

Program Eligibility

We have expanded eligibility to ensure broad economic impact across our reservation and beyond. You are eligible to apply if you operate a small business with less than 500 employees and fall into one of these categories:

- **Tribal Citizens on Reservation:** Citizens of any federally recognized tribe living and operating a business on the Cherokee Nation Reservation.
- **Community Members in Opportunity Zones:** Any United States citizen living or operating a business inside a designated Cherokee Nation Opportunity Zone.
- **Cherokee Citizens Nationwide:** All Cherokee Nation citizens, regardless of where they live in the United States.

Rates and Terms

For standard loans, our rate is the CNEDTA Base Rate, currently at 4 percent, plus 1 percent to 3 percent.

Advantageous Opportunity Zone Rates: We offer significantly reduced rates for businesses within the designated zones:

- Microenterprise Loans: Base Rate less 2 percent.
- Small Business Loans: Base Rate plus 0 - 2 percent.

Simplified Loan Structure:

- Standard borrowers will have two loans: one with a private financial institution and one with the Cherokee Nation.
- **Exception:** Microenterprise borrowers in Opportunity Zones will have a single loan held solely by the Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority.

Matching Funds:

- Standard loans require a 1:1 match. For every one dollar borrowed from us, borrowers must secure one dollar from a private institution.
- **Exception:** Microenterprise loans in Opportunity Zones do not require this 1:1 private match.

For more information or to discuss participating in this program, call 918-453-5536.