

Program Goal

To enhance the lives of First Americans with disabilities through successful employment outcomes.

Vision Statement

To be a model program that sets a standard of excellence for tribal vocational rehabilitation.

Eligibility Requirements

- Reside within the Chickasaw Nation
- Be a member of a federally recognized tribe
- Have a documented physical or mental disability which results in a substantial impediment to employment
- Require vocational rehabilitation services to attain or maintain suitable employment

Counties Served

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

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BILL ANOATUBBY, GOVERNOR



the
Chickasaw
Nation

**VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT**

910 Colony Drive
Ada, OK 74820

The vocational rehabilitation program helps those with disabilities and other barriers access employment services for entering or returning to the workforce. It takes care to match services with each person's strengths, resources and abilities.

Application Process

- Contact the vocational rehabilitation department
 - A team member will take basic referral information and provide an application packet
 - After receiving the completed application packet, a team member will contact you to schedule an appointment with a counselor for an initial interview
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Information Needed at the Initial Interview

- Proof of citizenship in a federally recognized tribe
 - Proof of a physical or mental disability that has kept you from obtaining or keeping suitable employment
 - Proof of residence within the Chickasaw Nation
 - Proof of income
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Job Club

Find support each month with the job club, focused on strategies for successful career searches, resume writing, interviewing skills and more.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an impediment to employment?

- A disability that hinders a person from obtaining or keeping gainful employment is an obstacle or impediment to employment.
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Do all clients receive the same services?

- No. Each client will work with a vocational rehabilitation counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that will include the services they need to reach the chosen employment outcome.
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Is alcohol or drug dependence a disability served by this department?

- Yes, if the client can provide proof of successfully completing an inpatient treatment program within the previous three years and fulfill the treatment requirements set forth in departmental guidelines which includes six months of sobriety and attendance of weekly NA/AA meetings.
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Does this department pay clients to attend school?

- No. If the client and the vocational rehabilitation counselor choose an employment goal requiring training, an Individualized Plan for Employment will be developed that includes services which will allow the client to attend training.



Success Story

Chickasaw citizen Dr. Brandon Postoak completed his education and vocational goal by graduating from the University of Oklahoma's College of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in May 2022. He was then employed as an Emergency Medicine Resident Physician with Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City. While attending medical school, Dr. Postoak did not have the required resources to finish college and gain employment. With the encouragement of his stepmother, he contacted the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation program. After an easy process he was able to quickly get the resources he needed. Dr. Postoak continues to work as a resident at the Integris Southwest Emergency Department and is on track to complete his residency in 2026. In addition to reaching his education and employment goals, he has created YouTube videos documenting his journey, hoping to serve as a mentor to other First American students.