



**NCA 19-029**

**CLASSIFICATION: #5. CHURCHES AND CEREMONIAL GROUNDS**

**A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 5, CHAPTER 2 ENTITLED "FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE" TO ADD LAWNMOWER ASSISTANCE AND SUMMER CAMPS AND MISSION TRIPS ASSISTANCE**

**Be it enacted by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:**

**SECTION ONE. AMENDMENT.** This amendment shall be codified in Title 5, Chapter 2, of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; provided that for purposes of codification of said amendment and its inclusion in pocket parts of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Attorney General is hereby authorized: (1) to approve any changes related to the manner in which sections, articles, chapters and sub-chapters are designated consistent with the format in the Code of Laws published in 2010 by West Publishing Company; (2) to include footnoted references to the legislative history in said pocket parts to the Code of Laws and (3) to note in said pocket parts any editorial correction of minor clerical or grammatical errors in the following amendment, without further National Council approval:

**SECTION TWO. AMENDMENT.** MCNCA Title 5 § 2-101. B. is hereby amended to read as follows:

B. Due to numerous factors, many Churches and Ceremonial Grounds are in great need of assistance for heating expenses, lawnmowers, summer Church camps and mission trips, maintenance, repair and/or larger more improved facilities.

**SECTION THREE. AMENDMENT.** MCNCA Title 5 §§ 2-105, 106 and 107 are hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 2-105. Heating Expense Grant.

**A. Each Church shall complete and submit application for the Heating Expenses Grant to the National Council in order to receive financial assistance up to \$750.00 for the purchase of propane or \$500.00 for natural gas or electric utilities once per fiscal year.**

**B. The National Council will maintain a list of all eligible Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches that are fifty (50) years or older or Churches that can provide documentation demonstrating that eighty percent (80%) of their membership is Muscogee (Creek) citizens and only those Churches on the list maintained by the National Council may apply.**

C. Upon receiving a complete application and required documentation, the National Council will provide the Principal Chief with a copy of said application and documentation. Upon signature of the application by the Principal Chief, the Controller shall remit payment.

D. Each Grant recipient shall submit receipts to the National Council, which will be forwarded to Controller.

E. The annual appropriation for the Church Heating Expenses Grant shall be established at Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00).

§ 2-106. Lawnmower Grant

A. The National Council shall create an application that each Church and Ceremonial Ground shall complete and submit to the National Council in order to receive financial assistance for lawnmowers.

B. The National Council will maintain a list of all eligible Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches that are fifty (50) years or older or Churches that can provide documentation demonstrating that eighty percent (80%) of their membership is Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the sixteen established Ceremonial Grounds that are located within the Nation's jurisdictional boundaries. Only those Churches on the list maintained by the National Council and the sixteen established Ceremonial Grounds may apply. Churches and Ceremonial Grounds will be eligible to apply for assistance until all funds are expended.

C. Churches may receive assistance up to Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) every five years (this includes purchases, past and future).

D. Ceremonial Grounds may receive assistance up to Fifteen Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) every five years (this includes purchases, past and future).

E. All lawnmowers shall be purchased through the Nation's Fleet Department.

F. The annual appropriation for the Lawnmower Grant shall be established at One Hundred Fifteen Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$115,000.00) beginning with the FY 2020, Seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$75,000.00) for Churches and Seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$75,000.00) for Ceremonial Grounds.

§ 2-107. Summer Church Camp and Mission Trip Grant

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A. The National Council shall create an application that each Church shall complete and submit to the National Council in order to receive financial assistance for summer Church camps and mission trips.

B. In order to be eligible for assistance:

1. with summer Church camps, the group must consist of ten or more members of the same Church and be Muscogee (Creek) citizens; or
2. with mission trips, the group must consist of five or more members of the same Church and be Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

C. The National Council will maintain a list of all eligible Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches that are fifty (50) years or older or Churches that can provide documentation demonstrating that eighty percent (80%) of their membership is Muscogee (Creek) citizens and are located within the Nation's jurisdictional boundaries and only those Churches on the list maintained by the National Council may apply.

D. Churches shall be eligible to apply to receive assistance for a summer Church camp or a mission trip every two years and are required to raise half of the amount of total budget. The Church shall be eligible for assistance for the remaining half, but no more than \$2,500.00. If a Church fails to raise half of its total budget, the Church shall be required to return the funds awarded.

E. The Church shall submit the following to the National Council office:

1. a completed application;
2. a line-item budget;
3. a letter from the pastor of the Church supporting request to the National Council office. If there is no pastor, a Church officer, deacon or women's leader may make same request; and
4. copies of citizenship cards or names with roll numbers of members attending summer Church camp or mission trip.

F. Upon approval of the Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee, the Committee shall provide a copy of the approved application to the Principal Chief. Upon signature of the application by the Principal Chief, the Controller shall remit payment.

G. Churches shall forward receipts for total amount of funds allocated to the National Council within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Church camp or mission trip. The National Council will then forward receipts to the Office of Controller. Failure to comply may require full restitution of any and all funds received and Payee may be prohibited from receiving any future funds.

**H. The annual appropriation for the Summer Church Camp and Mission Trip Grant shall be established at Forty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$40,000.00) beginning with the FY 2020 Comprehensive Annual Budget and annually thereafter.**

**§ 2-108.** Funding

A. All funding requests from Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches that are fifty (50) years or older or churches that can provide documentation demonstrating that eighty percent (80%) of their membership is Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the sixteen established Ceremonial Grounds that are located within the Nation's jurisdictional boundaries, as well as funding requests from Muscogee (Creek) citizens for Ceremonial Ground camp repairs and Church camp house and fellowship hall repairs/renovation whose location is within the Nation's jurisdictional boundaries, shall only be addressed through the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program. Any emergency request not qualifying for the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program shall be referred to the Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee to be considered, subject to the availability of funds.

**B. Funds for the Grant Program for Churches and Ceremonial Grounds shall be disbursed as follows:**

1. ~~Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches and Ceremonial Grounds shall be limited to: Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$775,000.00)~~ **Five Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$585,000.00)** for the Churches and Ceremonial Grounds Grant;
2. One Hundred Seventy-Five and No/100 Dollars (\$175,000.00) for the Ceremonial Ground camp repairs and Church camp house and fellowship hall repairs/renovation Grant;
3. ~~and Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the Heating Expense Grant per fiscal year;~~
4. **One Hundred Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$150,000.00) for the Lawnmower grant; and**
5. **Forty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$40,000.00) for the Summer Church Camp and Mission Trip Grant.**

~~§ 2-106.~~ **§ 2-109.** Contract and Terms and Conditions

All renovations and construction projects funded through the Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program that involve an outside contractor(s) are required to use the Contract and Terms and Conditions, which shall be provided with application.

~~§ 2-107.~~ Heating Expense Grant.

~~A. Each Church shall complete and submit application for the Heating Expenses Program to the National Council in order to receive financial assistance up to \$750.00 for the purchase of propane or \$500.00 for natural gas or electric utilities once per fiscal year.~~

~~B. The National Council will maintain a list of all eligible Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches and only those Churches on the list maintained by the National Council may apply.~~

~~C. Upon receiving a complete application and required documentation, the National Council will provide the Principal Chief with a copy of said application and documentation. Upon signature of the application by the Principal Chief, the Controller shall remit payment.~~

~~D. Each Grant recipient shall submit receipts to the National Council, which will be forwarded to Controller.~~

~~E. The annual appropriation for the Church Heating Expenses Program shall be established at Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) beginning with the FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Budget and annually thereafter.~~

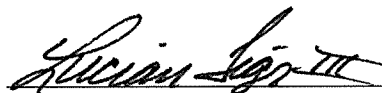
**SECTION FOUR. APPROPRIATION.** The sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$190,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the Interest on Permanent Fund Account for the implementation of this Act. Any unexpended funds remaining shall be returned to the Tribal Treasury and be available for further appropriation by the National Council.

**SECTION FIVE. AUTHORIZATION.** The National Council hereby authorizes the Principal Chief or his designee to expend the sum of One Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$190,000.00) from the Interest on Permanent Fund Account to fund the Lawnmower and Summer Church Camp and Mission Trip Grants for this fiscal year.

**SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall become effective immediately upon proper approval and execution in accordance with the requirements of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution.

**ENACTED** by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this **23<sup>rd</sup>** day of **February, 2019.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.



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Lucian Tiger III, Speaker  
National Council  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

**CERTIFICATION**

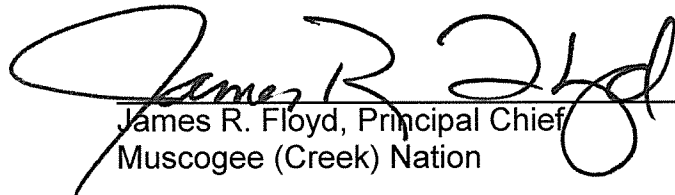
I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with **Sixteen** members attending this meeting on the **23<sup>rd</sup>** day of **February, 2019** and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of **11** in favor, **4** against and that said Law has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.



Kristie A. Jackson, Recording Secretary  
Muscogee (Creek) National Council

**APPROVAL**

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this **28<sup>th</sup>** day of **February**, **2019** to the above Law, **NCA 19-029** authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



James R. Floyd, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

