

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

*A resolution to approve the research project entitled "WIC & FMNP Modernization Evaluation"
by Debbie Reed, Mathematica*

WHEREAS, the Tribe's Medical Institutional Review Board (MIRB) is responsible for reviewing health-related research requests involving the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, the MIRB has reviewed and approved a research request submitted by Debbie Reed of Mathematica entitled "WIC & FMNP Modernization Evaluation"; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians participates in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), which provide food assistance, nutrition education, and healthcare referrals to eligible pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI WIC Program received funding through the WIC & FMNP Modernization Grant, which supports efforts to improve access to services, increase participation, enhance participant experience, and reduce barriers to receiving benefits; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided funding to support these modernization efforts through Fiscal Year 2029; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement of this grant funding, a national evaluation is being conducted to assess whether modernization efforts are helping more families access and participate in WIC and FMNP services, improving participant experiences, and identifying effective practices for program delivery; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' participation in this evaluation will be limited to adult WIC participants and will consist of voluntary surveys and listening session interviews designed to gather feedback on their experiences with WIC services and program improvements; and

WHEREAS, participation in this study will provide valuable information to help strengthen nutrition services, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and better serve EBCI families; and

1 WHEREAS, the MIRB has determined that this study meets all applicable ethical and research
2 standards and adequately protects the rights, safety, and well-being of participants;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Public Health and Human Services Division (PHHS) has
6 reviewed the request and the recommendations of the MIRB and supports approval
7 of the project; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the researcher acknowledges that the EBCI retains a non-exclusive license to all
10 information obtained through this research, that all information obtained will be
11 provided to the PHHS Secretary for review, and that neither Debbie Reed nor Co-
12 Investigator Heather Zaveri will use such information in any manner not authorized
13 by or in violation of Tribal law.
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15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee
16 Indians, in Council assembled and with a quorum present, that Debbie Reed,
17 Mathematica, is hereby granted permission to conduct the research project entitled
18 "WIC & FMNP Modernization Evaluation" in accordance with the MIRB-
19 approved proposal and all applicable follow-up and reporting requirements
20 established by the Medical Institutional Review Board.
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22 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are hereby
23 ~~rescinded and that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the~~
24 Principal Chief.
25

26 Submitted by: Sonya Wachacha, Secretary
27 EBCI Public Health and Human Services Division
28 on behalf of the EBCI Medical Institutional Review Board