

Narratives

Executive Summary

Executive Summary The Osage Nation Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhe Eco Park will support 10 AmeriCorps members who will develop and create the Wah Zha Zhe Eco Park on the Osage Reservation, Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma. An additional 5 AmeriCorps members will support and develop the Bird Creek Farms into a successful community and collective garden to supply the Farmers Market segment of the Wah Zha Zhe Eco Park. At the end of the project period, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for the successful launch of the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park. Proposed Project is for the establishment of the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park which will be in collaboration with the creation of the Bird Creek Farms. The goal of the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park is to empower Osage communities to engage and learn about their food systems. This will help the people to understand food at all points along the production and distribution process and to act on that knowledge, by modifying their personal behavior, taking part in the larger dissemination of knowledge by sharing what they've learned, or campaigning for regulation changes in the name of waste reduction.

The eco-park model is a framework that provides transparency and insight into the food system for visitors. The eco-park model consists of 6 main components that will vary in scope and intensity for individual parks, making each site a unique expression of the local community. We think of eco-parks as divided by region, but united by cause. The 6 components are Recreational, Aesthetic/Functional, Demonstration Gardens w/ Info-graphic Boards, Farmers Market, Food Prep Demonstration Area, and Outdoor Classrooms. Establishing a collaborative partnership in creating the Osage Nation Bird Creek Farms will further our goals for Operation AmeriCorps. This project allows us to utilize existing AmeriCorps members and new members requested through Operation AmeriCorps, engage volunteers, and solidify existing partnerships within tribal departments and community. It will also allow us to identify and secure new partners needed for the success of both the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park and Bird Creek Farms. Specifically, 15 AmeriCorps State and National members will assist with the creation of the Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017. Three AmeriCorps VISTA members will assist with capacity building from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017. Three AmeriCorps NCCC teams will serve for three terms establishing nature trails, outdoor classrooms and creating handicap accessible fishing/scenic areas for elders and handicapped individuals from August 2015 to mid October 2015 and again in March 2016 to mid April 2016. We have not included Senior Corps programs as partners because we have no established Senior Corps programs in our area. The program will focus on Environmental Stewardship with a strong emphasis

Narratives

on Healthy Futures. At the end of the two-year time period an ecologically sound Eco Park and Community driven Bird Creek Farms will have been established through a systematic community driven strategic process with sustainability for operation. The CNCS annual investment of \$224,362.00 will be matched by in-kind and cash from tribe of 143,337.00.

Rationale and Approach/Program Design

Rationale and Approach/Program Design

The proposed Osage Nation Bird Creek Farms & Wha Zha Zhi Eco Park is a proposal from the Osage Nation, with the capital being in Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma. This is collaborative effort between the various departments within Osage Nation, community organizations, and other federal and state agencies. The combined population of our targeted community is approximately 47,000 with 20 percent combined Native American residents. The history of each community showing the creation of partnerships in order to solve mutual problems goes back over a hundred years. There are three main Osage villages on the Osage Reservation, Pawhuska village, Hominy village and Grayhorse village which is located close to Fairfax, Oklahoma. The targeted population for the proposed Osage Nation Bird Creek Farms & Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park is a combined 2,300 square miles with the majority being rural. There are 12 school districts with three communities which share their town with Tulsa County to the south(Skiatook) and Ponca City, located in Kay County to the west (McCord). This diversity presents a unique opportunity to collaborate with health educators in other counties.

One of the obstacles faced by residents in the targeted area is very limited public transportation. There is a "call and make" an appointment three days in advance rural transport system, but it is mainly used by elderly making doctor's appointments. While Osage County is a rural community, very little of the land is used for agriculture to grow crops. The land is devoted to cattle, horses, and/or oil cultivation. Located 55 miles northeast of Tulsa, Pawhuska is the county seat of Osage County and the capital of the Osage Nation. The decline of both sectors has led to a social and economic depression in the rural community.

The poverty rate is 18.27%, compared to the State average of 15% (OK Workforce 2008). The average household income is \$36,283, which is well below the State's average of \$44,370. With the exception of education, tribal offices and government, few job opportunities exist for both low-skill workers and highly educated workers unless they commute to neighboring counties to work in larger communities such as Bartlesville, Ponca City, and Tulsa. Student's eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (2006) is 64.3% compared to the State average of 55.5%. Limited availability of foods low in calories,

Narratives

sugar, fat, and sodium can be a barrier to healthy eating. Low-income and minority communities suffer reduced access to healthy foods and poorer diets, leading to higher levels of obesity. Policy and environmental strategies to ensure access to healthy foods are increasingly recommended to address and prevent obesity.

In 2009 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended 24 evidence-based strategies and measures; the Common Community Measures for Obesity Prevention (COCOMO)--to guide communities in identifying and implementing obesity prevention policy strategies. Of the 24 strategies, three specifically target increasing the availability of affordable healthy food and beverages and are relevant to rural settings. Such efforts are critical in Native American communities, where obesity rates double those of non-Hispanic Whites (43.2% versus 21.1%).

However, researchers have never assessed the appropriateness of the COCOMO strategies in rural tribal communities. Neither have they adequately studied the readiness of tribal communities to implement such strategies. Limited evidence suggests that rural and reservation Native communities lack access to food stores and to healthy foods within stores. One study in Washington state found that reservations had less available, and more costly, fresh vegetables and fruits compared to non-reservation communities nearby. Other studies report that large supermarkets are rare in reservation and rural communities and that many Native consumers purchase foods from convenience stores rather than supermarkets. Our own study of the food environment in Osage County found numerous structural and environmental barriers to vegetable and fruit consumption, including geographic isolation and extremely limited access to fresh produce; the high cost of vegetables and fruits, coupled with decreased availability, limited tribal members' ability to purchase these healthy, more nutrient-dense foods.

While federally funded initiatives to identify and enact obesity prevention policies have increased, the capacity and readiness of Native tribal communities to implement such policies, is poorly understood. Analysis of community readiness is particularly indicated in light of the diversity in tribal cultures and governing structures, constituting a crucial factor in program success. The Oklahoma snapshot data for 2010 shows the percentage of adults reporting a BMI ≥ 30 with 64 percent of diabetic Medicare enrollees that receive blood sugar screening in Osage County. American Indians are about 2.8 times more likely to have Type II Diabetes than non-American Indian individuals of comparable age. Further statistics show 16.3% of American Indian & Alaska Native adults who have diagnosed diabetes compared with 8.7% of non-Hispanic whites. With over 20 percent of our population being American Indian this is a major concern for the population we serve.

Narratives

The following information taken from the 2010 State of County Health Report offers an up to date look at the condition in the county. As stated previously, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity are linked to many chronic issues including diabetes. It is often hard to distinguish between Type I and Type II diabetes in large datasets but looking at the overall impact of diabetes is necessary to examine a community's health. According to 2004-2008 BFRSS it is estimated that 12% of all adult residents of Osage County have been diagnosed by a health care professional with diabetes.

The most recent data places Osage County toward the bottom half of the state health report card with Oklahoma ranking 48th in the United States with consumption of healthy fruits and vegetables. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2003 & 2005), 88.2% of Osage County adults did not eat the recommended 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption is an economical way to control many health-related issues such as obesity and diabetes.

The leading cause attributed to the above data can be directly related to access or rather lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The lack of any type public transportation, as well as there being only four supermarkets to serve 47, 000 residents contribute to very poor nutritional decisions being made by residents. There are no fresh vegetable markets available within Osage County. The need of evidence-based or best practices strategies to shape the nutrition and physical activity landscape and support individuals and families in leading healthy, active lives became apparent during our first and second year implementation grant, the Ta-Wa AmeriCorps Project: Healthy Futures. The lessons learned from the Ta-Wa AmeriCorps Project: Healthy Futures helped shape our plans for Operation AmeriCorps.

Osage County has a very rural landscape with cattle ranches and oil business being the main form of income for residents. There are very few farms in the county with most being very small in size. During the implementation grant of the Ta-Wa AmeriCorps Project: Healthy Futures it became apparent land was not readily available for gardening. The city of Pawhuska gave the Ta-Wa AmeriCorps program six acres to utilize for a community garden with a number of limitations on the use. Shortly after this occurred an Osage tribal member gave two parcels of land to the Osage Nation. One area being 64 acres of prime river bottom land on south side of Bird Creek, that had been used as a hay field for last 50 years and 43 acres on north side of Bird Creek that is in part of flood zone. The area chosen for this project is located at the east end of Pawhuska on Hwy 60 in Osage County, readily accessible to all residents and visitors to Osage County.

The Osage Nation has designated this land to be developed into a nonprofit Bird Creek Farms and

Narratives

the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park. The land is to be utilized to create collective and community gardens, as well as grow pumpkins and corn for tribal Elders, headstarts and daycare use. During the two-year scope of Operation AmeriCorps our intention is to create on the north side of Bird Creek an Eco Park with six main components: The Recreational and Aesthetic components are normal elements for a park. They will draw in park visitors and provide a respite from busy city life. These two elements immediately improve quality of life and have the potential to increase property values in the surrounding area. Recreation areas could include open lawns, groves of trees and shaded pavilions. The aesthetic/functional component can be a number of things. Usually in parks there is a main element like statues or plantings to attract visitors. In the eco-park this will be expressed in a way that improves quality of life or ecological sustainability. Examples include a beautiful arrangement of low-maintenance native plantings, a storm water retention pond or remediation of a previously contaminated site. Because this area is designated a flood zone no businesses or homes can be built here Demonstration Gardens and Info-graphic Boards are developed by volunteer organizations. These organizations can be interest groups, activists or local small businesses. These volunteers adopt areas in the park and maintain them. They use the space to convey information or a message concerning the food system. They could demonstrate the aquifer system with a scale model, how to recycle food waste into compost, low-input crops with a garden, etc. Info-graphic boards support these demonstrations or models with supporting data and imagery. The Farmers Market is a very important element. It allows consumers to directly connect with their local food producers. Here important information is exchanged between the previously divided parties. This puts a face on a previously over-abstracted system and facilitates the development of a long term relationship between producer and consumer. It also cycles money back into the local economy and actively fights waste in the food system by removing some of the need for packaging and transportation from the process. The Food Prep Demonstration component helps to shore up an important aspect of the food waste equation. Understanding how to prepare food empowers the individual to further culture their respect for and relationship with food. It also puts them in direct control of the waste, whether it is recycling food scraps, efficiency in use of raw material, or what happens to leftovers. As the arbiters of their own meals, they confront their personal responsibility for health and consumer practices. The Outdoor Classroom/Speaker's Corner will be utilized to further culture the relationship of the users with the site and the continuing conversation concerning respecting food and food waste. This area will be used by schools, community groups and scouting groups to teach young people about the ecology of the area.

Narratives

The south side of Bird Creek is being developed into Bird Creek Farms. A large greenhouse is being built to house an aquaponic garden. Being designed at the present time is the pumpkin and corn areas as well as the collective and community gardens to be utilized by the AmeriCorps program. There has been developed among many Osage Nation Departments as well as outside agencies a progress plan for the implementation of Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park.

AmeriCorps members will achieve a transformational and measurable change through the direct service and/or capacity-building that will be provided by AmeriCorps State and National members, the capacity building service focused on alleviating poverty that will be provided by AmeriCorps VISTA members, and/or the short-term surge capacity that will be provided by AmeriCorps NCCC members. This will be achieved by AmeriCorps and NCCC members providing organizational skills assisting with the planning and designing of the Eco Park, creating walking and hiking trails that are user friendly both to the handicap and Elders, creating outdoor recreational areas that invite usage, creating handicap accessible areas to fish, creating areas to be used for outdoor classroom and areas to teach ecological diversity to youth and to create a sustainable Farmers Market for community use. VISTA members will be used to build capacity by researching and assisting with grant writing and to create a sustainable volunteer base.

Our plans to leverage, coordinate, engage local community partners, and tribal departments is by creating an advisory and planning board. We have the input of the Oklahoma State County Extension office, the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture Tribal Liaison office, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oklahoma State University Ag Department. We also have the support and input of Haskell Indian University in Kansas. The Environmental and Natural Resources Department of the tribe has conducted soil samples and water samples on behalf of Bird Creek Farms. We also have the support of the USDA's Rural Resource office in providing technical and infrastructural support toward sustainability for the future.

The model for the ECO Park is based on the design and work of Texas A & M students who entered the Food Challenge 2012 competition held world-wide. The design and plan received first place honors for the key performance indicators demonstrated including--Successful collection and organization of data collected by survey (kiosks) to quantify success and progress of KPI's -Accessed by people from all levels of the socio-economic spectrum -# of website hits -# of proposals (progress stages 1, 2, 3) -# of graduated proposals (have completed necessary fields to begin implementation) -# of completed parks -Avg. length of time to graduate a proposal -Ease of use, accessibility- Successful collection and

Narratives

organization of data collected by survey (kiosks) to quantify -success and progress of KPIs-
Environmental and safety certification (credibility of site, protection of patrons). Social changes include-Lower obesity rates in local area-Increase in local economy-Increased intake of local food (and subsequent recycling of money into the economy)-Carbon sequestration by vegetation (reduction of greenhouse gases, production of -oxygen) - ENV-Increase in tourism-Vendor Revenues -Educational visits (schools, organizations, researchers, etc.). Environmental changes include - Reduction in transportation and packaging waste in food provision (farmers market) -Increase in water quality (reduction in contaminants) -Storm water management (reduced erosion, less flooding, amount retained/detained, etc.) -Wildlife habitat/refuge -Carbon sequestration by vegetation (reduction of greenhouse gases, production of oxygen) -Increase in bio-diversity -Reduction of invasive species to name a few.

The overarching transformative goal of the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park and Bird Creek Farms is to achieve a healthier community , reducing obesity, teaching healthy eating habits, teaching and encouraging individuals to grow their own fruits and vegetables. We will also establish access to fresh fruits and vegetables for those unable to garden. This project will create an outdoor learning opportunity for residents offering access to walking trails, teaching environmental stewardship for all residents. This will be measured by the number of participants talking part in the outdoor classrooms, how many visitors to the park, how many individuals become members of the community garden and how many volunteers supporting the park.

The following timeline is proposed for the Osage Nation Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park;

April:

- ¿ Operation AmeriCorps grant is awarded
- ¿ Submit AmeriCorps VISTA project plan and performance plan in eGrants
- ¿ Submit sponsor application for AmeriCorps NCCC team
- ¿ Begin recruiting AmeriCorps State and National members
- ¿ Develop assignment description for AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Solidify Advisory Board
- ¿ Volunteer assignment description developed

May:

- ¿ AmeriCorps VISTA Memorandum of Agreement awarded, create assignment description for AmeriCorps VISTA members

Narratives

- ¿ Conduct recruitment and placement campaign for AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Begin volunteer campaign which will continue throughout two-year project
- ¿ Layout of Collective and Community Gardens
- ¿ Planting of Corn & Pumpkin crops
- ¿ Assignments of Community garden lots
- ¿ Planting of Collective gardens

June:

- ¿ AmeriCorps State and National members are on board
- ¿ Training and orientation of AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Assignment of duties for all AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Volunteer training for gardening, Eco Park and AmeriCorps program

June-August:

- ¿ AmeriCorps VISTA members are on board (if not in August, next opportunity in November)
- ¿ Training and orientation of AmeriCorps VISTA members
- ¿ Assignment of duties for all AmeriCorps VISTA members
- ¿ Design Work for Eco Park begins for all members

September:

- ¿ First AmeriCorps NCCC team arrives.
- ¿ Work on creating and designing hiking and walking trails begins
- ¿ Identification of indigenous trees and plants
- ¿ Removal of evasive species
- ¿ Design of compost area

October

- ¿ Harvesting of corn and pumpkins begin
- ¿ Community and collective garden harvest begins
- ¿ Design of winter garden begins
- ¿ Design of fruit tree layout
- ¿ Planting of fruit trees

November

- ¿ Design of signage for trails and outdoor classrooms at Eco Park
- ¿ Design of outdoor classrooms
- ¿ Design of fishing/scenic dock on Bird Creek

Narratives

December

- ¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park
- ¿ Community Workshops held on gardening and Farmers Markets
- ¿ Planting of winter crops

January

- ¿ Design work continued
- ¿ Grant research and writing begun
- ¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park
- ¿ Community Workshops held on gardening

February

- ¿ Design work continued
- ¿ Creation of volunteer database
- ¿ Grant research and writing continues

March

- ¿ Planting of second year garden begun
- ¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park
- ¿ Community Workshops held on gardening
- ¿ Harvest of winter crops

April

- ¿ Begin recruiting AmeriCorps State and National members
- ¿ Second wave of NCCC members
- ¿ Recruitment of Farmers Market vendors

May

- ¿ Planting of Corn & Pumpkin crops
- ¿ Planting of Collective gardens

June

- ¿ AmeriCorps State and National members are on board
- ¿ Training and orientation of AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Assignment of duties for all AmeriCorps members
- ¿ Volunteer training for gardening, Eco Park and AmeriCorps program

June-August:

Narratives

¿ AmeriCorps VISTA members are on board (if not in August, next opportunity in November)

¿ Training and orientation of AmeriCorps VISTA members

¿ Assignment of duties for all AmeriCorps VISTA members

¿ Design Work for Eco Park continues for all members

September

¿ Work on creating and designing hiking and walking trails continues

¿ Identification of indigenous trees and plants

¿ Removal of evasive species continues

¿ Design of entry to Eco Park completed

¿ Placement and work begun on outdoor classrooms

October

¿ Harvesting of corn and pumpkins begin

¿ Community and collective garden harvest begins

November

¿ Placement of signage for trails and outdoor classrooms at Eco Park

¿ Placement of outdoor classrooms complete

¿ Construction of fishing/scenic dock on Bird Creek completed

December

¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park

¿ Community Workshops held on gardening and Farmers Markets

¿ Planting of winter crops

January

¿ Design work continued

¿ Grant research and writing continued

¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park

¿ Community Workshops held on gardening

February

¿ Design work continued

¿ Continuation of volunteer database

¿ Grant research and writing continues

March

¿ Planting of third year garden begun

Narratives

- ¿ Community Workshops held on Eco Park
- ¿ Community Workshops held on gardening
- ¿ Harvest of winter crops
- ¿ Overview of two year AmeriCorps program conducted.
- ¿ All trials and outdoor classrooms completed
- ¿ All signage in place
- ¿ Grand opening of the first stage of the Wah Zha Zhe Eco Park

Organizational Capability

Organizational Capability

In August, 2014 an inventory of Osage Nation owned land revealed a 270 acre property that had been gifted to the Osage Nation 25 years ago by the Lynn family. Osage Nation Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and Assistant Chief Raymond Red Corn saw an opportunity to use the 70 acres of farmable land along the banks of Bird Creek to establish a community gardens and farm to serve Osage Citizens and promote health, wellness and Osage culture while promoting food sovereignty and economic development.

Bird Creek Farms (BCF) seeks to provide training and community development opportunities for Osage citizens. The envisioned site plan consists of an expansion of fruit and nut trees, farming of communal fields to grow traditional Osage crops such as corn and pumpkins as well as individual and community garden beds for community members to grow a variety plants and vegetables. The resulting harvests can be provided to ON programs (i.e., Title VI, the Head Starts, Day Cares, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.), provided to for cultural tribal events, or to be sold to commercial markets and to regional food distribution networks. Furthermore, wood from trees surrounding the site will be provided for cultural activities such as In-Lon-Schka, funerals, etc.

The Bird Creek Farms Coalition (BCFC) was formed as the result of a Logic Model workshop to bring all stakeholders and resources to the table and to develop a plan of action for Phase I of the project. As a result, a subcommittee was formed to meet and to follow up on the implementation of the Phase I activities. One of the outcomes of the meetings was the need to create a more formalized body of stakeholders to promote the vision and development of the community gardens. The Coalition seeks to collaborate with programs, partners, and community members by utilizing personnel and sharing resources. This memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been created to ensure effective participation and common shared objectives are attained. All stakeholders support planning and

Narratives

development as a means to achieve the ultimate goal of a sustainable community agricultural resource serving Osage citizens, youth, elders and future generations through the lens of self-sufficiency and food sovereignty.

The mission of the Bird Creek Farm Coalition is to support planning and development as a means to achieve the ultimate goal of a sustainable community agricultural resource serving Osage citizens, youth, elders and future generations through the lens of self-sufficiency and food sovereignty.

The primary purpose of the Bird Creek Farms Coalition is to outline the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders group and to bring the social, economic, environmental, and community strength of available agricultural resources to Bird Creek Farms as well as create ties to regional providers and resources within the Osage Nation and beyond.

In addition, the BCFC serves as a ¿starting point¿ for those just gaining awareness or looking for information within the region regarding options for food production. Furthermore, BCFC basic expectations for accessing healthy foods, educational experience in community supported agriculture, whether for personal, business or governmental functions.

The BCFC also seeks to better understand the process being followed to develop and execute opportunities to provide cost effective and accessible farming and food production. Members of the BCFC are committed to identifying resources and partnerships that will provide these opportunities as well as define measurable and attainable goals throughout this process. To achieve this, a sustainable planning framework is essential.

The result of this effort will be the development of a coordinated Site Plan, Operating Plan, Training Requirements, Safety Guidelines, Policies & Procedures, and an Annual Budget for Bird Creek Farms and the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park. It also seeks to enhance overall capabilities, coordinated across other jurisdiction with other agencies and organizations.

This will be a unified effort of the county, municipal and tribal governments, organizations, state and federal agencies and the public to guide the effort to promote access to reliable, attainable, and enjoyable agricultural and food systems at Bird Creek Farms. It is intended that the ultimate outcome will then be a strengthened local system of food production, higher levels of educational awareness, improved health and culture of the Osage people living on or near the Osage Nation. The inclusion of the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park was a logical move toward reaching the health goals of the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation set out a nationwide effort to identify needs and goals for the Osage people with the efforts resulting in a 25 year Vision & Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a map that outlines the goals set forth by the Osage people to guide their elected officials as they move the Osage Nation

Narratives

forward. There were two models that drove the development of the Strategic Plan. The first one was to have input from various groups of people on and off the reservation and this became the "expert model". The other group was made up of citizens and community members and this became the "citizen driven model". The core values that came out of the sessions were: * Spiritual Strength * Pride in Our Heritage * Justice * Fairness * Compassion * Respect for and Protection of Child, Elder, all Fellow Beings and Self These core values will work in collaboration with the Osage Nation Ta-Wa AmeriCorps program being proposed. Osage traditions and ceremonial dances are maintained and continue today. The Osage Nation's In-Ion-schka dance, held each June at our three villages, is maintained in a strict protocol that began over 100 years ago. The Osage Nation, for the past three years, has developed entities such as the Osage Cultural Center and the Osage Language Preservation Program have been at the forefront. The Osage Nation has one of the oldest museums in the nation. In deference to a new constitution adopted on March 11, 2006, the Osage Nation has established a tripartite form of government with three separate branches, the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The Osage Nation is headquartered at the Osage Agency Campus in Pawhuska. The community to be served is low to moderate income level population living within the service area of the Osage Nation reservation. The accounting policies of the Osage Nation conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental units. The Osage Nation maintains a double entry, modified accrual system of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when subject to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. A one-year availability period is used for revenue recognition for all government fund revenue. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred. Principal and interest on general long-term debt are recorded as fund liabilities when due. The accounts of the Osage Nation are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures, or expenses as appropriate. Nation's resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The Nation operates on fiscal period that runs from October 1 through September 30. Each program administered by the Nation is accounted for through the use of separate journals and ledgers, which facilitates the separation of the direct cost base and the

Narratives

indirect cost pool. To facilitate this process, the Nations utilize an automated accounting system. Control of this system is accomplished through the use of internal staff and external expertise as necessary to meet all management requirements. The accounting records for the Osage Tribe and administered programs are located in the Osage Nation's Treasury office in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The Osage Nation has at the present time over 500 employees spread across Osage County serving the residents in a wide variety of areas. The cost of this project will account for less than one percent of the overall Osage Nation annual operating budget. The Osage Nation receives federal funding and has long-term experience in managing funds from the USDA in support of its senior citizens Title VI program, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Education, SAMSHA, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, HUD, as well as managing a number of state grants. The Osage Nation also supports a Language Department, Cultural Department, Tribal Museum, I.T. Department, Tax Department, Childcare Department, Educational Department, ENR Department, Emergency Management, CHR, Social Services, Tribal Court, and Counseling Center. There have been a variety of ways that our organization has utilized raising funds to support service activities and initiatives. These have included direct mailings, garage sales, silent and live auctions, hand games, steak dinners, book sales, bingo games, spelling bees, chili dinners, and donation requests. The Operation AmeriCorps members will be directly supervised by the a Project Coordinator. This individual will be responsible for taking AmeriCorps VISTA training as well as any other type training necessary to led a successful project.. The Project Coordinator will be expected to have completed CNCS online trainings before the beginning of the Operation AmeriCorps member's term of service. The AmeriCorps members will report directly to Coordinator. A weekly staff meeting will be expected at which time schedules, project needs, and member needs and/or concerns will be addressed. A monthly reporting form will be developed by Coordinator and Department Director to be utilized by the AmeriCorps members to capture their monthly achievements toward meeting project goals and objectives. The primary contact for the Osage Nation Operation AmeriCorps program will be Gail Boe, Director of Osage Nation Communities of Excellence. The Communities of Excellence Department works as a grassroots community health organization: Creating A New Path Toward Community Health, with several health-related programs working together to improve the health of Osage County residents. Mrs. Boe received her Master's of Science in Management from Southern Nazarene University. She has worked for the Osage Nation for over ten years. She is a Certified Tutor Trainer, Certified Facilitator Trainer, Certified Health Literacy Instructor, and VITA training with the IRS, as well as holding a number of other leadership

Narratives

certifications. During 2003 -2006 Mrs. Boe ran the Osage Nation Early Learning State AmeriCorps Program. She was asked to showcase the program at the Service in Indian Country in Sparks, Nevada. Mrs. Boe received the VISTA Supervisor Training offered by the National Corporation, as well as a number of other AmeriCorps trainings. The above mentioned Operation AmeriCorps Coordinator will report directly to Mrs. Boe. Mrs. Boe will lead the Wah Zha Zhi and Bird Creek Coalition in making sure the Coordinator and AmeriCorps members have the tools, training, and support they need to ensure the success of the project. Members of this team will be composed of individuals from the County Health Department, Director of Osage Nation WIC, Director of the Osage Nation Title VI, Tribal Nutritionist, Health Educator of Diabetes Department, Grants Management Department, and representatives of other tribal departments and community organizations as needed. The secondary contact, as well as compliance officer for the Osage Nation proposed Operation AmeriCorps Project will be Penny Bradford, Grants Compliance Manager for the Osage Nation. Mrs. Bradford's duties include: Responsible for all aspects of grants compliance and performance; Review fiscal and performance activities with regard to grant compliance; Prepare corrective action plans as needed with regard to grant compliance; Track grant performance reports and ensures timely submittal to funding agencies. Mrs. Bradford brings a wealth of knowledge on managing federal funding and maintaining compliance with federal agencies. She previously served over seven years as an Osage Nation Federal Programs Accountant with duties that included: Maintain operation of general accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and standards; Review the preparation of check request; Maintain accounts, records, ledgers, and journals in support of programs disbursements and expenditures; Reconcile and prepare monthly financial statements for submission to controller, C.F.O., Executive Department, Osage Nation Congress, tribal operations director and program directors; Prepare quarterly, semi-annual and final financial status reports for submission to funding agency's as required by contract/grants requirements.

We also propose to have an outside consultant who will guide our program based on the recommended practices as exemplified with the USDA programs, Wildlife and Fishing Department and other scientific based outdoor projects. We have chosen a guideline developed by Texas A & M University students. While the framework is described in terms of steps, the actions are not always linear and are often completed in a back-and-forth effort that is cyclical in nature. Similar to the framework, the development of Bird Creek Farms and the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park is an ongoing process. We may need to revisit a step during the process and complete other discrete steps concurrently. We will also have an in-house evaluation created by the Coalition Team. Within each

Narratives

step of the framework, there are important components that are useful to consider in the creation of an evaluation plan. We feel by conducting an independent evaluation we can best know how to offer the best service, gain the respect of community partners, and offer a quality experience for the all Operation AmeriCorps members. A primary feature of an evaluation plan is the identification of an Evaluation Stakeholders Group(ESW), which includes members who have a stake or vested interest in the evaluation findings, those who are the intended users who can most directly benefit from the evaluation (Patton, 2008; Knowlton, Philips, 2009), as well as others who have a direct or indirect interest in program implementation. Engaging stakeholders in the ESW enhances intended users' understanding and acceptance of the utility of evaluation information. Stakeholders are much more likely to buy into and support the evaluation if they are involved in the evaluation process from the beginning. Moreover, to ensure that the information collected, analyzed, and reported successfully meets the needs of the program and stakeholders, it is best to work with the people who will be using this information throughout the entire process. Sustainability Due to the majority of residents in Osage County working for or with the Osage Nation and so many programs within the counties linked together by common residential and health-related needs it has become commonplace to work together to solve the community problems. But we realize that a concerted effort must be made if we are to make real progress. Residents, tribal programs and community programs have worked together over the last few years. The Osage Nation was instrumental in the establishment of the Osage County Community Partnership Board and has tribal members serving on the project. We propose to combine representatives from the coalition in creating the Osage Nation Operation AmeriCorps: Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park. This initiative will make system-wide change to combat the effects chronic disease conditions and address the risk factors therein. We have garnered wide-spread community support in the creation of a combined coalition with successful programs such as the Osage Nation Tobacco Prevention, which has worked to assist six Osage County School Districts become Tobacco Free, 33 businesses adopt a Tobacco-Free Policy, the Osage Nation become Tobacco-Free. Also the Osage Nation Head Start Program and WIC Program adopt system change within their interaction with the families and children they serve. Below is a listing of community partners as well as potential partnerships and linkages with other community programs and stakeholders to be created. We anticipate needing support from community partners in creating a sustainable multi-sectional, multi-jurisdictional, diversified coalition that will work together in creating Osage Nation Operation AmeriCorps: Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park. We have access to experts in the areas of Strategic Planning, Infrastructure Changes, and evidence- and practice-based policy

Narratives

interventions. Participants will fill out monthly evaluation forms on the programs in which AmeriCorps members are assisting. These participants would be the elders, youth, literacy council workers, and healthy futures classes as well as the other offered courses. AmeriCorps members will be evaluated by their supervisor and or Director every six months. There will also be a yearly community assessment offered to all community members to have a chance to give feedback. The utilization of AmeriCorps VISTAs to research and assist with sustainability efforts offers our project added strength toward success. The Osage Nation created within its Office of Strategic Planning & Grants Management a Compliance Officer whose job it is to ensure compliance with all federal grants. The Communities of Excellence Department under which this project is placed will report monthly to this office on its adherence to AmeriCorps rules and regulations. A hardcopy of all AmeriCorps rules and regulations is kept on file within the Communities of Excellence Department and the Office of Strategic Planning & Grants Management. A manual for Operation AmeriCorps members is being developed which will address compliance issues specifically as it relates to prohibited activities. A copy of this manual will be given to all individuals associated with the running of Operation AmeriCorps. All organizations taking part in this program will be asked to sign a MOU outlining what each party is responsible for and take part in an AmeriCorps orientation focusing on history of CNCS, and AmeriCorps rules and regulations. Upon the awarding of this grant to the Osage Nation there will be an orientation for the compliance manager on AmeriCorps rules and regulations. The Director of the Communities of Excellence will be responsible for programmatic orientation, and providing for training and technical assistance, and programmatic portions of compliance at each site and well as monitoring and oversight of service sites. There will be heavy usage of the National Corporation's Forms library, the Resource Center, as well as all material from the CNCS web site. The presence of AmeriCorps will be known throughout the cycle of the Operation AmeriCorps Project. All AmeriCorps members will wear AmeriCorps logo. AmeriCorps signs will be posted at the Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park entrances. All members will take part of trainings teaching them how to engage with the public about AmeriCorps and its different programs, all members will be given the opportunity to engage civic organizations in volunteer work and be available to give community talks on the progress of the Operation AmeriCorps Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

The Osage Nation has made a commitment toward the success of the Bird Creek Farms and Wah Zha

Narratives

Zhi Eco Park by investing time money and other resources in creating something the community and tribe can be proud to have in its midst. The ability to bring together different organizations in the community to increase the cost effectiveness of the project is what will make it a success. At the present time documenting the costs of the program is an ongoing effort. The goal is to identify and raise the additional funds needed for operation. The tribe has made a commitment to arrange for housing and other logistical needs for the NCCC members. The tribe has made a commitment to go beyond what is needed with in-kind support from other departments working together for the success of the project.

All details of the proposed budget indicates the amount of non-CNCS resource commitments (in-kind, and cash) secured to date and the sources of these commitments. At the present time a Memorandum of Understanding has been created for the governance and oversight of the Bird Creek Farms with a separate one being drafted for the Wah Zha Zhi Eco Park It reads as follows:

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made between the stakeholders of the Bird Creek Farms Coalition (also known as the Bird Creek Farms Subcommittee), hereinafter referred to as „BCFC“, and each of the undersigned, hereinafter referred to as a „Member“, for the purpose of establishing the agreed conditions under which the Member shall participate in the Governance and Oversight of the BCFC in development of concentrated and attainable agricultural outcomes as described below, effective as of the date of the last execution below until the 30th day of March, 2020, or as subsequently agreed upon and amended in writing thereafter.

Whereas, a stakeholders group has been created (which may from time to time be comprised of representatives or officials from federal, state, county, municipality, or tribal governments, and from regional planning agencies, nonprofit organizations, and allied public and private sector partners) that seeks to develop the Bird Creek Farms Coalition which will guide the common agricultural and food production activities on lands designated by the Osage Nation, toward greater access to healthier lifestyles and cultural connectivity through food systems;

Whereas, it is the intention of each undersigned Member that the BCFC shall collectively have the capacity and experience to carry out the proposed activities within a work program executed under a cooperative agreement with the Osage Nation of Oklahoma;

Whereas, several of the undersigned Members of the BCFC now have - or may have in the future - a contractual, legal or obligatory relationship with the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, and have conducted

Narratives

internal reviews of their ability to participate, contribute, and/or collaborate and have obtained the necessary permissions to take part in any and/or all activities such as may occur during the course of the BCFC's existence;

Whereas, each Member of the BCFC hereby authorizes the Osage Nation's Communities of Excellence, as the lead organization, to act in a representative capacity with all potential programs, service providers, and other entities on behalf of the BCFC, and to assume administrative responsibility for ensuring that the BCFC's program is efficiently executed upon;

Whereas, while the Osage Nation's Communities of Excellence, as the lead organization, will hold and perform fiscal and administrative responsibility for Bird Creek Farms, the BCFC will adopt its own governance and management structure that reflects the diversity of its programs and partners, and that allows for participation in strategy development and decision-making;

Whereas, the result of the BCFC's efforts will be the development of a coordinated Site Plan, Operating Plan, Training Requirements, Safety Guidelines, Policies & Procedures, and Annual Budget for Bird Creek Farms, coordinated across all jurisdictions which will ultimately result in the creation of an agricultural department; and

Now therefore, all parties to this MOU, as Members of the stakeholders group, accept the responsibility of carrying out their role in the successful completion of the work program of the Bird Creek Farms Coalition;

The undersigned Members represent that they have authority to enter into this MOU, and hereby sign on behalf of the entity indicated on the date indicated below.

I include this MOU as testament to the longevity, commitment and sustainability the Osage Nation has made toward this project.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

N/A

Amendment Justification

N/A

Clarification Summary

N/A

Continuation Changes

N/A