

PAWNEE NATION GREENHOUSE PROJECT FUNDED

Contact:

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June 18, 2019 – The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made an announcement that they have awarded \$63 million thru the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program, of which \$13 million will be disbursed between 17 tribal nations within Oklahoma alone.

The Pawnee Nation has been awarded \$800,000.00 under the “Economic Development” category for the “*Pawnee Nation Greenhouse Project*”. This project will provide a greenhouse to house and grow cash crops (tomatoes initially) by use of hydroponics. This will positively impact the economic growth within the Pawnee Nation’s community by cultivating produce on a year-round basis to be sold internally, to our local stores and restaurants. This project will also provide employment opportunities in the agricultural fields, and educational training in the innovative growth method of hydroponics.

President Bruce Pratt states: “*We are pleased with the announcement of this funding notice to the Pawnee Nation. This helps us with our plans to diversify and move forward in our Agriculture Plan. Many thanks to our grant team and to those with vision who work for our future. I look forward to the fresh fruits and vegetables this will produce.*”

The Pawnee Business Council provided leveraging for this project by the donation of land for the greenhouse, labor and equipment from the Tribal Transportation Department along with assistance from a BIA PL 93-638 Contract for Water Resource Management.