

*The Chickasaw Nation
Vocational Rehabilitation Department*



**222 South Mississippi
Ada, OK 74820**

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Fax: (580) 436-0830**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Michelle Frazier Wilson, MS, CRC, LPC

Director

Michelle is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and has worked in this department since 1999. Her most recent work experience was as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for this department. She also worked as an Administrator for McCall's, a facility that provides services to people with developmental disabilities.

The Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Department strives to provide service-excellence at all times, and exemplify integrity in all actions. It is our desire that each person who participates in the programs offered by this department will find the vocational rehabilitation team extremely sincere in the endeavor to help American Indians with disabilities improve their lives.

As a person with a severe visual disability and previous consumer of this program and the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, I wish you the best of luck in your journey to finding and fulfilling your dreams!

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MISSION AND VISION



MISSION

To enhance the lives of American Indians with disabilities through successful employment outcomes.

VISION

To be a model department that sets a standard of excellence for Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation across the nation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.
2. You must have a documented physical or mental disability which results in a substantial impediment to employment.
3. You must reside within the program's service area.

**The AIVS and PWI Programs' service areas are the entire state of Oklahoma. The Voc Rehab Program service area is the counties within the Chickasaw Nation jurisdiction as outlined below.

Chickasaw Nation Service Area Counties

Bryan	Carter	Coal
Garvin	Grady	Jefferson
Johnston	Love	Marshall
McClain	Murray	Pontotoc
Stephens		

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TEAM



Rebecca Beninati, M.Ed.

Assistant Director

Rebecca is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and has worked in this department since 1999. Her previous work experience includes seven years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the department.



Tina Gilmore, BSW

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II

Tina is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and has worked in this department since 2003. Her previous work experience was with the Chickasaw Nation Department of Education where she worked for four years.



Jason Burns, BA

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Jason is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has worked in this department since 2005. He is a person with a severe disability and a past consumer of the department. His previous work experience includes volunteer work and internships with this department and the Pontotoc County Drug Court Program.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TEAM



Theea Stephens

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Training

Theea is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and has worked for this department since 2000. Her previous work experience was with the Chickasaw Nation General Assistance Program, where she worked as a resource specialist for two years. She has also served in the National Guard since 1995 and was activated into full time duty in January of 2002.



Keisha Factor

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Training

Keisha is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and she is a person with a disability. She has worked for this department since 2002. Her previous work experience was with the administrative offices of the Chickasaw Nation headquarters and housing, where she worked from 1998—2002.



Charlotte Dudgeon

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Training

Charlotte is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and she is a person with a disability. She has worked for the department since 2005. Her previous work experience was in the medical field as an office manager for a busy medical practice.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TEAM



Angela Garcia

Administrative Assistant

Angela is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has worked in this department since 2005. She is a person with a severe disability and a past consumer of the department. Her previous work experience includes working with the Oklahoma Tag Agency and the Des Moines, Iowa Public School System.



Justin Thomas

Receptionist

Justin is a member of the Muscogee “Creek” Nation and has worked in this department since 2005. He is a person with a severe disability and a past consumer of the department. His previous work experience was as a volunteer for this department.



Valorie Walters

Job Developer

Valorie is a Chickasaw Citizen and has worked in this department since 2005. She is a person with a severe visual disability and a past consumer of the department. Her previous work experience includes working in the Chickasaw Nation Office of Environmental Health and the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TEAM



Rachel Allen, BS

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Rachel has worked in this department since 2005. She previously worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Iowa Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Program in Perkins, Oklahoma, where she served in this capacity for two years. Prior to that she worked in the Otoe-Missouria Indian Child Welfare Program.



Melinda Lucas, MS, CRC

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Melinda is a person with a visual disability. She has worked in this department since 2005. Her previous work experience was as a VR Counselor for the State of Texas.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Contact the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Department either by phone or in person.
2. A vocational rehabilitation team member will take some basic referral information and either hand, mail or fax you an application packet to complete.
3. A vocational rehabilitation team member will contact you to schedule an appointment with a vocational rehabilitation counselor or job developer for an initial interview.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- ◆ Proof of Household Income
- ◆ Proof of Tribal Citizenship
- ◆ Proof of Social Security Number
- ◆ Proof of Age
- ◆ Proof of Current Residence
- ◆ Proof of Disability
- ◆ Information About Past Jobs
- ◆ Information About Jobs You are Interested In
- ◆ Information About Requirements of Those Jobs
- ◆ Information About Past Training
- ◆ Information About Training Options

COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be sincere and truly care about American Indians with disabilities.
2. Have the education and experience necessary to provide quality vocational rehabilitation services.
3. Be aware of and sensitive to the culture of American Indians.
4. View each consumer as an individual with specific strengths and needs.
5. Encourage consumer involvement in the development and implementation of the Individualized Plan for Employment.
6. Maintain confidentiality of all information shared by the consumer.
7. Be knowledgeable about and refer consumers to other resources that may assist them.
8. Provide excellent customer service at all times.
9. Provide services in a timely manner.
10. Continually search for new and innovative ideas.

CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Keep all appointments that are made as a part of the rehabilitation plan. This includes, but is not limited to, appointments with medical, psychological, chemical dependency and vocational rehabilitation professionals. Fully consider any recommendations made by these professionals.
2. Actively participate in development and implementation of the Individualized Plan for Employment.
3. Take an active part in the annual review of the Individualized Plan for Employment, as well as any amendments to it.
4. Maintain satisfactory progress towards completing a vocational rehabilitation program. Maintain the required grade point average (2.0) if involved in a training program.
5. Keep the VR counselor informed of any changes in address, financial status or anything else relevant to the VR program.
6. Apply for and use any and all other comparable benefits and services to defray, in whole or in part, the cost of services in the IPE. Provide honest and accurate information regarding other benefits and resources being accessed.
7. Work with the VR counselor to obtain/retain suitable and gainful employment outcomes as services are being completed. Inform the VR counselor of any employment attained.
8. Provide authentic and accurate information regarding ongoing eligibility and services, as well as demonstrate honesty and integrity while discussing and evaluating progress and status of the program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an impediment to employment?

When a disability keeps a person from getting or keeping gainful employment, then it creates an obstacle or impediment to employment.

Do all consumers of this department receive the same services?

No. Each consumer will work with a VR counselor to develop an *Individualized* Plan for Employment that will include the services he/she needs to reach the chosen employment outcome.

How long does it take to determine eligibility?

That depends on how quickly the VR counselor receives all the information needed to make a determination of eligibility. If all needed documentation is supplied in a timely manner, it takes less than 60 days to determine eligibility.

How long does it take to begin receiving services?

After a consumer has been determined eligible, he/she will receive a letter of appointment to begin choosing an employment goal and developing the Individualized Plan for Employment. Once the plan has been developed, services will begin. As with everything in VR, the time frame to begin receiving services is based on the individual consumer and how quickly he/she is able to work with the VR counselor to choose an employment goal and develop an IPE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is alcohol/drug dependence a disability served by this department?

Yes, if the consumer can provide proof of successfully completing an inpatient treatment program within the previous three years, have a *Chemical Dependency Consultant's Review Form* completed, have maintained sobriety for a minimum of the previous 6 months, show proof of attendance of outpatient treatment for a minimum of the previous 6 months and be willing to continue attending outpatient treatment for the duration of the time in which he/she is a consumer of the program.

Can this department help start a small business?

Yes, if the consumer and the VR counselor determine that starting a small business is an acceptable employment goal and the consumer develops a viable business plan. This program can provide services to help start a small business. Due to budgetary limitations, the program is not able to finance the start-up costs of a small business. Therefore, the consumer will need to look for other resources as well.

Does this department pay consumers to attend school?

No. If the consumer and the VR counselor choose an employment goal that requires training, an Individualized Plan for Employment will be developed that includes services that will allow the consumer to attend training.

CHICKASAW NATION RESOURCES

Chickasaw Nation Health System

Carl Albert Indian Health Facility
1001 North Country Club Rd.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (800) 851-9156 or (580) 436-3980
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Behavioral Health

Carl Albert Indian Health Facility
1001 North Country Club Rd.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (800) 851-9156 ext.4290 or (580) 421-4591
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Higher Education

124 East 14th St.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 421-7711
Email: education.services@chickasaw.net
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing

901 N. Country Club Rd.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 421-8800
Website: www.chickasaw.net

CHICKASAW NATION RESOURCES

Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center

125 W. Main St.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 310-9661
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Human Resources Department

P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821
Phone: (580) 436-7259
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Office of Employment Opportunities

2020 Arlington Blvd., Suite 5
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821
Phone: (580) 421-7714
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services

518 E. Arlington St.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 436-7255 or (888) 436-7255
Website: www.chickasaw.net

CHICKASAW NATION RESOURCES

Chickasaw Nation General Assistance

Ada Area Office
520 East Arlington St.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 436-7256
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Office of Violence Prevention

125 South Broadway St.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 436-1222
Website: www.chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Medication Assistance Program

Carl Albert Indian Health Facility
1001 Country Club Rd.
Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 436-3980
Website: www.chickasaw.net

OTHER RESOURCES

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

Phone: (800) 845-8476

This number will direct you to the closest Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Dial in your zip code to be directed to their nearest office.

Website: www.okrehab.org

Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit

OK Department of Rehabilitation Services

Shepherd Mall

2401 NW 23rd St., Suite #51

Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 522-7930 Voice/TTY

(405) 522-7948 Fax

(800) 833-8973 Toll free Voice/TTY

Website: www.okrehab.org/services_ils.shtml

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

2712 Villa Prom

Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2413

Phone: (800) 522-8224 or (405) 521-3756

Email: CAP@ohc.state.ok.us

Website: www.state.ok.us/~ohc

Other Resources

Oklahoma Library for Blind and Physically Handicapped

300 NE 18th St.

Oklahoma City, OK

Phone: (405) 521-3514

Email: library@drs.state.ok.us

Website: www.library.state.ok.us

Jim Thorpe American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation

4219 S. Western Ave.

Oklahoma City, OK 73109

Phone: (405) 644-5385

Website: www.integris-health.com

Mental Health Services of Southern Oklahoma

111 E 12th St.

Ada, OK 74820

Phone: (580) 436-2690

Other Resources

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

1628 E Beverly St. # 104

Ada, OK 74820

Phone: (580) 310-7050

Website: www.okdhs.org/

Oklahoma Statewide Independent Living Council

106 East Constitution, Bldg. 158

Norman, OK 73072

Phone: (405) 325-4914

Oklahoma Independent Living

321 S 3rd St. # 2

McAlester, OK 74501

Phone: (918) 426-6220

Progressive Independence

121 North Porter Ave.

Norman, OK 73071

(405) 321-3203 or (800) 801-3203

Website: www.progressiveindependence.org

OTHER RESOURCES

Workforce Oklahoma

Phone: (888) 840-WORK or (405) 557-5458

Website: www.workforce.org or www.oesc.state.ok.us

The Family Crisis Center

605 E 12th St.

Ada, OK 74820

Phone: (580) 436-3504

U.S. Social Security Administration

921 Lonnie Abbott Blvd.

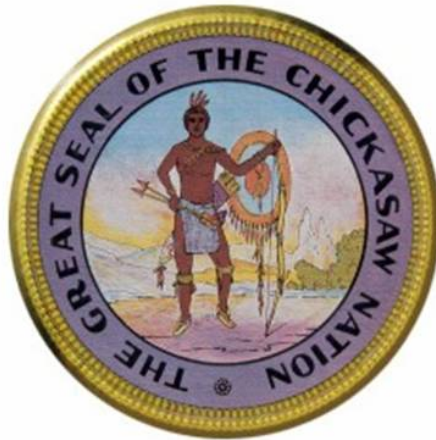
Ada, OK 74820

Phone: (580) 332-8307 or (800) 772-1213

Website: www.ssa.gov/

OTHER RESOURCES

*Governor
Bill Anoatubby*



**This department is located within the
Chickasaw Nation Division of Education**

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