

Chief's Address To The Nation

100-472, the Self-Governance Demonstration Project Act.

At that time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs made a commitment to fully fund the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center operations; however this commitment was never fulfilled. Even though the Nation continues to receive and use Federal dollars to address the issue of juvenile delinquency and detention for Tribes in the Southern Plains Region and Eastern Oklahoma Region, it has never received sufficient funds to operate the facility at its fullest potential. Full funding to the facility by the Bureau of Indian Affairs would relieve financial burdens on Area Tribes to pay for detention services elsewhere and keep Tribal youths close to home.

Full funding would allow the Nation to provide full operations including (but not limited to):

* Juvenile detention services to the 46 Tribes in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas

* Rescue more of our at-risk youth and unserved youth in need of a facility like the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center

* Re-establish programs we have lost due to inadequate funding such as: On-site Mental Health Counseling; Transitional Living, Vocational Training, Horticulture, Life Skills, Arts and Crafts, Cultural Education and Activities, Spiritual Growth and Learning

* Offer job opportunities in an area that is economically depressed

* Fully staff and expand staff training to address high volume of staff turnover which will allow for continuity in operations and service delivery

Most recently at the Fiscal Year 2016 Regional Budget Formulation Session, these Tribes continued to support and endorse full funding for operation of our Juvenile Detention Center and included it as a priority in their "Top 10 Budget Increases" for the Fiscal Year 2016 Bureau of Indian Affairs budget.

The current funding level represents only approximately 10% of what is needed to fully fund the Juvenile Detention Center. Additional funding in the amount of \$4,950,000, over what Sac and Fox already receives in base funding (\$508,000), would fully fund the facility at a level to address the need of juvenile delinquency in the tri-state area and create opportunities for employment for more Tribal members.

The Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center is a 50,000+ square foot, full service, 24 hour, 60 bed (expandable to 120 beds) juvenile detention facility that provides basic detention services to all residents utilizing a classification system based on behavioral needs to include special management, medium and minimal security. Our facility was designed to provide programs including behavioral management, alcohol and substance abuse, spiritual and cultural growth and

learning, self-esteem, arts and crafts, health and fitness, horticulture, nutrition, life skills, vocational technical training, counseling, educational programs and a Transitional Living Center.

Through a partnership with the local High School, students are afforded an education at the public school level, including a graduation ceremony and issuance of a certificate upon successfully achieving the state requirements. Additionally, the Sac and Fox Nation has an on-site Justice Center providing Law Enforcement and Tribal Court services and the Nation also operates an on-site health clinic which provides outstanding medical services that include contract service capabilities for optometry, dental and other health-related services.

The lack of adequate funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and decreases in base funding have mushroomed into underutilization of the facility and erosion of the programs it was built to offer. Our current funding levels only allow us to provide an alcohol and substance abuse program, some health and fitness activities and a basic education program. We have lost our programs for vocational training, horticulture, life skills, arts and crafts, on-site counseling and transitional living. The passage of the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act was applauded by the Sac and Fox Nation because we saw this as an opportunity for the Federal government to finally step up to its pledge to fully-fund the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center and honor its Treaty and Trust obligations to our people. However, lack of funding is also impeding the implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act!

In 1996, the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center was built as a model facility in Indian Country. And nearly 20 years later there is still a need for such a facility to help our youth return to their traditional healing and spiritual ways. As a Self-Governance Tribe we operate our Tribal government on the premise that we are the best provider of the services and know which services are most needed in our communities. We saw the increasing need in the 1990's for a facility like the Juvenile Detention Center and we acted on our instincts to help our youth by giving them a place to turn their lives around and the access to programs, services and holistic care they needed to recover and heal. Sadly, the number of Native American youth, and juveniles overall requiring detention has not decreased. The Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center was built with the same ideals that the Tribal Law and Order Act Long Term Plan to Build and Enhance Tribal Justice Systems espouses today. The Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center has the facility, staffing, ability, commitment and capacity to provide superior detention and rehabilitation services to Native American youth,

as well as any youth in the tri-state area in need of our services. We do not understand the Federal government's desire to fund the construction of more detention facilities while our beds remain empty.

With access to full funding for operations, the Sac and Fox Nation Juvenile Detention Center will have the stability to fulfill the mission the Tribal Leaders envisioned to help our youth once again find their way and recover from the ills that resulted in them coming to our facility. With adequate funding we believe it is possible to thrive and benefit the lives of juveniles who enter our Center and are desperately in need of our help to develop and assist them to have a more healthy

and productive future.

Thank you for allowing me to submit these requests on the Fiscal Year 2015 budgets.

I thank our Sac and Fox Nation membership for the privilege of representing you as Chief before Congressional Leadership, Department of Education, Department of Justice, Indian Health Service, Department of Interior / Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Indian Country. I continue to ask for your prayers daily as decisions are made not only on a national level but also here at home on the local level.

Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief

Sac and Fox Nation Women's Auxiliary

The Sac and Fox Nation Women's Auxiliary meet the 3rd Thursday every month at 6:00 p.m. We have a pot luck dinner at every meeting. Our meeting locations alternate from the Stroud-Elder's Building to the Shawnee-Multi Purpose Building. If anyone needs information, they can contact Shawna Spoon by phone at 405-275-2581 or by e-mail at shawnaspoon@att.net.

Native Employment Works (NEW)



Native Employment Works Funds Available Now

The Sac and Fox Nation Human Services Department is currently taking applications for Native Employment Works. NEW is a federally funded program that helps low-income households with expenses while attending school or if underemployed. We encourage you to apply at our office in Stroud or at the Shawnee Multi-Purpose Center. Please call us at the number on the bottom of this article, if you have any questions.

To qualify for NEW, you must be an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation and reside within the Sac and Fox Nation jurisdictional boundaries.

The NEW program eligibility includes teen parents, unemployed parent(s) if attending school, underemployed parent(s), and other tribal members if they have one or more Sac and Fox children.

PLEASE BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Tribal enrollment cards for all household members
- (Birth certificates for those without a tribal enrollment card)
- Driver's license if over 18 and not enrolled.
- Driver's license or photo ID for applicant.
- Social Security cards for all household members.
- School enrollment verification or employment verification.
- Proof of income – including paycheck stubs, Social Security or disability benefits, unemployment compensation, pension or retirement funds, etc. for all household members 18 years of age or older.

Other documents may be required based on your situation.

Sac and Fox Nation Human Services

920883 S. Hwy 99 Building A Stroud, Oklahoma 74079
Phone: 918-968-3526 • Extensions 2010 & 2011
Toll Free: 800-259-3970 • Fax: 918-968-0142

The Department of Education

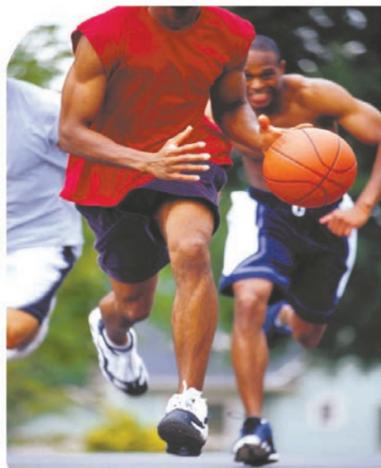
Celebrates with our

JOM Students

"Road to Success"

June 6th Learning Center

10:00 - 2:00 pm



"Sign up with your Indian Education Coordinator if you plan to attend"



CAR & BIKE 1ST ANNUAL SHOW

BLACK HAWK CASINO AMPHITHEATER

MAY 31 • 8AM-4PM

Love wheels?

Join us for the first ever Black Hawk Casino Car Show this May. Get your motor running with classic cars, a variety of food choices, a beer garden*, hopping music, and plenty of fun for the whole family—plus win over \$10,000 in prizes!

Special Appearance and Meet & Greet
"Murder Nova" and "Big Chief" from *Street Outlaws*.
12PM-4PM

WINNING HAPPENS HERE