

# **POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS**

**TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION  
FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
BUFORD L. ROLIN TRIBAL HEALTH CLINIC  
5811 Jack Springs Rd.  
Atmore, AL 36502-5025**

**"FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES/DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/GRANTS TO  
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES (INCLUDING ALASKA NATIVE  
VILLAGES) AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS"**

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.671**

**FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020 GRANT APPLICATION**

**(A Single-Tribe Application - not a Consortium)**

**Preamble**

**Eligibility for grant funds:**

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, a Federally-recognized American Indian Tribe with a government-to-government relationship with the United States, has all of the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations attached to that designation. The Tribe is both eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and exempt from all provisions and requirements of Executive Order No. 12372 regarding "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

**Grants Management Applicable to Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes:**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has published [2 CFR Part 200](#) (referred to as the "Supercircular") to streamline the Government-wide guidance on Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal awards. The Supercircular consolidates and eliminates the duplicative guidance found in prior OMB circulars applicable to Tribal governments which includes A-50: Audit Follow-Up, A-87: Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments, A-102: Grants and Cooperative Agreements with States and Local Governments and A-133: Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations. The new Supercircular expands and clarifies requirements in several areas.

**Organizational Structure:**

The Executive Branch of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is responsible for the overall guidance and management of the programs and activities of the Tribe consisting of the following divisions and sub-divisions: Tribal Member Services Division (Family Services, Housing and Tribal Member Benefits), Health and Elder Services Division (Assisted Living, Health and Senior Activities for Independent Living - SAIL), Community Services Division (Boys & Girls Club, Cultural Department, Education Department and Recreation/Wellness), Public Safety Division (Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management and Tribal Court),

Regulatory Affairs Division (Tribal Employee Rights Office (TERO), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Regulatory Office and Community Garden), Facilities, Public Works and Transportation Division (Facilities, Public Works, Land Management, Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, Perdido River Farms, Utilities and Transportation), the Human Resources Department, Information Technology Department, Federal Accounting, Tribal Government Accounting, Governmental Relations, Legal Department and the businesses and enterprises operated by the Tribe through Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA).

The Tribe has successfully obtained, administered, closed out and audited Federal and State grants and contracts since 1984. All Federal and State funds are handled through the Tribal Office of the Federal Accounting Controller, headed by an experienced professional who employs all standard accounting practices. These funds are monitored and maintained in separate accounts so as to ensure accuracy and accountability for all expenditures and transactions.

## **A. COVER LETTER**

- 1. TRIBAL ORGANIZATION:** Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Tribal Member Services Division  
Family Services Department  
**ADDRESS:** 5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, Alabama 36502-5025  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (251) 368-9136 extension 2600 **FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-

0828

2. **TRIBALLY-DESIGNATED OFFICIAL** authorized to administer grant:  
Martha Gookin, Tribal Member Services Division Director  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 251-368-9136 extension 2602  
**FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-0828      **EMAIL:** mgookin@pci-nsn.gov
3. **PROGRAM CONTACT** authorized to coordinate program:  
Amanda Montgomery, Family Services Director  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 251-368-9136 extension 2024  
**FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-0828      **EMAIL:** amontgomery@pci-nsn.gov
4. **EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):** 63-0705119
5. **DUNS NUMBER:** 086543469
6. **FEDERAL RECOGNITION:** The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a federally-recognized Tribe included in the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs "Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs" notice in Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 9, dated January 14, 2015, page 1945.
7. **TRIBAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY:** D. Timothy Speegle  
**TITLE:** Chief Financial Officer  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (251) 368-9136 Extension 2015  
**FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-9139      **EMAIL:** tspeegle@pci-nsn.gov
8. **FINANCE OFFICIAL** to process payments, track funds and audit accounts  
Rita Hall, Federal Accounting Controller  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (251) 368-9136 Extension 2221  
**FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-9139      **E-MAIL:** rhall@pci-nsn.gov
9. **COMPLIANCE OFFICIAL** to ensure timely and appropriate grant administration  
Lisa Milliken, Grants/Contracts Compliance Manager  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (251) 368-9136 Extension 2233  
**FAX NUMBER:** (251) 368-9139      **E-MAIL:** lmilliken@pci-nsn.gov

**B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**B. (1) Service Area and Populations Served:**

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians became the only Federally-recognized Tribe in Alabama on August 11, 1984, pursuant to 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 83. Today, the Tribe is a Sovereign Nation with its own governmental infrastructure. The Reservation is located in Poarch, AL, in rural Escambia County, about 55 miles northeast of

Mobile, AL. The Tribal Member Services programs are housed in a new 68,000 sq. ft. 2-story Clinic, which was dedicated March 3, 2014, where a wide array of health and wellness services are available to the Tribal Community.

The overall socio-economic characteristic of the Poarch Community, including both Tribal members and non-Indians, is that of a rural environment with most residents having annual household incomes at, or below, the Federal Poverty Level. As of January 2019, Tribal population data shows that there are 3,001 enrolled Tribal Members residing in 2,482 households. Of this number, approximately 1,900 live in the Tribe's 6-county Federally-mandated Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA) which includes Baldwin, Elmore, Escambia, Mobile, and Monroe Counties in Alabama, and Escambia County in Florida.

Each year, the Tribe services approximately 25-40 victims of domestic violence or family violence. That number is expected to remain close to the same based on patterns and statistics in recent years. This includes counseling, assistance with completing PFA/Divorce documents, court accompaniments, temporary housing, and referrals for services, when appropriate.

**B. (2) Barriers challenging the effectiveness of program operations:**

The Tribal Family Services Department maintains well-documented Domestic and Family Violence case records reflecting systemic dysfunction in family units. A static, nuclear family is the exception rather than the norm, as family structures change over time, creating interpersonal and family integration issues conducive to domestic and family violence situations. Increased prevalence of substance abuse exacerbates these issues compounding barriers which prevent resolution of situations before they become violent or abusive. Unemployment and underemployment cause economic stress in families which further undermines the stability of Tribal family units. These issues result in the increased need for intervention by the Abuse Prevention Coordinator, through the Family Services Department, and the Tribal Justice System.

Other issues creating barriers include: underreporting of incidents of violence due to pressure from members of the extended family, fear of short-term and long-term consequences, fear for children involved, lack of understanding about how/when/where help can be obtained, financial instability, lack of housing, cultural issues, as well as the victim's own sense of shame and guilt about their circumstances. Many of those who seek help through the Abuse Prevention Coordinator or through legal action frequently drop charges and restraining orders. All too often they return to the residence of the perpetrators, continuing the Cycle of Violence for themselves and their children. Through modeling, the children may internalize the behaviors, perpetuating the abuse in their own families.

**B. (3) Technical assistance needed:**

On-going training is needed to enhance the skill-set of the Abuse Prevention Coordinator, to enable that professional to implement state-of-the-art practices which will meet the needs of victims and their children. Cross-training is also essential for the staffs of the Family Services Department, Tribal Court, Public Safety, Housing, Transportation and the Health Department. Such training will be designed to enhance assessment and intervention skills for any staff person who may interact with victims during the normal course of their routine duties. Technical assistance from the Tribal Compliance Officer and Grants Officer will be accessed, as needed, to ensure that proper monitoring and reporting requirements are coordinated for this grant.

**C. CAPACITY**

**C. (1) Shelter Operation:**

The Abuse Prevention Coordinator manages the Creek Safe Haven Shelter and the Domestic Violence Transitional Trailer, as essential parts of the position's duties. The Shelter is used as a temporary placement for victims of Domestic, Family, and Dating Violence, Sexual

Assault, and Stalking. The Shelter, housed within the Public Safety Building, provides 1,800 square feet of living space. It is comfortably furnished, with food and household supplies in stock. The Abuse Prevention Coordinator, working with each victim in the Shelter, establishes a Case Plan with practical, attainable goals. The Coordinator works with each victim to achieve their stated goals, assists in the relocation process, and provides education on the Cycle of Violence. Case Plans are the documentation which provides the client with a structure for a new life, once they leave the sheltered environment.

The Domestic Violence Transitional Trailer, located near the Public Safety Department, provides long-term placement for victims of Domestic, Family, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking. This facility provides victims with opportunities to restructure their lives, obtain employment, and to seek permanent housing, all in a safe environment. It is a three bedroom, one bath, handicapped-accessible, comfortably furnished, single-wide mobile home, including a washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, and microwave.

**C. (2). Agreements with local agencies:**

Sometimes it is appropriate for a victim to be sent to a shelter outside of the immediate geographical area, due to the threat of harm from the perpetrator, his/her family, and friends. The Family Services Department maintains good working relationships with the two regional shelters, the Lighthouse of Baldwin County, and Penelope House of Mobile, which facilitates smooth referrals and effective communication.

The Tribe is also a member of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV). This organization is composed of individuals and organizations working to eliminate violence against women in our state. ACADV works in collaboration with state and local entities to promote systemic change, resulting in the creation of appropriate and effective responses to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

The Tribe also partners with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) of Lame Deer, MT, a non-profit organization which provides grassroots advocacy and policy development as well as technical assistance, training and resource information regarding violence committed against Native women and their children. Gwen Packard of NIWRC has been a presenter at Poarch Creek conferences and is an agency liaison regarding safety, justice, and access to services for the Tribal program and individuals seeking assistance.

**C. (3). Other social service programs:**

The Poarch Creek Indian Education Department provides comprehensive educational services for both children and adults. Activities include tutoring, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation, cultural education, scholarships, financial education, career counseling, and assistance with financial aid applications. The Tribe also assists with job training through its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program.

In addition to Domestic, Family, and Dating Violence services, the Family Services Department provides a variety of important services to Tribal Members and their families. Adult, elder, and child protective services are provided, as well as the Community Services Block Grant, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Child Care and Developmental Block Grant, Tribal Assistance and Tribal Crisis Funds. Other programs include: Indian Child Welfare grants (through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services Public Law 93-638 Contract), Title IV, and Homemaker Case Aide Services, Companion Care, Respite Care, and Attendant Care Programs for the elderly and disabled. The Department has recently initiated a Crisis Assessment Program, designed to determine the Tribal Member's need for assistance with financial management and other services.

Tribal administrators understand that child protective services are not to be funded with FVPSA funding. This section in the Tribe's application noting child protective services is only

an explanation of complimentary services the Tribe maintains within the Family Services Department.

Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have made possible the construction of 180 housing units for low-to-moderate income families on Reservation properties. The Housing Department also administers programs designed to help Tribal Member families build homes of their own, and to renovate existing homes within the service area.

The Poarch Creek Indian Health Department, housed in the new Buford L Rolin Health Clinic, provides lifetime medical, dental, and mental health services for Tribal Members, and also serves First Generation Indian Descent minors who are eligible for services until they turn 18 years of age. As a part of a standardized health assessment process, Clinic health professionals screen patients for symptoms of Domestic Violence. Patients who are identified as victims are referred to the Abuse Prevention Coordinator, whose office is conveniently located on the second floor of the Clinic. Health Department services include a pharmacy, as well as transportation, if needed, for patients who have appointments at off-Reservation medical facilities.

The SAIL Center, adjacent to the Assisted Living Facility, provides hot meals, organized activities, transportation, and educational activities for seniors (age 55+) and disabled Tribal members.

#### **D. SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED:**

##### **D. (1)How funds will be used:**

FVPSA grant monies will be used to fund the following activities:

1. Maintaining the Creek Safe Haven Shelter and the Domestic Violence Transitional Trailer for victims of Domestic, Family, and Dating Violence.

2. Planning and conducting trainings and events and funding awareness materials for distribution to the Tribal Community.
3. Assisting victims with food, transportation, starter boxes, and related services.
4. Allowable indirect costs (administrative expenses)

The FVPSA Grant will provide funding for the continued operation of the Tribe's Shelter, known as the Creek Safe Haven, and the Tribe's Domestic Violence Transitional Trailer. The Shelter and the Transitional Trailer are vital components of the services offered by the Family Services Department. Direct client services are also provided, with the goal of maintaining healthy family units who reflect the Tribe's unique culture, and demonstrate the stability and security traditionally found in Indian families. Grant funds also allow the Department to assist with Shelter-related expenses, as well as funding for trainings and awareness events on the Reservation.

The Tribe has some limited non-FVPSA funded homeless assistance for clients in need of temporary shelter when their safety is not an issue. This is in addition to the emergency shelter assistance supported by FVPSA funding. The Tribe has several other homeless venues for non-emergency assistance which includes transitional housing, hotel accommodations and Tribal Housing units temporarily vacated.

Grant funds will enable the Family Services Department to continue to help victims and their families to cope with their exposure to violence. In addition to individualized Case Planning, the Department provides referrals to other services, including financial management, employment services, as well as referrals to other Tribal departments and community resources.

The Department implements awareness activities designed to educate Tribal employees and throughout the community. A well-attended DV Awareness Vigil is held on the Reservation every October. During the Springtime Awareness Program, with its focus on Child Abuse

Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness, educational packets are distributed to all residents in Tribal housing. Materials in the packets enable residents to identify signs and symptoms of abuse, and provide essential contact information for those needing assistance. Family Services Department staff members attend community events where they distribute awareness materials, and they also distribute materials to Tribal elders who are having lunch at the beautiful new SAIL Center. At least one informative article about the Department's activities is included in the monthly Poarch Creek Newsletter, which is sent to all Tribal Members.

Because the amount of FVPSA funds the Tribe receives is small, the Tribal Council allows the Family Services program to expend Tribal Government program funds to pay for meeting costs for Tribal representatives to attend the mandatory Tribal grantee and Region 4 meetings, as needed.

**D. (2) How proposed services are designed:**

Services provided will help to reduce Domestic, Family, and Dating Violence in the following ways:

1. Tribal employees and the community will be educated as to the signs and symptoms of Domestic Violence abuse, according to the law.
2. Victims will be provided with a safe, secure environment where they may begin to establish healthy lifestyles for themselves and their children.
3. They will be offered appropriate services, including counseling on personal, financial, as well as parenting skills.

The staff of the Tribe's Behavioral Health Services, conveniently located in the same building as Family Services, and employs a Licensed Professional Counselor who is experienced in child and family issues. The Family Services Department is able to refer children and adults to this professional, who is able to see our clients in a timely manner. We also maintain close

working relationships with off-Reservation mental health professionals who offer specialized services which may be more appropriate to the needs of the individuals we serve.

One of the duties of the Abuse Prevention Coordinator is to keep accurate records of the number of persons served, the specific services provided, and, when possible, the outcomes of those services. This data is provided to the granting agency, and provides the Coordinator with important information as to the effectiveness of the Program. Data and information is collected by Poarch Creek Family Services staff in order to provide accurate FVPSA reports as required by the grant funding guidelines. Unique client identifiers are not reported to the agency, but outcomes are important to ensure the effectiveness of program activities. Tribal files and program information are maintained in secured, locked areas with ongoing monitoring and surveillance. Information is shared with essential program staff on a need-to-know basis to accomplish program goals and objectives.

**D. (3). Plan for provision of specialized services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence or dating violence:**

Safety first! The primary intervention for children is individual and family safety. Family Services staff work closely with public safety officers and Tribal Court officials to identify safety issues and options on a case-by-case basis. Legal advocacy, use of shelters and DV partners are essential components for child safety and giving children and their non-abusing caregiver(s) a sense of control so that they feel less vulnerable.

Secondary intervention is to identify health and physical needs for any sustained injuries or health problems resulting from DV incidents. Clients eligible for treatment at the Tribe's Health Department will be referred there or to the nearby Atmore Community Hospital Emergency

Room, as medically indicated, and non-Tribal individuals will be referred to the most appropriate treatment facility.

Tertiary follow-up therapy involves counseling and mental health interventions to mitigate short-term and long-term negative outcomes. The Tribal Family Services Department has an experienced Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) as its Abuse Prevention Coordinator (APC). The Tribal Clinic has a Behavioral Health Department and the Indian Health Service Purchased and Referred Care component of the Tribal health Department has funding for off-site services. Additional referrals for non-Indian clients will be made, as appropriate.

Children of victims may be referred to the Tribal Behavioral Health program if they are Tribal Members or First Generation Descendants under age 19 for assessment, counseling, referral and treatment, if appropriate. Non-Tribal children may be referred to local mental health agencies, if appropriate.

**D. (4). Data tracking and documentation of outcomes:**

The Tribal Member Services Division Director, appointed by the Tribal Council, has overall responsibility for implementing and enforcing data security, confidentiality and professional standards of ethics and conduct for the Family Services Department under which this grant project falls. The Director has authority to make decisions about program operations regarding authorized users, access and data to be collected and maintained. The Tribe has extensive electronic security systems maintained by the Tribal IT Dept. and adheres to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards for the protection and confidential handling of all protected health information. Hard copy files are maintained in secure, locked fire-proof files in locked offices within the Family Services Department. Outcomes are mitigated as much as possible within program constraints and as allowed by the victims themselves.

## **E. INVOLVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS:**

Procedures for involving knowledgeable individuals and organizations in providing services under this FVPSA grant include the identification of Tribal staff who are first responders, public safety, legal and law enforcement agencies, schools, hospitals, health care entities, non-profit and faith-based organizations with a similar mission, private businesses and domestic violence prevention coalitions, programs and advocacy groups. Once individuals are identified, contacts are made to invite representatives to become involved with the Domestic Violence Task Force. The Task Force's goal is to facilitate interdepartmental and interagency collaboration and coordination of services.

Mrs. Amanda Montgomery, Family Services Director, has an Associates of Social Science from Pensacola State Junior College, a Bachelors of Social Work from the University of West Florida, and a Masters of Business Administration from Columbia Southern University. Mrs. Montgomery has assisted in writing and administering grant activities and Tribally- funded programs. She has assisted with and overseen programs in social work, prevention, domestic violence, education, child and youth related programs, and cultural programs.

Mrs. Martha Gookin, Tribal Member Services Division Director, holds a Master's Degree in Community Counseling from the Denver Seminary. An experienced mental health professional, she has worked in social services for over ten years. Her responsibilities include oversight of the Housing, Family Services, and Tribal Member Benefits programs of the Tribe. These programs are financed with Federal, state, and Tribal funds.

Taylor Evans, Abuse Prevention Coordinator, is a Licensed Master Social Worker who holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Troy University. Taylor has worked with children, adults and family units as a whole. She has experience working at Escambia County Department of Human Resources in foster care. She also, has experience working in mental health at Southwest

Behavioral Healthcare Systems in Escambia County as a children's therapist within the school systems. Her current responsibilities include coordination of the Creek Safe Haven Shelter, Transitional Trailer, assessment, counseling, referral, and other services to victims and their children. She is also responsible for implementation of the annual DV Vigil, as well as training and education for Tribal employees and the community.

Mrs. Stephanie Cook serves as the Office manager for the program. Her duties include clerical services, as well as assisting with preparation for trainings and awareness events. Mrs. Reynolds holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Faulkner University.

The Department sponsors the Domestic Violence Task Force, which meets quarterly in the second floor Conference Room of the Health Clinic. Representatives of Tribal departments, including Family Services, Elders, Division Directors, Health, Housing, Mental Health, Public Safety, and Tribal Member Benefits, are invited to attend. Outside agencies, including the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Community Corrections, Escambia County (Alabama) Sheriff's Domestic Violence Task Force, the Lighthouse of Baldwin County, and Penelope House of Mobile, regularly participate. This is an active group which discusses current trends, and assists in planning events. Guest speakers provide information about DV issues and professional resources in the area.

## **F. INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS:**

### **F. (1). Inclusion of culturally-appropriate services by community-based organizations:**

Culturally-appropriate organizations on and near the Poarch Creek Reservation include: churches, church-affiliated groups, Tribal dance and cultural groups, Tribal adult and youth leadership groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H and Pow-Wow Clubs, an Historic Preservation group, quilting groups, congregate meals, and travel groups, Cultural Heritage Development

groups, as well as the Tribal Council Executive Committee assigned to the Family Services Department. Clients are informed of these groups and organizations and provided with contact information.

**F. (2). How culturally-appropriate services by community-based organizations can assist the Tribe in addressing the unmet needs of DV clients:**

Community churches offer a spiritual support system when individuals and families are actively engaged with them. Tribal dance and cultural groups, such as the annual Pow Wow, the Southeastern Festival, Creek language classes, and Crafts offer positive outlets for creative expression.

Service organizations with which the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Family Services Department is affiliated include the following:

1. Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV)
2. Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission (ACVCC)
3. Boys and Girls Club
4. Escambia County (AL) Department of Human Resources (DHR)
5. Red Cross of South Alabama
6. National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)
7. Coalition for a Healthier Escambia County (CHEC)
8. Escambia County Sexual Assault Response Team (ECSART)
9. Mobile County Regional Domestic Violence Task Force (MCRDVTF)
10. Tribal Court Support Groups (3) Substance Abuse Treatment classes, Livin In Balance and Smart Recovery support groups.

Through involvement with the above-referenced organizations, the Family Services Department is able to extend its reach in helping victims and their children. The ACADV offers

training and access to professional resources. They also advise us on pending state and Federal legislation. The ACVCC is a state agency which also provides training for professionals, as well as some monetary compensation to victims. The Boys and Girls Club, located on the Reservation, offers children a safe place to play and learn, while their parents are working or in school. Escambia County DHR assists with cases outside of the Tribe's jurisdiction and is the local resource for Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) food and related programs. (The Family Services Department has a representative on that agency's Quality Assurance Committee.) Red Cross of South Alabama provides a variety of services, including disaster relief, emergency shelter and transportation and relocation services. The NIWRC provides grassroots advocacy and policy development as well as technical assistance, training and resource information regarding violence committed against Native women and their children. The county-wide CHEC, operational for over 20 years, has a membership of 50 to 60 health and human service agencies who meet monthly to coordinate services, plan and promote policy for presentation to state and county representatives, and inform the community about the current status of health care in Escambia County, Alabama. The ECSART brings together a diverse group of representatives of agencies addressing the escalating issues of sexual assault, and the immediate need of victims for a rapid response. Tribal Family Services staff have participated in the quarterly MCRDVTF meetings for several years and Frank McCloskey, Tribal Abuse Prevention Coordinator, was a member of the 2016 Fall Conference planning committee.

#### **G. TRIBAL RESOLUTION:**

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair, was reelected in August 2020 for a 3-year term. The multiyear FVPSA resolution signed by Chairman Buford Rolin on April 4, 2013, remains in effect FY 2018 through FY 2022. The Chair is the signatory official for all official decisions made by the Tribal Council. Resolutions remain in effect until modified, rescinded or terminated

by their own terms. A new Chair does not change the effect of a Resolution which states a Tribal Council decision.

#### **H. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

A copy of the most current "Poarch Band of Creek Indians Family Services Department Domestic Violence Prevention Program Policies and Procedures" (dated March 19, 2015) is attached to this grant application. The document will be reviewed and revised periodically to reflect Tribal infrastructure and chain-of-command changes the Tribal Council recently implemented. During the coming year, Tribal Family Services, Regulatory Division and Legal Staff Attorneys will collaborate in the review and revision of the policies and procedures to ensure program compliance with client safety and confidentiality issues described in "Section I - Client Confidentiality" of the grant guidelines.

Clarification of other Policies and Procedures issues to be revised and updated in 2017 include:

The NPRM proposes revising the confidentiality requirements of Section 1370.04 to prohibit grantees from disclosing "personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested" or from revealing that information without a specific manner of consent from the individual. In addition, the NPRM proposes that grantees would be allowed to share only specific information for limited purposes, namely: ( 1) non-personally identifying information regarding services provided and demographics information in order to comply with Federal, State, or tribal reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements, (2) court-generated information and law enforcement-generated information for protective order enforcement purposes, and (3) law enforcement-generated and prosecution-generated information necessary for law enforcement and prosecution purposes.

The Tribe currently operates a Domestic Violence Shelter which is located on Reservation property in the same building with the Tribal Police Department. The Tribe has concerns over the requirement that would prevent screening of persons who are applying for admission to the shelter, particularly when the shelter is located on Tribal lands. Safety and protection of Tribal Members and their families is a top priority for the Tribe, particularly when providing shelter and services to victims of domestic violence. It is essential that the Tribe be allowed to perform background checks before offering shelter on the Reservation in order to ensure that the Tribe would not be assisting a fugitive or sheltering a perpetrator of the very types of acts the Department is aiming to prevent.

Clients who are admitted to Tribal facilities are provided with a brief orientation as to their responsibility for protection of Tribal property and keeping the facility clean. The Tribe employs full-time custodians to assist with cleaning of all Tribal facilities, Clients in residence are also expected to keep their temporary living quarters clean as well.

To date, no victims have been asked to leave for serious violations that remained uncorrected. Illegal activities, willful destruction of property, and unwillingness to accept more permanent assistance would be serious violations for which clients might be required to vacate the Tribal shelter.

Even though the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) regulations may not apply in full to the FVPSA program, some elements of care and treatment of clients may fall under HIPPA. When and where those elements do require HIPPA protection, the Tribal Family Services program will adhere to those standards. In addition, the Tribe acknowledges and will comply with the relevant FVPSA provisions for the protection of confidential patient or client information found in 42 U.S.C. 10406(c)(5)(A)-(D).

The Poarch Creek Family Services Division staff fully understands that FVPSA does not

fund transitional housing, only emergency or immediate housing defined as temporary refuge and supportive services. Funds are maintained by the Tribe's Federal Accounting Controller in a separate account so that every expenditure can be carefully tracked and closely monitored by a closed-end purchase order acquisition and distribution process. In addition, effective May 1, 2016, the Tribe now has in place a Grant/Contract Compliance Manager who is responsible for overseeing all grant projects for compliance to ensure funds are properly received, tracked, expended, reports are sent timely to the agency and each grant project is closed out.

## **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A - ASSURANCES OF COMPLIANCE WITH GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

**APPENDIX B - LGBTQ (also known as "Two-Spirited") ACCESSIBILITY POLICY**

**APPENDIX C - CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING**

**APPENDIX D - CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO  
SMOKE**

**APPENDIX E - CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE  
REQUIREMENTS**