Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
P.L. 102-477 Demonstration Project
Weeciilamakinciki Program
Program Narrative
10/13-9/14

The goal of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, as defined in the P.L. 102-477, is to reduce joblessness among Indian people within our service area and integrate services i.e., employment, training and related services. These goals are consistent with the policy of Self-Governance.

Educational opportunities, as well as supportive services, are also offered under the P.L. 102-477 initiative.

**Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Goals:**

- **Provide participants with meaningful employment and training opportunities**
  
  This goal was met by providing employment and/or training opportunities to thirty-two (32) adults and youth participants.

- **Provide eligible adult participants with exposure to the world of work, as well as appropriate training to enter the world of work**
  
  Each participant was trained in specific job placements and was exposed to an array of skills that can be applied to the outside workforce.

- **Encourage successful program completion**
Each participant was encouraged by their case manager to complete their eligible time on the program by the case manager fostering an environment conducive to producing open communication in order to meet participant needs, as well as those needs of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and other involved organizations and businesses. Seventeen (17) adults and seven (7) youth successfully completed their eligible time on the program.

Provide participants with supportive services as needed and appropriate to overcoming financial hardships that might interface with successful program completion

Fourteen (14) adults and seven (7) youth were assisted with supportive services for necessary financial assistance such as proper work attire, utility payment assistance, tutoring, substance abuse services, tools for jobs, transportation, etc.

Impress upon participants the importance of a skilled labor force and the benefits of employment and self-sufficiency

Each participant was encouraged to show skills related to working in a skilled labor force through the mentoring of others employed by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and other agencies and/or businesses working in conjunction with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to provide participant training. Through the mentoring of staff, the participants were provided examples of the benefits of having long-term employment, as well as maintaining a sense of self-sufficiency in their life.

Participants were also required to complete a career assessment to assist them in making decisions about career choices upon completion of on-the-job training.

Increase participant’s self-esteem

Self-esteem was increased through each participant’s sense of accomplishment as they
integrated into the workforce, maintained employment and earned wages for their acquired skills.

**Enhance citizen and life skills of participants**

Participant citizen and life skills were increased through mentoring of those training them, as well as through their relationship with their case manager. Private communication was available for each participant on a routine basis or as the case manager and/or participant deemed necessary. Sixteen (16) adults and ten (10) youth were assisted through referrals for services such as budgeting, substance abuse services, obtaining a drivers license, court advocacy, child care, and domestic violence services.

A goal of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is to provide training to the work force as it relates directly to the Tribe and secondary to the Native population within our service area. During this reporting year the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma provided education and training opportunities for individuals in maintenance, gardening, logistics, cultural research, and office/clerical work. Three (3) adults and two (2) youth were served through the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s P.L. 102-477 On-The-Job Training Program titled Weeciilamakinciki Program during the funding year of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma strives to provide supportive services to the adult and youth participants in order for them to reach their maximum potential while involved in the P.L. 102-477 Program. Miscellaneous Objective and Support Services, as well as Other/Service Referrals were provided to thirty (30) adults and seventeen (17) youth.
The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s Public Law 102-477 Program is housed in the Social Services & Housing Department which allows participants the best access to crisis resources and/or assistance-based need the Tribe has to offer. However, the Social Services & Housing Department relies on contingent funding and collaboration with other programs offered through various departments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, as well as with other Tribes, area agencies and businesses, in providing educational knowledge to the Tribal Community. The Department continues to work as one; integrating the programs to meet each participant’s individual needs.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s Social Services & Housing Department continues to have a staff member trained and certified to teach parenting classes and relationship, premarital, and marriage classes, as needed. In addition, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma continues to have a recruited certified accountant to coordinate and teach financial planning courses, also as needed.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma continues to implement an integrated plan that will provide a structured environment for the participants to work. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma currently employs one (1) individual as a Program Coordinator and charges the Department Manager with oversight and responsibility of the program. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s Weeciilamakinciki Program continues to train on-the-job trainees in maintenance and logistical work allowing for the Miami Tribal properties, businesses and departments to benefit from their training, as well.

During the reporting year the Weeciilamakinciki Program was responsible for upkeep of fourteen (14) Tribal Properties, five (5) Tribal Businesses, eight (8) Tribal Departments, and five (5) Tribal Vehicles.
Unmet needs of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma continue to be found. This funding year the Weeciilamakinciki Program experienced staff overturn causing distress to the participants. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is working to assess the cause of staff overturn and identify solutions to assist in maintaining stability in service providers for our participants.

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma directly assisted nineteen (19) adults during this fiscal year as compared with seventeen (17) during the previous year and ten (10) youth as compared with five (5) youth the previous year. The rise in participant numbers is believed to be contributed to the increase in available funds made possible during the previous funding year which has allowed the program to expand its services to more participants.

As we continue participation in this initiative we plan to research and identify innovative ways to create educational opportunities and provide supportive services to meet the needs of the Native American community with the amount of funding and resources available. Our continued goal is focused on improving the Native community and the organization within.