage Nation Food Distribution department is located in Hominy already, adding to the logistics of this operation.

#### **Bird Creek Farms – \$6,051,500.00**

The next action to ensure food security is improvements at our Bird Creek Farms. The farm has been in operation for about five years now. However, it has never been required to produce at the level necessary to ensure food security. This proposal includes the construction of a 40,000 square foot greenhouse, a 44,000 square foot general use building that will include an aquaponics operation, and the purchase of equipment necessary for large scale farming to fulfill this unmet need. The farm is located on property soon to be in trust status in Pawhuska.

#### **Osage Ranch - \$2,903,312.00**

The last action for food security is improvements at our Osage Ranch. In 2016 the Osage Nation purchased the ranch. It has primarily been a cow/calf operation where we produce cattle and sell them to other ranchers or feedlots. The ranch has also been working towards developing a bison herd. The operations at the ranch were not necessarily geared towards finishing animals for food production. We need to make improvements to bring this facility up to the level to allow for large scale meat production. As we better develop this food supply, there will be necessary expenditures to protect, promote and utilize this resource for food security. We plan to build fences, pens and a feedlot type set up for finishing cattle for final processing. We also plan to acquire the equipment and resources to implement this food security action. Funding can be used to increase the size of our current bison and/or cattle herds.

## **Direct Response**

As soon as COVID-19 made its way to the Osage Reservation, it became immediately clear that direct response was a major unmet need. Resources were not available to prepare for, respond to, or prevent the spread of the disease. This focus of the plan addresses this much-needed response.

### **WahZhaZhi Health Center - \$2,000,000.00**

This is the ultimate, direct COVID response. The health center in Pawhuska has been tasked with the testing and treatment of COVID for the Osage people and the roughly 500 Osage Nation employees. They plan to hire temporary registered nurses and support staff. They also plan to invest heavily in many items that were budgeted for, but due to COVID, have been depleted. They also plan to acquire equipment that was unthought-of before the pandemic, such as triage tents and mobile exam rooms.

### **Individual Osage Payments**

Treasury guidance states that payments can be made to individuals who have demonstrated a COVID caused hardship that we as a nation determine to be necessary. Financial Assistance is developing policies and procedures to properly document these allowable expenses towards a long list of COVID caused financial hardships. They also plan to hire temporary employees, possibly laid-off employees, to process the flood of applications that will be coming as well as other direct COVID operating expenses. They will be administering the payments to Osage members as found under Osage Individual Payments plan below. Their administrative costs are reflected in the Administration budget.

We conducted surveys to gauge the level of losses caused directly by COVID for both Osage owned businesses and individual Osage members. Those surveys had a high level of participation and showed a real need exists. These programs will respond to this urgent pandemic caused need.

### **Osage Members - \$10,030,000.00**

For Osage Nation members who can document a necessary COVID need, we will provide direct assistance of \$500.00 per adult. This includes a \$30,000 reimbursement of Crisis Program direct COVID response previously paid for with tribal dollars during the allowed timeframe before award of CARES Act funds.

### **Osage Owned Businesses - \$2,500,000.00**

For those Osage owned (51% +) and operated businesses that can demonstrate a COVID caused drop in business income, they will be eligible for up to \$10,000.00 in COVID relief. We plan to partner with the Tri County Tech's Business Development Center to help implement this involved program.

### **Tribal Works - \$2,490,297.00**

Tribal Works has been asked to help keep all Osage Nation property safe from COVID. They are the central clearinghouse for all PPE, social distancing measures, sanitizing equipment

and cleaning supplies. They are requesting secured storage for all this equipment and the means to handle and deliver all these supplies to the 48 different buildings they are responsible for, across the 1.47 million-acre Osage Reservation.

### **Emergency Management - \$500,000.00**

Emergency Management is on the front lines of all calamities that face the Osage Nation. COVID is one of them. They propose to purchase supplies and equipment to facilitate this direct response. This includes a mobile command post, supplies to open a COVID shelter, and other equipment for our first line of defense.

### **Information Technology**

The COVID pandemic has created a new normal for interactions with work and learning. All Osage Nation employees were sent to work from home due to the initial outbreak and continue to be sent home as flare-ups continue. All Osage Language and Culture Department classes were canceled as well. Additionally, all Osage County schools were closed due to the pandemic, forcing many families to attempt to school from home. Many people's only option for applying for COVID services was through the outdated Osage Nation webpage. The Information Technology (IT) focus will address all these pandemic caused needs.

### **Broadband - \$3,000,000.00**

It is a proven fact that the internet connectivity for Osage County is extremely substandard. Due to COVID, this failure was exacerbated due to increased demand on this weak link. This proposal will construct broadband towers in the Pawhuska area, greatly increasing connectivity for adults and children of the area. It also increases the mobile hot spot inventory that will allow Osage Nation employees who live in an internet dead-zone to work from home, including additional loaner computers to facilitate this need. This budget for this proposal also includes a major overhaul of the Osage Nation website to allow constituents to log in and apply for services, greatly decreasing their interaction with staff and speeding up services. It also includes additional money for support of the system (cybersecurity, data center, document control) to bolster the durability of this vital remote access machine.

### **Remote Work - \$1,500,000.00**

The Osage Nation currently has a virtual private network (VPN) that allows employees to gain remote access to the Osage Nation network, email and other services. Due to COVID, the increased demand on this system caused it to run at a very slow pace with widespread connection issues. This program would create a seamless remote desktop where any employee could log into any computer and work remotely, securely. As COVID continues to require work from home, this new system is vital.

### **Language / Culture Distance Learning - \$944,900.00**

The Osage Nation has invested millions of dollars in the preservation and instruction of our language and culture. Without a language and culture, a people cease to exist. Two independent Osage Nation departments are tasked to carry out this important cause. Due to COVID, classes were canceled. All remote learning events in other states have been stopped. Gatherings will continue to be a source of infection. COVID has put up a huge roadblock to our vital mission. This proposal would provide needed media production equipment,

resources, and content to better educate our people on their language and culture in a pandemic caused remote setting.

Additionally, our current pool of fluent Osage speakers who serve as language teachers is small. They are a precious resource. We should do everything we can to protect these individuals from COVID, and an online remote classroom is an absolutely necessary solution.

**Administration - \$1,297,922.00**

Any response of this magnitude will have significant administration. This fund will pay for allowable expenses such as consultant fees, wages, hazard pay, indirect cost, and other direct response charges.

**Other Needs**

The CARES Act provides much-needed assistance that should be offered to all other Osage Nation entities besides the Executive Branch. Under the direction of the Principal Chief, we reached out to the Osage Nation Legislative and Judicial branches, as well as our Minerals Council and LLCs. Below are the approved proposals to address their COVID need:

**Congressional Operations - \$103,394.00**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress has proposed a list of remote access equipment, PPE and upgrades to react to, prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID.

**Judicial - \$103,000.00**

The Judicial branch has proposed a list of remote access equipment, PPE and upgrades to react to, prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID.

**Osage Home Health - \$61,050.00**

Osage Home Health has proposed a list of remote access equipment, PPE and upgrades to react to, prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID.

**Other Requests - \$3,394,438.00**

Several other programs have approached the task force for funding. Some proposals being considered include additional funding for the Health Center for substance abuse treatment and a new court building for Judicial. If found to be an allowable COVID response, this fund will be used towards these future projects and will not affect the grand total.

**Financial Summary**

<b>Meat Packing Plant</b>	\$8,000,000.00
<b>Bird Creek Farms</b>	\$6,051,500.00
<b>Osage Ranch</b>	\$2,903,312.00
<b>Health Center</b>	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Osage Members</b>	\$10,030,000.00
<b>Osage Owned Business</b>	\$2,500,000.00

<b>Tribal Works</b>	\$2,490,297.00
<b>Emergency Management</b>	\$500,000.00
<b>Broadband</b>	\$3,000,000.00
<b>Remote Work</b>	1,500,000.00
<b>Language/Culture</b>	\$944,900.00
<b>Administration</b>	\$1,297,922.00
<b>Congressional Operations</b>	\$103,394.00
<b>Judicial</b>	\$103,000.00
<b>Osage Home Health</b>	\$61,050.00
<b>Other Requests</b>	\$3,394,438.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,879,813.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>First Payment</b>	\$28,670,004.00
<b>Second Payment</b>	\$12,306,497.00
<b>Third Payment</b>	\$3,903,312.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,879,813.00</b>