



GWYĀ DBF  
CHEROKEE NATION®

# State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

- Have you been wishing you could start your own business?
- Do you already have a business you wish you could expand?
- Cherokee Nation's SSBCI Loan Program may be right for you!



# SSBCI LOAN PROGRAM

- Helps businesses get access to the financing needed to start or expand
- Cherokee Nation partners with financial institutions to fund a portion of the business start-up or expansion costs
- Mutually beneficial for businesses and financial institutions
  - *Banks aren't taking on as much risk*
  - *Business owners do not have to provide as much equity as is normally required*



# PRIVATE CAPITAL LEVERAGING

**The SSBCI Loan Program  
requires private capital  
leveraging.**

***What does that mean?***

For every \$1 of SSBCI loan funds, the borrower must obtain at least \$1 in loan funds from a private financial institution (for example, a bank, credit union, or Community Development Financial Institution)



# LOAN AMOUNTS

**\$5M**

Maximum SSBCI Loan



**\$20M**

Maximum Project Cost

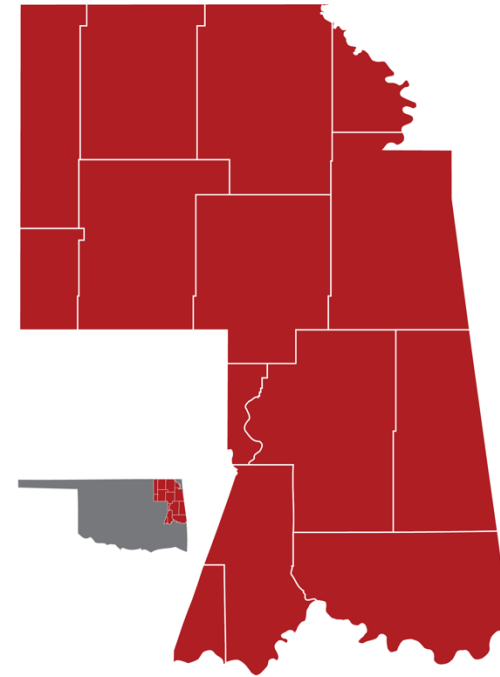
# LOAN TERMS

- Interest rate currently 5-7%
- Maximum term 15 years, amortized up to 20 years
- Collateral is required but flexible
- Origination fee is 1%
- No prepayment fees



# ELIGIBILITY

- The Cherokee Nation SSBCI Loan Program is available to all citizens of federally recognized tribes living on the Cherokee Nation reservation.
- The loan program is also available to at-large Cherokee citizens living throughout the state of Oklahoma.



# EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY

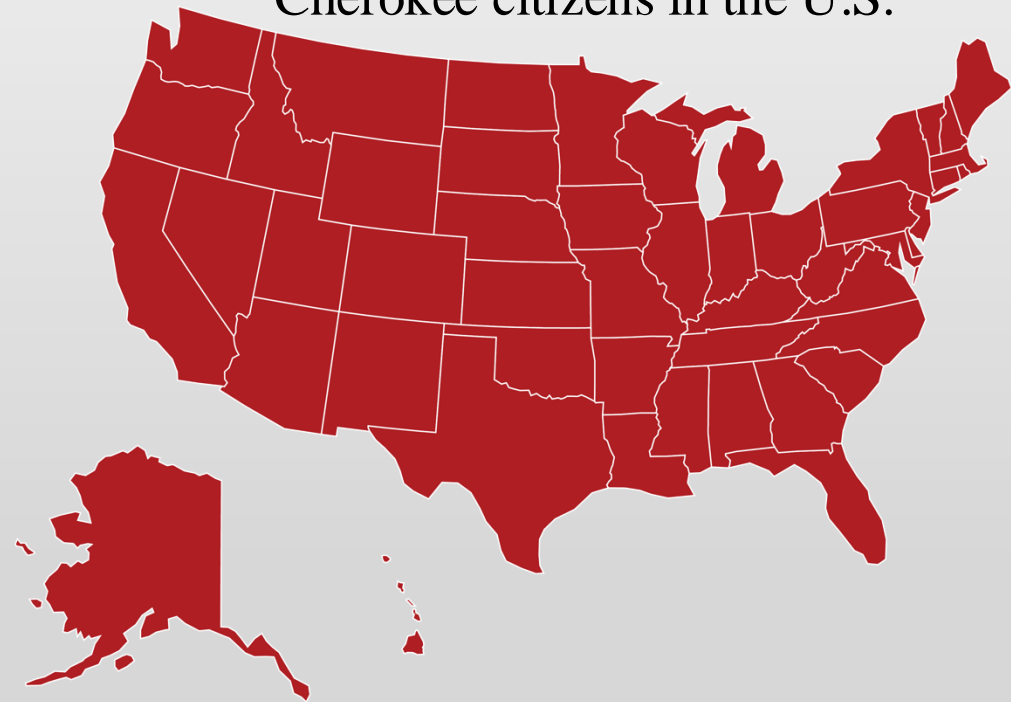
**March 2025**

Cherokee citizens in AR, KS, MO, TX



**July 2025**

Cherokee citizens in the U.S.





# ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

- ✓ Start-up costs, working capital, and franchise fees
- ✓ Acquisition of equipment and inventory
- ✓ Services used in producing, manufacturing, or delivering goods or services
- ✓ Purchase, construction, renovation or tenant improvements of an eligible place of business
- ✓ Funds may be used to purchase tangible and intangible assets except goodwill

# INELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

- ⊘ Speculative Activities
- ⊘ Lending Activities
- ⊘ Pyramid Sales
- ⊘ Businesses with 500+ employees
- ⊘ Gambling Activities
- ⊘ Real Estate Passive Income
- ⊘ Activities Prohibited by State  
or Federal Law

# INELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

- ⊘ Passive Investments
- ⊘ Delinquent Income Tax
- ⊘ Taxes
- ⊘ Owner Reimbursement
- ⊘ Ownership Interest

# NEXT STEPS

1

**APPLY FOR  
COMMERCIAL  
LOAN WITH BANK**

Notify bank of desire to use  
SSBCI; bank will reach out  
to Cherokee Nation

2

**BANK SENDS LOAN  
APPLICATION TO  
CHEROKEE NATION**

With your permission, bank  
will send application and  
all supporting documentation

3

**CHEROKEE NATION  
MAKES LENDING  
DECISION**

Decision based on  
information provided to  
and supplied by bank

4

**IF APPROVED, BANK  
AND SSBCI LOAN CLOSE  
AT THE SAME TIME**

Borrower will have two loans -  
one with the bank and  
one with Cherokee Nation

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Am I automatically eligible for an SSBCI loan if I am a Cherokee Nation citizen?**

**A:** No, applicants must meet credit criteria including having the ability to obtain private financial institution funding, have a viable business or business plan, have an acceptable debt to income ratio, and satisfactory credit history.

**Q: Where do I get an application?**

**A:** Borrower only needs to complete the private financial institution's application; Cherokee Nation does not require a separate application. Borrower should notify the lender that they are interested in Cherokee Nation's SSBCI Loan Program.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What bank or private financial institution do I have to use?**

**A:** Borrower can use any financial institution willing to work with Cherokee Nation.

**Q: What if my bank doesn't know about the SSBCI Program?**

**A:** You can do one of two things;

1. Pass on the SSBCI contact information to the lender
2. Contact Cherokee Nation's SSBCI Program and we will reach out directly to your lender to discuss the program.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What is passive real estate income?**

**A:** Income generated from rental activities and other real estate investments

**Q: Can SSBCI funds be used to construct a brick-and-mortar location for my business to operate from?**

**A:** Yes

**Q: Will I have two separate loans?**

**A:** Yes, you will have one loan with a financial institution and one loan with Cherokee Nation.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: If the maximum loan size is \$5 million, does that mean the Cherokee Nation loan cannot be more than \$2.5 million since it requires 1:1 leveraging?**

**A:** No, the maximum Cherokee Nation loan is \$5 million; if you receive a \$5 million Cherokee Nation SSBCI loan, you must have a loan with a private financial institution of at least \$5 million.

**Q: What does maximum project cost mean?**

**A:** The total amount of starting or expanding your business cannot exceed \$20 million.





**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT:**

**SHAY STANFILL**

SSBCI Director

Cherokee Nation Commerce Services

[shay-stanfill@cherokee.org](mailto:shay-stanfill@cherokee.org)

918-772-4167