



NCA 16-035

CLASSIFICATION: #5. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS/CHURCHES

A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 5., CHAPTER 2., SUBCHAPTER 1. ENTITLED "Grant Programs for Churches and Ceremonial Grounds"

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:

TITLE 5. CEREMONIAL GROUNDS/CHURCHES

CHAPTER 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SUBCHAPTER 1. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHURCHES AND CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

§ 2-101. Findings.

The National Council finds that:

A. There is a need for a thorough assistance program for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Traditional Churches and Ceremonial Grounds.

B. Due to numerous factors, many Churches and Ceremonial Grounds are in great need of maintenance, repair and/or larger more improved facilities.

C. Due to the increase in assistance requests from Churches and Ceremonial Grounds and the inability to finance all requests, a comprehensive assistance plan must be established to identify and help the most needy.

Page 2 of 6
NCA 16-035

§ 2-102. Purpose. The purpose of this Subchapter is to establish a comprehensive assistance grant program to aid Churches and Ceremonial Ground.

§ 2-103. Church and Ceremonial Ground Grant award requirements and restrictions

A. Each Muscogee (Creek) Nation Traditional Church that is fifty (50) years or older or a church that can provide documentation demonstrating that eighty percent (80%) of its membership is Muscogee (Creek) Citizens and each of the sixteen (16) established Ceremonial Grounds which are located within the Nation's jurisdictional boundaries shall be eligible to submit an application for one of the following six grant awards:

- (1) Grant Award 1 is available once per fiscal year beginning October 1 and shall not exceed \$5,000.
- (2) Grant Award 2 shall be in the amount of \$5,001 to \$10,000. Applicant shall not be eligible to receive a Grant Award for the next 2 fiscal years.
- (3) Grant Award 3 shall be in the amount of \$10,001 to \$20,000. Applicant shall not be eligible to receive a Grant Award for the next 4 fiscal years.
- (4) Grant Award 4 shall be in the amount of \$20,001 to \$30,000. Applicant shall not be eligible to receive a Grant Award for the next 6 fiscal years.
- (5) Grant Award 5 shall be in the amount of \$30,001 to \$40,000. Applicant shall not be eligible to receive a Grant Award for the next 8 fiscal years.
- (6) Grant Award 6 shall be in the amount of \$40,001 to \$50,000. Applicant shall not be eligible to receive a Grant Award for the next 10 fiscal years.

B. Each application shall be on a form provided by the National Council, and at a minimum shall include an itemized budget and designate the Church Pastor, Ceremonial Ground Mekko or authorized representative to receive payment if the application is approved.

C. The Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee of the National Council shall review all qualified applications. All applications will be considered fairly, taking into consideration availability of funds and giving priority based on the urgency and severity of need.

D. The grant award limitation set forth in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of this subsection A of this section may be waived in the event that the Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee determines that repairs or renovations to

the property of a church or ceremonial ground are necessary due to damage caused by a natural disaster.

E. The Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee shall provide the Principal Chief with a copy of each application for a grant that has been approved by the Committee. Upon signature of the application by the Principal Chief, the Controller shall pay the grant award to the Church Pastor, Ceremonial Ground Mekko or authorized representative.

F. Each Grant recipient shall expend funds in accordance with the approved grant budgets.

G. Each Grant recipient shall submit the following records for expenditures of a Grant award within thirty (30) days of completion of the awarded assistance project: invoices or receipts with proof of payment evidenced by cancelled checks or other bank records. All records shall be provided to the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Each Grant recipient shall return any unexpended grant funds to the Controller for deposit in the Tribal Treasury.

H. In the event that a Grant recipient does not turn in records as required by subsection G of this section, said Grant recipient shall not be eligible to receive Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program funds for a period of five (5) years from the date of the original award.

I. In the event that a Grant recipient expends funds not in accordance with the awarded Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program award, said Grant recipient shall not be eligible to receive Comprehensive Assistance Grant Program funds for a period of ten (10) years from the date of the original award. In addition during that time period, said Grant recipient shall not receive any financial assistance from the National Council and the Nation may seek full restitution of any and all funds received.

§ 2-104. Church camp house/Ceremonial Ground camp/fellowship hall grant award requirements and restrictions

A. Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are members of a Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Church or Ceremonial Ground and have a camp house/camp/fellowship hall shall be eligible to submit an application for a one time grant award up to the amount of Seven Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$7,000.00) if the following requirements are met:

- 1. a completed application; and**

2. a letter from the Ceremonial Ground Mekko or Pastor stating the need for the financial assistance. If there is no Pastor, a Deacon may make same request.
3. a line item budget of total cost of repairs/renovation; and
4. no less than two itemized quotes that match line item budget for total cost of repairs/renovation.

B. Each application shall be on a form provided by the National Council.

C. Financial assistance will be specifically for the structure of the Church Camp, Ceremonial Ground Camp House or Fellowship Hall, which shall include roofs, floors, walls, windows and doors, as well as, any electric, water, heating or air problems.

D. Financial assistance will not be provided for appliances (stoves, refrigerators, ice-makers, etc.) and furnishings (tables, chairs, dishes, etc.).

E. The Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee shall review all qualified applications. All applications will be considered fairly, taking into consideration availability of funds and giving priority based on the urgency and severity of need.

F. The grant award limitation set forth in § 2-104 A. of this section may be waived in the event that the Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee determines that repairs/renovation to the property of a church or ceremonial ground are necessary due to damage caused by a natural disaster.

G. The Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation Committee shall provide the Principal Chief a copy of each application for a grant that has been approved. Upon signature of the application by the Principal Chief, the Controller shall pay the grant award to recipient.

H. Each grant recipient shall expend funds in accordance with the approved grant budgets.

I. Each grant recipient shall submit the following records for expenditures of a grant award within (30) days of completion of the awarded assistance project: invoices or receipts with proof of payment evidenced by cancelled checks or other bank records. All records shall be provided to the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

J. Each grant recipient shall return any unexpended funds to the Controller for deposit in the Tribal Treasury.

K. In the event that a grant recipient does not turn in records as required by §2-104. G. of this section, said grant recipient shall not be eligible to receive a grant award for a period of five (5) years and shall not be eligible to receive any financial assistance from the National Council and the Nation may seek full restitution of any and all funds received.

L. Only twenty-five (25) applications will be accepted per fiscal year or expenditures not to exceed \$175,000.

§ 2-104.5. Funding request

All funding requests from Muscogee (Creek) Nation 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, **as well as funding requests from Muscogee (Creek) citizens for Ceremonial Ground camp repairs and Church camp house and fellowship hall repairs/renovation,** 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.

§ 2-106. 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.

SECTION TWO. 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 30th day of April, 2016.

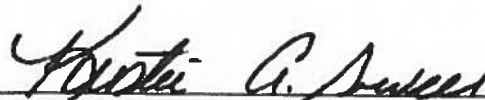
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.



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

CERTIFICATION

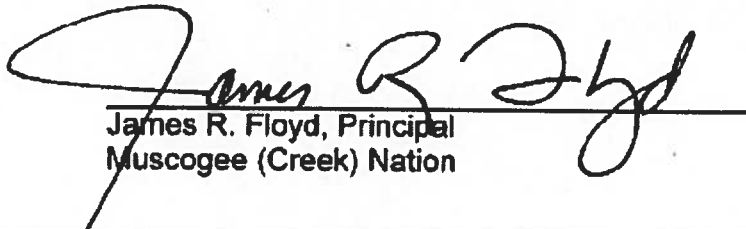
I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with Fifteen members attending this meeting on the 30th day of April, 2016 and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 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. Sewell, Recording Secretary
Muscogee (Creek) National Council

APPROVAL

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this 5th day of May, 2016 to the above Law, NCA 16-035 authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



James R. Floyd, Principal
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

