

Biography

Russell Sossamon

Russell Sossamon is Executive Director for the Comanche Nation Housing Authority, a position he has served in for the last 6 years. Located in the city of Lawton in southwestern Oklahoma, the (CNHA) is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity of the Comanche Nation.

Prior to working at the Comanche Nation Housing Authority, Russell served as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for 16 yrs. and Deputy Director for 2 yrs. In total he has 26 years' experience in Tribal Housing. Before joining the Housing Authority, Mr. Sossamon held the positions of Job Developer, Senior Counselor and Assistant Director for the Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program based in Hugo, Oklahoma.

Over the years Russell has worked extensively with Tribal governments in the development and implementation of a variety of housing services to assist Tribal members. Additionally, Mr. Sossamon has worked as a member of three different Negotiated Rulemaking Committees, collaborating with other Tribes, Native Alaskans and the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development, creating the program regulations and funding distribution formula for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act.

Mr. Sossamon also served as President of the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association, Region IV, and as a Board Member and Chairman for the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC); and as a founding Board Member for many non-profit organizations including Choctaw Finance Corp., Hope Development Corp., and Tribally sponsored Boys and Girls Clubs.

Russell earned a graduate degree in Economics, with minors in Business, Political Science and Philosophy from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. Before beginning his service with the Choctaw Nation, Russell worked in the private sector in wholesale and retail businesses.

Mr. Sossamon is a Tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He and his wife reside in Fletcher, Oklahoma. They have been married for 29 yrs. and have two adult sons