

Organizational Profile

Your organization’s mission or statement of purpose, noting the source, approving body, and date of the official document in which it appears.

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma’s (ESTOO) mission is *Dedicated to excellence in our journey to build the tribe of the future* as written in the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Vision Statement and Guiding Principles and approved by the ESTOO Business Committee on January 27, 2010.

Your service area (i.e., communities and/or audiences served, including size, demographic characteristics, and geographic area).

Eastern Shawnee Library serves the members of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma across the United States, The nine tribes located in Ottawa County Oklahoma and the general public of the Four States area including Northeast Oklahoma, Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas and Northwest Arkansas.

located in the extreme northeast corner of Oklahoma. The Tribe’s historic jurisdiction is all within Ottawa County. The western boundary of this jurisdiction is the Spring River, Northern boundary is the Peoria Tribe jurisdictional area; the eastern boundary is the state line of Missouri, and the southern boundary is the Wyandotte Tribe jurisdictional area. The Eastern Shawnee tribe of Oklahoma has approximately 4,800 members. Approximately 1,000 tribal members live in the vicinity of the ESTOO Jurisdiction.

The population of Ottawa County is 30,338 according to U.S. Census Bureau 2022 Quick Facts. 25% of the population is under eighteen. 21% of the population is Native American. 50.6% is female.

Race	Percent
White	62
Native American	21
Black	1
Asian	0.5
Hawaiian/Pacific	0.5
Two or more	9
Hispanic	6

A brief history of your organization, focusing on the unit that will be directly involved in carrying out the work.

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, with a constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior, April 4, 1994 and Amended March 2, 1999; and the Constitution of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Article IX, Section I, empowers the Business Committee to protect and preserve the interests of the Tribe.

The George J. Captain Eastern Shawnee Public Library was established in 1996 and its mission is to provide library services to Eastern Shawnee Tribal members, to all other Native American people and the general public. As a public library, the resources available to patrons are adult books and periodicals, a section of children’s books, a section of books focused on Native American history and culture, videos, museum displays, and computer/internet access. The ESTOO Library offers online resources including historical documents and genealogy information.

Narrative

Project Justification

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has been a federally recognized tribe since 1939. The tribe has been financially successful and currently has no debt due to smart business practices and effective use of federal and state funding opportunities. This tribe strives to provide services and programs not only to their tribal citizens but is incredibly supportive to the community at large. The George J. Captain Public Library was established in 1996 and its mission is to provide library services to Eastern Shawnee Tribal members, to all other Native American people and the general public. As a public library, the resources available to patrons are adult books and periodicals, a section of children's books, a section of books focused on Native American history and culture, videos, museum displays, and computer/internet access. This library has received IMLS funding multiple times over the years and is appreciative for the opportunities it provides for the tribe to purchase needed resources, accomplish special cultural/historical projects, and pilot innovative programs. If we are awarded funding for this grant project, we will focus on Goal 2: Strengthen Community Engagement by consistently using our bookmobile in the community to help bring attention to our brick-and-mortar library facility and increase the number of yearly patrons. Our plan will address *objective 2.1: Promote inclusive engagement across diverse audiences* by having our bookmobile open at our tribal events that are open to tribal citizens and many times the public as well and by participating in community events such as parades and back to school events. We will create a monthly route for the bookmobile to visit our Agency on Aging Community Building, our elder's housing development, a neighboring tribal elder housing community, our Learning Center, and the Seneca R7 Preschool. We also plan to visit early childhood learning centers and nursing homes (within 5-10 mile) radius during Native American History month to share the story of the Eastern Shawnee people, do an activity with the residents and provide free books and swag. We will do this again during the second year of the grant project but will extend our outreach to access more learning centers and nursing homes (10–20-mile radius). Our plan will address *objective 2.2: Support community collaboration and foster civic discourse* when we participate at Parent Workshops put on by our Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Department, Indian Child Welfare department, and at special events put on in the community and by our tribe. This will also be supported by doing a needs assessment to see what resources and services patrons want and having a suggestion box at the library and bookmobile.

What need, problem, or challenge will your project address and how was it identified?

Our challenge is to bring in more patrons to our library. The cause is multifaceted; one issue is the number of visitors has not bounced back to the number of visitors we served pre-Covid-19 shutdown, and the second issue is many nontribal people in the community do not know about our facility or that it is open to the public. Our library collects data each month and turns in an annual report to the Tribal Administration and Business Committee. This data was the main source used to determine this issue. Having conversations with people in the community led us to realize there is an issue with lack of marketing our library to the general public. Below is our data for fiscal year 2018 compared to 2023.

George J. Captain Public Library Data (FY=October 1 to September 30)	FY 2018	FY 2023
MATERIALS CHECKED OUT	1598	549
RENEWAL	269	139
NEW CARDS	28	10
NUMBER OF ADULTS	1393	334
NUMBER OF CHILDREN/JUVENILE	205	184

Describe how you have used demographic information, economic circumstances, assessments, and other relevant data from reliable source to define the need, problem, or challenge and develop the scope for the project.

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According to the U.S. Census Quick Facts The poverty rate in 2021 in Ottawa County was 20.4% compared to the national average of 12.6%.

Because of the economic challenges identified in the data the Bookmobile goes to the community to provide services taking down the economic barriers of travel and time to serve participants.

Who is the target group for your project and how have they been involved in the planning?

The target audience will vary based on the grant project activity. Our bookmobile will be visiting early childhood learning centers/preschools with a focus on 3–5-year-olds during the school year and 3–12-year-old children during the summer months. The Bookmobile will also be taken to areas with elder housing to provide services to those fifty-five and older. During tribal and community events we will be

serving all ages. This grant project will serve our tribal community and non-tribal community alike throughout its duration.

Who are the ultimate beneficiaries for this project?

The beneficiaries of this project are the tribe and the community alike. The tribe benefits by being able to really promote something new, without the financial risk or having to reallocate the budget for this project. It is also an opportunity to educate the surrounding area about the tribe and all it does for its people. The community benefits because the tribal library is open to the public and provides resources in addition to the county library. This grant project will let us promote the library to the community consistently to promote patronage over time. More specifically, this project benefits young students, educators, and the school district. Many studies have shown that when children have been exposed to preschool library programs, they tend to demonstrate more emergent literacy behaviors and pre-reading skills than those who have not. This leads to students seeing more academic success in school, teachers having to do less remediation, and higher overall test scores for the school district. Our elders will be provided resources and socialization at their doorstep that they may not typically get, and this hopefully provides their families with peace of mind of a “community” looking out for their loved ones.

Project Work Plan

What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence?

Our overriding goal for this grant project is to increase patron usage of our library resources. Most activities will be during the first year of the project and will be focused on utilizing our Bookmobile to bring attention to the library itself. During the third quarter of the first year, we will create and distribute a needs assessment to all library patrons and all tribal citizens in the area. During the second year, we will continue to promote the bookmobile and building focus on during the second year will be to continue with usage.

- **Bookmobile**

1. Set up bookmobile at community events throughout the year to help increase awareness about our actual library and all the resources available to anyone (set up schedule beginning Sept. 2024, then continue with ongoing monthly schedule)
2. Create and follow a consistent schedule to visit our tribal Learning Center and Elder Housing during (set schedule in August 2024)
3. During November 2024, (Native American History Month) we will take the bookmobile to 1-2 nursing home/assisted living facilities within a 5-10-mile radius. During these visits, we will provide some free books, brain-work activities, ESTOO swag, and teach them about the tribe and ways we contribute to the community.
During November 2025, (Native American History Month) we will take the bookmobile to 2-3 nursing home/assisted living facilities within a 15-20-mile radius. During these visits, we will provide some free books, brain-work activities, ESTOO swag, and teach them about the tribe and ways we contribute to the community. Our goal will be to continue this practice after the grant project ends.

4. During November 2024 and 2025, (Native American History Month) we will take the bookmobile to the Freeman Learning Center and MSSU Learning Center, within a 25-mile radius. During these visits, we will do a Read-aloud story that is culturally significant and age appropriate to each class, explain about Indian tribes in the area, provide some free books, fun activities, ESTOO swag. These learning centers were chosen due to their diverse populations of children and parents which may help our message spread even more. Our goal will be to continue this practice after the grant project ends.
- **Advertising/Marketing**
 1. Do a weekly social media post to increase awareness
 2. Purchase additional signage for tribal complex entryway and Main Street/Oneida Street intersection
 3. Place business cards at area businesses and hang flyers on bulletin board
 - **Community Involvement**
 1. Use bookmobile to participate in tribal and community events throughout the year
4th July Parade, Education Banquet, Back to School Powwow, Family Pool Party, Seneca's Back to School Bash, ESTO Powwow, Trunk-or-Treat, Rock Your Mocs Day, ECLC Book Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Day
 2. Hold a T-shirt design contest for Orange Shirt Day-September 30, (this will only be for tribal citizens) two age groups: 10-14 years old to design a children's shirt, and 15+ to design the adult shirt
 3. Paint and Sip-(March 2025) youth 13+/adult partners-do a little spiel about library services then paint-cost if usually \$35/person, we could do \$5 deposit per partnership. The ESTO Child Care and Development Fund provides snacks/drinks. These classes are extremely popular in our area, but many people cannot afford to participate. Offering a class at such a discounted rate for participants has the potential of bringing in new patrons to our library so we can show them what is available.
 - **Needs Assessment**
 1. During the second quarter of the grant project (Oct.-Dec. 2024) we will implement a needs assessment using hard copies and an online form. This will be distributed to all library/bookmobile patrons and sent to all tribal citizens within a 30-mile radius. The needs assessment data will be compiled by the library staff and shared with tribal administrators. Based on those identified needs, library staff will create a prioritized list of items and/or services and make purchases of these items using grant project funding.

What are the risks to the project, and how will you mitigate them?

The primary risk to this project is unexpected staff turnover. This tribe has an experienced Human Resources Department with a robust hiring process in the unlikely event that the library director or assistant leave the tribe during this grant project. The next most significant risk is the possibility of a mechanical breakdown of the bookmobile. The bookmobile is regularly serviced and checked over consistently by our maintenance department. We have allocated part of the grant budget for maintenance throughout the grant project and can request tribal funding for any serious issues that arise. In the event the bookmobile is temporarily out of service, we can use one of the tribe's SUVs for the route that day. Another risk factor based on our geographic location is the potential for extreme weather conditions, as many of our community events are outdoors. However, many of these events have indoor contingency plans. In these situations, we would still bring our bookmobile to be present outdoors but set up a display of what is inside the bookmobile indoors.

Who will plan, implement, and manage your project?

The Library Director and Library Assistant worked jointly in planning this grant project. The Director will oversee all aspects of management, implementation, and evaluation of this project. The Assistant will be the "boots on the ground" staff as she will be the person scheduling and operating the bookmobile on its regular routes. Both the Director and Assistant will be involved in community events and work jointly in event planning, setup, and evaluation. The Director will be fully responsible for completing and submitting grant reports. The library director and assistant are both state certified teachers with thirty-eight combined years of experience in regular and special education settings from preschool to 12th grade. They have 11 years combined experience as tribal library staff. The tribe employs an accounting team of five people, one of which will be assigned to manage this grant funding. Based on this experience, we have complete confidence this grant can be effectively completed on time and meet all requirements of IMLS.

What time, financial, personnel, and other resources will you need to carry out the activities?

For this project we decided to use the full two years so we could have the time to act, assess, adjust, and assess again to ensure we really accomplish our goal, which is to increase use of our library and its resources. The tribe will fund 90% of the Library Director's salary, with 10% being funded by this grant project. Due to the amount of time this project will require for the Library Assistant, we are requesting the grant project fund 50% of that salary, with the tribe funding the remaining 50%. The accountant will be funded 100% by the tribe.

What existing resources within the tribe, assets within the library or community, and/or potential partners will be utilized during this project to aid in its success?

One key resource for this project the tribe is providing is the actual Bookmobile. The bus was purchased and converted into a Bookmobile in the past 3 years. Internet and previously purchased software applications will be needed throughout the project timeline. We will be partnering with departments within the tribe such as our Early Childhood Learning Center and Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and outside of the tribe we will partner with Seneca House, Seneca R7 Preschool, Freeman Learning Center, and Missouri Southern State University Learning Center.

How and with whom will you share your work's general findings and lessons learned?

Each department, including the library, is required to submit a monthly report to our Chief and Business Committee. The grant project will be included in those reports. The tribe distributes a monthly newsletter to all tribal citizen households and on our website, and the library will place monthly updates in the Shooting Star Newsletter. Library staff will become members of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS), which will give another platform for sharing and gaining new insights from other experienced library staff. The tribe has an annual General Council meeting each September and each tribal citizen receives an Annual Report from every department of the tribe. The library will include up-to-date findings and updates on the grant project in the Annual Report.

Freeman Learning Center

Director: Josh Sharp

Email: jbsharp@freemanhealth.com

Phone: 417.347.1610

Address: 3606 S. Indiana Ave. Joplin, MO 64804

MSSU Lion Cub Academy

Director: Nikki Tappana

Email: tappana-n@mssu.edu

Phone: 866.818.6778

Address: 3950 E Newman Rd. Joplin, MO 64804

Seneca R7 Early Childhood Center

Director: Dedra Cornett

Email: jbsharp@freemanhealth.com

Phone: 417.776.1201

Address: 14174 Hwy. 43 Seneca, MO 64865

Seneca House

Director: Cindy Burton

Email: senecadon@communitycaremidwest.com

Phone: 417.776.8041

Address: 914 Chickasaw St. Seneca, MO 64865

ESTOO Bookmobile

	YEAR 1				YEAR 2			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Advertising/Marketing	Order/hang signage for Cherokee Ave/Oneida St./Look into places to hang sign in city of Seneca and Wyandotte	Place business cards and flyers at area businesses in cities of Seneca and Wyandotte- update/refill monthly Order/hang sign in Seneca and Wyandotte if location is approved						
	Begin weekly posting on Facebook and website	continue weekly postings for duration of grant project						
Needs Assessment	Create Needs Assessment using Survey Legend Software	Distribute Needs Assessment to patrons at events, via email, website, Facebook, and hard copy to those without email	Compile data from Needs Assessment Develop "Plan of Action" based on data	Share data and Plan of Action with Tribal Administration Begin implementation of plan based on feedback	continue implimentation		Administer a follow-up Satisfaction Survey based on actions taken	Compile data from follow-up Satisfaction Survey for grant report
Community Involvement	Seneca 4th of July Parade Back to School Powwow ESTO Powwow Seneca R7 Back to School Bash in the Park	Trunk or Treat Rock Your Mocs Begin monthly bookclub at AOA with elders	Support the ECLC for Read Across America week	ECLC Book Night ESTO Education Banquet	Seneca 4th of July Parade Back to School Powwow ESTO Powwow Seneca R7 Back to School Bash in the Park	Trunk or Treat Rock Your Mocs at the ECLC	Support the ECLC for Read Across America week	ECLC Book Night ESTO Education Banquet
	Orange Shirt Day T-shirt Design contest	Visit the Freeman Learning Center, MSSU Learning Center, and Seneca House for Native American History Month	Create N Sip Night at the Library	Create N Sip Night at the Library	Orange Shirt Day T-shirt Design contest	Visit the Freeman Learning Center, MSSU Learning Center, Seneca House, and 1-2 more to be identified later, for Native American History Month		
Monthly Bookmobile Routes	ESTOO ECLC Seneca R7 Preschool Woodlands and Modoc Housing	During the first quarter of the grant project, we will set up a regular biweekly schedule to visit each of these facilities. For the ESTOO ECLC and Seneca R7 Preschool, we will do a read-aloud for each class that visits the bookmobile that day. For holidays or special events, we will provide a craft activity that the teacher can do in the classroom with the kids. During the 2nd year of the grant project, we will investigate other preschools and Elder's Housing/Nursing Homes that we could begin scheduling visits.						