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Office of the Principal Chief

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-01-CTH

EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF'S TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

1. **AUTHORITY:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation; the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act, as amended.
2. **POLICY:** It is in the interest of the Cherokee Nation to promote and support community organizing to enhance the quality of life of Cherokee communities and revitalize and sustain cultural life ways. Grassroots organizing among the Cherokee people dates to time immemorial and has always been a fundamental component of Cherokee society. In the modern era (1970-present) as Cherokee Nation has restored various attributes of tribal sovereignty and leveraged internal and external resources, community organizing has gained increasing formal support, ranging from the construction of community building, to holding annual gatherings among at-large citizens to grant programs administered by the Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach department (CCO). Since the enactment of the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act in 2019, Cherokee Nation has invested historic resources into all those areas of community organizing and more. In that regard, HJSA, couple with the tribe's Respond, Recover and Rebuild Plan has been responsible for over \$35 million in community building capital investment, with approximately \$14 million in additional community building capital projects presently in some phase of planning or construction. The most recent amendments to HJSCA will add millions of dollars in such investments every three years into perpetuity. These past and future investments hold great promise for the future of Cherokee community organizing where opportunities for progress are seized locally and where problems are identified and solved from the grass roots up, not the top down. Given the remarkable growth in resources supporting community organizing, the Administration seeks guidance as to the efficacy of its efforts so far

and how it might sharpen these efforts going forward. Accordingly, the Principal Chief's Task Force on Community Organizing is hereby established.

3. **Principal Chief's Task Force on Community Organizing:** There is hereby established the Principal Chief's Task Force on Community Organizing, operating pursuant to the composition, objectives and other parameters set forth herein, and alternatively known as the Community Organizing Task Force:

a. **Composition:** The Community Organizing Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- i. Canaan Duncan, Deputy Secretary of State (Chair)
- ii. Savannah Smith, Executive Director of Community and Cultural Outreach (Co-Chair)
- iii. Dawni Squirrell, Cultural Advisor to the Principal Chief
- iv. Vince Feeling, CCO Community Outreach Coordinator
- v. Joseph Price, CCO Technical Assistance Specialist
- vi. Brad Eubanks, CCO Technical Assistance Specialist
- vii. Shawn Crittenden, Director of Gadugi Corps

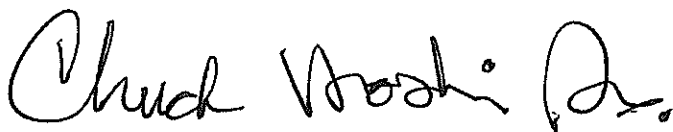
The Task Force may request the assignment of such clerical and administrative assistance as necessary to perform its work. Additionally, the Task Force is generally authorized administrative expense funds available under the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act to fund its work, subject to approval of specific amounts.

b. **Objectives:** The task force should assess or survey, covering at least the previous 12 months, of at least the following:

- i. Routine or periodic community activities of CCO participating organizations.
- ii. Categories of activities by CCO participating organizations (eg, cultural, social, food security, wellness.)
- iii. Barriers to conducting routine or periodic community activities.
- iv. Types of activities organizations desire to conduct or host, but are unable to conduct or host and reasons why.
- v. Participation in CCO grant programs.
- vi. Barriers to participating in CCO grant programs.

- vii. Fundraising or revenue generation from non-Cherokee Nation sources, by category (eg, building / spade rental, third party grants.)
- viii. Barriers to fundraising or revenue generation from non-Cherokee Nation sources.
- ix. Whether the organization perceives financial support provided by Cherokee Nation to be sufficient.
- x. Space rental rates
- xi. Whether the organization has done a formal community needs assessment.
- xii. Whether the organization has developed a comprehensive capital construction plan (if applicable).
- xiii. Basic governance information (eg, board size, board terms, frequency of board governance elections, median age of board members, whether board members are working age or retired, etc.)
- xiv. Membership statistics and information (eg, membership size, geographic scope of membership, membership fees, whether membership is open on a rolling rather than restricted basis).
- xv. Whether organization's leaders perceive the organization as part of a Cherokee Nation mission or objective.
- xvi. Whether the organization's leaders believe there is effective communication to and from CCO on matters of relevance.
- xvii. Most, and least, effective methods of communication by CCO to the organization.
- xviii. Whether the organization has utilized workers paid for by Cherokee Nation and by type (eg, Career Services Participant (non-Summer Youth), Summer Youth Employment / Youth Employment participant, Gadugi Corps National Service Participant.)
- xix. Whether the organization desires the assistance of workers paid for by Cherokee Nation.
- xx. Whether the organization would be willing to contribute to the compensation of a Cherokee Nation paid worker if one were provided.
- xxi. Access and barriers to technology for the conduct of organization's affairs and activities.
- xxii. Quality, reach and effectiveness of the organizations public relations and outreach and opportunities to improve the same.
- xxiii. Whether, within the Cherokee Nation reservation and contiguous areas, Cherokee Nation citizens are familiar with CCO Participating organizations, are members of a CCO participating organization and, if not, whether they are interested in learning more about their local CCO participating organization.

- c. **Methodology:** In conducting its work, the Task Force shall investigate the subject matters under review through such methods as the Task Force deems appropriate, provided the Task Force include the following investigation methods:
- i. Survey of community organization leaders.
 - ii. Focus group or interviews of CCO organization leaders.
 - iii. Survey of CCO staff.
 - iv. Focus group or interviews of CCO staff.
 - v. Invitation for open ended feedback from community organizations.
 - vi. Other stakeholder interviews or surveys, including Cherokee Nation elected officials.
 - vii. In conducting the review, the Task Force may propose the payment of stipends or other incentives to participants not employed by Cherokee Nation.
- d. **Deadline:** The Task Force shall complete its work and issues a final report by May 16, 2025, unless extended in writing by the Principal Chief.
- e. **Transparency:** Although the Task Force is an executive branch advisory group and not a public body within the meaning of the Cherokee Nation Freedom of Information Act, its final report shall be distributed to Cherokee Nation elected officials and to the general public via the Cherokee Nation website within 45 days of completion.
4. **ORDER:** The Principal Chief's Task Force on Community Organizing is hereby created to achieve the purposes and policies set forth in this order.
5. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Order is effective immediately on this 27th day of January 2025 and expires May 16, 2025, unless extended in writing by the Principal Chief.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation