

# Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library Receives Funds Through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

## For Immediate Release

Date March 10, 2022

Edgar B. Kent Jr., Chairman, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library received a formal Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ECF Commitment Decision Letter on February 23, 2022, regarding an approved application through the FCC ECF Program. The notice of a \$43,435.00 reimbursement commitment will be for eligible equipment and services for the tribal library. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library will launch a new program which allows library patrons to checkout a laptop and hotspot for mobile internet service. Tribal members and community member library patrons will be in a priority system rotation of 80 Chromebooks and 80 hotspots with mobile internet service.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library was one of only 6 Oklahoma libraries, and only tribal library, to be funded through the 2021-2022 round of emergency connectivity funding.

Chairman Kent said the new connectivity program for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library will help ease the hardship to the accessibility of technology and internet service for Iowa tribal members and other library patrons in the tribal community.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Library is managed as a part of the tribe's Higher Education Department. The library is open to all Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma tribal members and the general public residing in Lincoln and Payne counties with an approved library membership card. The Higher Education Department strives to find new ways to help tribal members become part of the digital generation through education while crossing the digital divide in such a rural area. "We are proud to announce this new library program will place technology and internet service in the homes of our tribal members and invests in the tribal community as a whole through our public library", said Chairman Kent.

Further information or details can be requested from Regina Riley, Higher Education Director, for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma at (405) 547-2402 ext. 3301 or [itolibrary@iowanation.org](mailto:itolibrary@iowanation.org).