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Office of the Principal Chief

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Bryan Warner
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October 23, 2025

TO: Dr. Corey Bunch, Chief of Staff
Howard Paden, Executive Director of
Language Programs
FR: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
CC: Bryan Warner, Deputy Principal Chief
Leadership, Council of the Cherokee Nation
Cabinet / Sub-Cabinet

**ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM DIRECTING THE USAGE OF \$2.3 MILLION
“LANGUAGE SUPPLEMENT” FUNDS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND
WELLNESS FUND ACT**

The purpose of this memorandum is to direct the expenditure of \$2.3 million in funds available under the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended, consistent with the PHWFA FY 26 spending framework set for the tin the administrative memorandum of October 21, 2025.

I. Background

The Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, as amended, authorizes expenditure for “Public Health and Wellness Activities and Infrastructure” pursuant to an annual framework determined by the Principal Chief. Certain activities of the Cherokee Nation Language Department and our language presentation partner, the Cherokee Little Seeds Program, are within the meaning of this term in the Act.

According, by administration memorandum of October 21, 2025, the PHWFA FY 26 spending framework includes, in relevant part:

- **\$2.3m PHW Cherokee Language Supplement**
 - *PHW Speaker Service's Peer recovery program, NTE \$500k (\$500k FY 25, allocated under PHW Operations in FY 25 framework).*
 - *PHW Speaker Services Elder Fluent Speaker Home Care program, CNA-trained staff to assist fluent speakers remain in their homes. NTE \$325k*
 - *PHW Speaker Services housing rehab projects.*
 - *PHW Language Hubs Capital Projects.*
 - *PHW Little Cherokee Seeds partnership, NTE \$800k*

II. Directive

The Executive Director of Language should immediately develop policies, memoranda of understanding, make expenditure and take other actions consistent with this memorandum and the referenced memorandum of October 21, 2025.

More specifically, the Executive Director should:

- a. Continue to existing **PHW Fluent Speaker Peer Recovery Program** not to exceed \$500k for FY 2025.
- b. Implement the **PHW Fluent Speaker Home Care Program**, hiring and adequately training and equipping up to two staff members to provide in home care to the most health care vulnerable fluent speakers. These staff members should receive paid training to become CNA certified or some comparable relevant certification. The budget should not exceed \$325k.
- c. Enter into a renewal of the FY 2025 memorandum of understanding with American Indian Resource Center in support of the **Little Cherokee Seeds program**, not to exceed \$800k. The MOU should continue to encourage the program to become more self sufficient by pursuing additional funding sources to supplant funds provided by Cherokee Nation.
- d. Commit the balance of funds to **Speaker Services** program for the purpose of repairing or replacing substandard housing for fluent speakers and supporting health and safety capital improvements to fluent Language Hubs, provided:
 - a. The Executive Director provides to this office a summary of "PHW Speaker Services" fund usage and, as warranted, a request for additional FY 26 funds no later than March 30, 2026.

III. Conclusion

The \$2.3 million investment in Cherokee language revitalization outline herein effectuates the purposes and polices of the PHWFA, as amended and the Durbin Feeling Language Preservation Act, as amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH2', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief