

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

May 2024

In this Issue

- Ganado Senior Center & Veteran's Building in Final Stages
- Capital Projects Management Department Updates
- Housing Improvement Program Update
- Community Development Identifies a Path Forward with U.S. Census Bureau on spatial information
- Tech Tips: Data phishing Awareness
- Administrative Service Centers Department Updates
- Bulletin Board
- Personnel News
- Navajo Nation Census Information Center News
- DCD Tech Conference announcement
- DCD ARPA Telephones
- 2024 Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

Did You Know...

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's annual "40 Under 40" listing recognizes Zachariah Ben (Navajo Nation) - Owner/Co-founder, Bidii Baby Foods LLC; Gallup, NM.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3KpP2QU>

Events:

May: T'áátsoh - "Big Leaves"

May 4: Star Wars Day

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 10: Navajo Nation Police Officers Day (Observed)

May 12: Mother's Day

May 27: Memorial Day

May 31: Navajo Nation Memorial Day (Observed)

June: Ya'iishjááshchili - "Planting of Early Crops"

June 14: Flag Day

June 16: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 20: Summer Solstice

Ganado Senior Center Veteran's Building in Final Stages



The Ganado Chapter Community/Senior Center & Veteran's Building, a vital project designed to serve the senior citizens and veteran members of the Ganado community, is nearing its completion. Managed by LAM Co., the project has been a top priority for the community, ensuring that it meets the highest standards of quality and functionality.

Funded with \$880,000 from the Navajo Nation Sihasin Fund, the project has been a significant investment in the well-being of the Ganado community.



The construction has been managed under an active Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract, which has proven to be highly effective. The project is on schedule, with 99% of the construction phase complete. The final touches were finished May 15, 2024, marking a major milestone in the project's development.

The Ganado Chapter is excited to announce that the Grand Opening of the Senior Center & Veteran's Building will take place on June 14, 2024, at 10 am. This event will celebrate the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in bringing this essential facility to life, providing a new hub for community engagement and support for the senior residents and veterans of Ganado community.

Capital Projects Management Department Updates

Busy Year for Navajo Nation Senior Center and Community Facility Improvements

The Capital Project Management Department (CPMD) has been actively working on enhancing community facilities across the Navajo Nation, benefiting multiple Navajo communities. The Navajo Nation has successfully undertaken various projects to either build new facilities or renovate existing ones to better serve community needs.

Here are the current projects funded:

Chilchiltah Chapter Senior Center: Improvements to meet International Building Code requirements.

Crownpoint Chapter Senior Center: Renovations to comply with International Building Code standards.

Manuelito Chapter Senior Center: Planning and design of a new facility for the community.

Mariano Lake Chapter Senior Center: Construction of a new multi-purpose facility.

Mexican Springs Chapter Senior Center: Upgrades to meet International Building Code requirements.

Nageezi Senior Center: Planning and design of a new facility for the community.



Ramah Navajo Chapter House Renovations: Improvements and renovations to meet International Building Code standards. Construction at 15%.



Red Rock Senior Center Chapter: Planning and design of a new community facility.

Smith Lake Chapter Senior Center: Renovations to comply with International Building Code requirements.

Thoreau Chapter Senior Center: Improvements and renovations to meet International Building Code standards.

Ganado Senior Center: New Building completed May 15, 2024.

Gadii Ahi/Tokoi Chapter Building/Gadii Ahi Senior Center Building: New Chapter Building and new Senior Center. Construction is at 65%.

Tuba City Senior Center: New Senior Center Building construction started April and construction is at 15%.



These projects aim to enhance the quality of life for community members by ensuring that facilities are safe, modern, and able to meet various community needs.



Community Powerline and Housing Wiring Project Brings New Hope to Standing Rock Chapter

Standing Rock, NM – The Tse' li' Ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter community is set to experience a significant improvement in quality of life thanks to a new initiative funded by the New Mexico State Capital Outlay grants. This transformative project aims to deliver power service and house wiring to several members of the community, ensuring reliable electricity for homes that previously lacked access.



Project Overview

The Community Powerline and Housing Wiring project has been designed to address the critical need for electricity in the Tse' li' Ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter. The project includes the installation of new power lines and the wiring of homes, providing a safe and consistent power supply. This development is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the daily lives of residents, offering improved comfort, safety, and opportunities for economic and educational advancement.

Funding and Support

The project has been made possible through generous funding from the New Mexico State Capital Outlay grant. This financial support underscores the commitment of the state to improving infrastructure and living conditions in underserved communities. The grant covers the costs of materials, labor, and other necessary expenses to ensure the successful completion of the project. Mr. Sean Pioche from the CHID Department handled the project. Awesome Job Mr. Pioche!

Implementation and Timeline

Work on the powerline and housing wiring project is already underway, with crews working diligently to lay down the infrastructure and connect homes to the power grid. The project is expected to be completed in several phases, with the initial phase focusing on the most urgent cases—homes that have never had access to electricity. Subsequent phases will continue to expand the reach of the project, aiming to cover all eligible homes in the community.

Community Impact

For many residents of the Tse' li' Ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter, the arrival of electricity will be a life-changing event. Access to power means that families can enjoy the benefits of modern appliances, improved heating and cooling, and enhanced lighting. It also opens up new possibilities for home-based businesses, online education, and telehealth services, which are increasingly important in today's digital world.

Moreover, the project aligns with broader goals of community development and self-sufficiency. By providing essential infrastructure, it helps lay the groundwork for future projects and improvements that can further elevate the standard of living in the Standing Rock Chapter.

Looking Ahead

The Tse' li' Ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter leadership expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the New Mexico State Legislature for their support and to all the workers and volunteers involved in the project. As the community eagerly anticipates the completion of the powerline and housing wiring project, there is a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the future.

The Chapter invites all residents to stay engaged and informed about the progress of this vital project through regular updates at Chapter meetings and community newsletters. Together, we are lighting up the path to a brighter future for Standing Rock.



May 2024

Housing Improvement Program Update

Community Housing Infrastructure Department

Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

Phone# 928.729.4319

Fax# 928.729.4277

email: rbegay@nnchid.org

2nd email: rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov

HIP Program Office Fort Defiance

[Google maps location](#)

PWPJ+2P

Fort Defiance, AZ, USA



<-----HIP Program Office Chinle

[Google maps location](#)

5C3Q+8W

Chinle, Arizona

HIP Program Office Crownpoint

[Google maps location](#)

MVM2+83

Crownpoint, New Mexico



May 2024

COMMUNITY HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

We're thrilled to bring you the latest updates from the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), powered by federally funded P.L. 93-638 contracts. Here's what's been happening:

Chapter Outreach in Full Swing: Throughout May, HIP has been actively engaged in Chapter Outreach efforts, connecting with communities and spreading awareness about the housing assistance programs available. And the good news? Our outreach efforts will continue until July 26, 2024!



Eastern Agency Welcomes New Staff:

After a period without an

Eligibility Technician, we're excited to announce that Ms. Lolita Candelero has joined the team. Her presence has sparked renewed interest in housing assistance among Eastern Chapter members, leading to requests for presentations and outreach.

Ms. Candelero recently conducted an insightful session for Whitehorse Lake and Counselor Chapter, showcasing the benefits of

HIP's offerings.



Tuba City Outreach

Expansion in Chinle Agency:

Welcoming a new member to the HIP family, Olescitta Tsedah has joined as an Eligibility Technician for the



Chinle Agency. Starting on May 20, 2024, Olescitta will play a crucial role in expanding our outreach efforts and assisting with intake processes for the Chinle and Western Agency communities.

Construction cont.



COMMUNITY HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

We are grateful for the chance to positively impact housing accessibility and improvement in our communities. The HIP Construction crew is diligently working to complete two projects in Rock Point and Lukachukai, Arizona. Despite challenges like weather delays, financial document processing, material deliveries, and short staffing, the team aims to finish by the end of June. The homes will be handed over to Jessie Hammitt and

Janet Hatalie.



Although HIP operates with only two construction crews, we manage to complete 5 to 6 homes annually, thanks to funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs under PL. 93.638. The crew, consisting of one supervisor and three carpenters, travels extensively across five agencies. Currently, we have two carpenter positions open.



May 2024

"Community Development Identifies a Path Forward with U.S. Census Bureau on spatial information"

Discussion is in full swing with office of the president and Charles Tippeconnic, Tribal Relations Specialist, US Census, for Director Robert L. Santos to visit the Navajo Nation this year ; the planning was launched in September 2023 in Twin Arrows

At this meeting, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission presented New Mexico House Bill 4 that speaks to the state recorder to recognize the indigenous land boundaries for Native voters ; in March 2024, US Census completed the update for the boundaries in the Census Bureau's geographic database using the chapter boundaries ; Navajo Land Department provided the dataset ; this work is now considered the chapter boundaries to be block boundaries within the Census Bureau's MA/TIGER System

TIGER files can be viewed at:

<https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=bf683a86306a4f538deda059a1f68e30>

This approach was selected because redistricting commissions across the country use census data for voting districts ; in addition, there are other moving parts for DCD and the Census Bureau's pilot team behind closed doors ; one example is Navajo Addressing Authority Department (NAAD) staff have been on conference calls every other week focusing on some addressable structures selected from various chapters ; road/street centerlines are also reviewed as part of the preparation work for the next decennial census count

By DCD sharing the rural addressing standards, this pilot project also initiated other potential projects internal to the Census Bureau ; algorithm may be developed to flag unnecessary roads in the TIGER files on Navajoland and other rural parts of the country

One of the primary pilot team member (Theo Sheppard) is planning to participate in the Chapter Technology Conference in July 2024. DCD and the Census Bureau are excited about this collaborative undertaking thanks to the higher level of Navajo Nation and US Census Bureau approval on behalf of the Navajo Nation people



(L-R) ; September 2023; Leonard Gorman, NNHRC, Laura Waggoner, US Census, Deirdre Dalpiaz, Chief, Geography Division, Us Census, M.C. Baldwin, Addressing Authority NNAA Division of Community Development, Cathy Lacy, US Census

submitted by: MC Baldwin, NNAA



May 2024

TECH TIPS

DATA PHISHING AWARENESS: SIMPLIFIED GUIDE

CHECK SENDER INFORMATION

Check the sender's email address for validity. Be careful of emails from unknown or suspicious addresses.

USE TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Enable 2FA for added security on your accounts.

EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Learn about common phishing tactics and share tips with friends and family.



DON'T CLICK UNKNOWN LINKS

Avoid clicking links or downloading attachments from unfamiliar sources.

BEWARE OF URGENT REQUESTS

Be wary of emails or messages that create a sense of urgency or pressure you to act quickly.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you suspect phishing, report it to the right authorities promptly.



<https://www.phishprotection.com/>

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

May Highlights

All throughout May, our team at the Administrative Services Centers has been diligently working to support the 110 Navajo chapters. We're excited to share that we've been providing enriching training opportunities, crucial Navajo Nation updates, and more.

Our commitment to empowering Navajo communities remains steadfast. This month, our eight local offices have collaborated closely with division programs and other Navajo Nation offices to organize a wide variety of trainings and meetings. From comprehensive new employee orientations to insightful sessions on project management and best fiscal practices, we are fostering growth and sustainability every step of the way.

Stay tuned for more updates on our ongoing efforts to empower Navajo chapters and promote self-sufficiency within our communities



Date:	ASC Office:	Location:	Office/Topic/Presenter:
5-29-24	Shiprock ASC	Virtual via Google Meet	ASC Weekly Staff Meeting
5-29-24	Shiprock ASC	Zoom	Summary for ASC Staff
5-29-24	Kayenta ASC	Aneth Chapter House	Aneth Chapter Monthly Meeting
5-22-24	Kayenta ASC	Red Mesa Chapter	Presentation: Travel Authorization & FMS Procurement
5-17-24	Kayenta ASC	Monument Valley Welcome Center	Oljato Chapter: Leadership Meeting
5-17-24	Kayenta ASC	Kayenta Chapter House	Navajo Water Rights Commission/Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Unit Public Education Meeting
5-16-24	Tuba City ASC	Tuba City Chapter House	Round Table - LGA Certified Chapters NN Retirement & 401K Discussions
5-14-24	Tuba City ASC	Bodaway/Gap Chapter	DCD/FRF SRA Monthly Reporting Orientation
5-8-24	Fort Defiance ASC	NTUA Fort Defiance, AZ	EPAF Meeting
5-8-24	Tuba City ASC	Kayenta Chapter	Broadband Orientation from NN Broadband Office - Sonia Nez, Madelena Kee, Budweena Harrison
5-6-24	Gallup ASC	Virtual	Weekly Updates with the Staff and Officials.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

May 08, 2024
Ft. Defiance NTUA

*EPAF Meeting with
Department of Personnel Management*



May 17, 2024
Kayenta Chapter House

*Water Rights Commission/DOJ
Public Education Meeting*



May 17, 2024
Monument Valley Welcome Center
Leadership Meeting



Staff Updates



CONGRATULATION JANICE!

We are thrilled to announce a recent promotion on our team at GadiiAhi Chapter! On May 20th, 2024, Janice Biggs started as our new Community Services Coordinator (CSC), marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the GadiiAhi community.

Janice has worked with the division since May of 2018. She first joined the chapter, serving as our dedicated Accounts Maintenance Specialist (AMS). In this role, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to financial stewardship, meticulously managing the chapter's finances and ensuring the integrity of our financial records through the Chapter's MIP system. Bringing a wealth of experience from her previous role, Janice's expertise has already proven invaluable to GadiiAhi. During her tenure as AMS, Janice seized every opportunity to immerse herself in the chapter's operations, gaining invaluable insights along the way. Her dedication and proactive approach have not only benefited the community but have also prepared her to seamlessly transition into her new role as CSC.

As Janice embarks on this new journey with us, we extend our heartfelt best wishes for her continued success. We are confident that her passion for community service and her unwavering dedication will propel GadiiAhi Chapter to even greater heights. Join us in congratulating Janice on her well-deserved appointment as our new Community Services Coordinator!

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

Welcome New Staff!

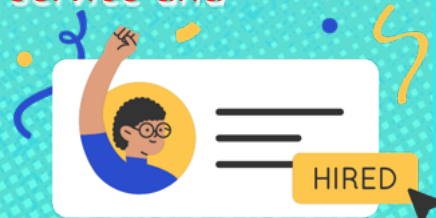
We're thrilled to share some exciting news in this month's newsletter: our team has grown! We've welcomed new members who are dedicated to serving our communities with open arms.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest team members. These individuals bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our organization, and we couldn't be more delighted to have them on board. Their roles play a crucial part in our mission of providing essential services to communities across the Navajo Nation.

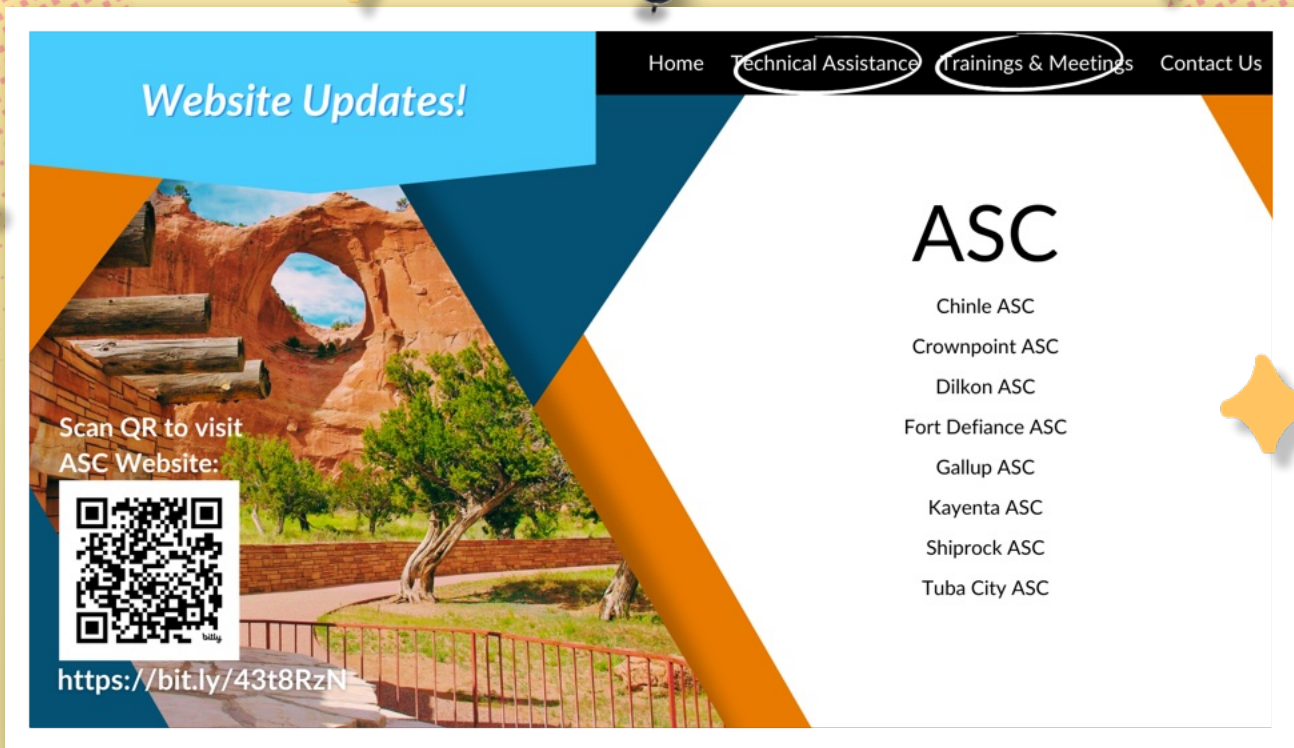
Applicant Name:	Chapter:	Position:
Charlene Begay	Shiprock ASC	OS
Ardy Begaye	Forest Lake Chapter	AMS
Titania Chee	Jeddito Chapter	AMS

Our ASC Department and chapters are abuzz with excitement as we integrate these valuable additions into our team. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact they will undoubtedly bring under the Division of Community Development.

Let's give a hearty welcome to our new team members, and here's to the bright future ahead as we continue our journey of service and community empowerment together! here's to the bright future ahead as we continue our journey of service and community empowerment together!



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS



THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS HAS UPDATED THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE.

We're thrilled to announce that the ASC Department has been hard at work enhancing our online presence!

Over the past few weeks, we've been diligently updating our department's websites to ensure easy access to information about our services, initiatives, and more.

With these updates, we've introduced uniform design elements and added features aimed at providing clear and concise information about each office.

Now, visitors can expect to find calendars, maps, form links, and staff contact information—all conveniently displayed in an appealing format. We're committed to enhancing your online experience and making it easier than ever to engage with the ASC Department. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue to improve our digital platforms!

COMING MAY 1ST, 2024


ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY & ACCESSIBILITY!

Exciting news! Alongside improving public access to our department's services, we're ramping up transparency efforts. Now, we're proud to announce our department will be publishing our technical assistance numbers and department event listings—including trainings and meetings—right on the ASC website.


We've diligently tracked our services via the trusted technical assistance form, breaking down performance across crucial areas where ASC supports local governments. Plus, our log of trainings and meetings will keep growing, ensuring you stay informed every step of the way!

Visit our website come 05/01/2024 to explore the latest updates and dive into the wealth of


5 tips for Staying Cool during the Summer:




1 Stay Hydrated:
Drink plenty of water throughout the day to keep your body hydrated. Avoid excessive consumption of caffeine and alcohol as they can dehydrate you. Consider adding a slice of lemon or cucumber to your water for a refreshing twist.




2 Wear Light Clothing:
Opt for loose-fitting, light-colored clothing made from breathable fabrics like cotton or linen. These materials help your body stay cool by allowing air to circulate and sweat to evaporate.



3 Use Fans and Air Conditioning Wisely:
Utilize fans to create airflow in your living space. If you have air conditioning, set it to a comfortable temperature, but not too low, to avoid overworking the system. Ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise to push cool air down.



4 Cool Your Skin:
Take cool showers or baths to lower your body temperature. You can also use a damp, cold washcloth on your neck, wrists, and forehead. Another trick is to fill a spray bottle with water and keep it in the refrigerator for a quick, refreshing mist.



5 Limit Sun Exposure:
Stay indoors during the hottest parts of the day, typically between 10 AM and 4 PM. When you do go outside, wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, and apply sunscreen with a high SPF to protect your skin. Seek shade whenever possible.

By following these tips, you can help keep yourself cool and comfortable even during the hottest summer days.

Bulletin Board

Diné College and Arizona State University Forge Historic Alliance to Launch BA in Navajo Law Program

Tsaile, Ariz.-- In an unprecedented collaboration, Diné College and Arizona State University (ASU) have unveiled plans for a Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Law program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering legal expertise within the Navajo Nation. Led by Patrick Blackwater, dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences at Diné College, and advocated by Stacy Leeds, dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, this initiative was approved by the Dine College Board of Regents during its May 3 board meeting.

"The inception of the BA in Navajo Law program predates the pandemic, born out of the pressing need for legal professionals deeply versed in Navajo fundamental law, federal and state statutes, and Navajo Nation legal frameworks," explained Dean Blackwater. "This program is meticulously crafted to furnish students with a holistic comprehension of legal fundamentals, empowering them to pursue impactful careers as legal scholars, advocates, policymakers, and educators within the legal sphere."



(Photo L-R; Milton Bluehouse, member of the Diné College Board of Regents; Danielle Williams, communication specialist at the Sandra Day O'Connor Law School; Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, president of Dine College; Stacy Leeds, dean of the Sandra Day O'Conner Law School; Candace Hamana, director of tribal relations at ASU; Patrick Blackwater, dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences at Diné College; and Dr. Alysa Landry, Interim provost at Diné College.)

Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel, president of Diné College, underscored the program's dedication to justice and sovereignty, affirming, "Our mission is to furnish students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with the practical acumen to effectively apply laws and legal processes within the Navajo Nation and beyond. This program serves as a beacon of hope, a testament to our steadfast commitment to advancing justice and sovereignty through education."

The curriculum is structured to encompass diverse facets of the legal system, spanning regulations, policy formulation, the judicial

framework, and both formal and informal legal methodologies. The program distinguishes itself by offering students immersive, hands-on learning experiences, emphasizing the practical application of laws and the nuanced navigation of legal landscapes.

"With the creation of the BA in Navajo Law, Diné College has taken a monumental step toward educating legal professionals who will address access to justice issues on the Navajo Nation and beyond," stated Leeds. "ASU Law looks forward to working with Diné College and the Navajo Nation to accomplish our shared goals of creating more advocates, lawyers, and leaders uniquely equipped to preserve and advance Diné laws and legal systems."

This alliance between Diné College and ASU heralds a significant milestone in legal education. It is poised to elevate the legal ecosystem within the Navajo Nation by cultivating a new cadre of legal professionals equipped with the knowledge and competencies requisite for driving substantive change.

For further details about the BA in Navajo Law program and enrollment inquiries, interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to Diné College's Office of Admissions.

Read at: <https://bit.ly/3UUVcgs>



(Photo L-R; Photo L-R Diné College Regent Jalen Smallcanyon, Regent Greg Bigman, Regent Theresa Hatathlie, Regent Sharon Toadecheenie, Dean Patrick Blackwater, and Regent Milton Bluehouse)

Bulletin Board

NHA celebrates new homes in former Bennett Freeze area

TUBA CITY, Ariz. – On May 8, the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) had a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of six new homes in the former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA).

The ceremony, held at one of the new homes, brought together community members, stakeholders, and NHA representatives to commemorate the culmination of efforts to address housing challenges in the region.

The event began with heartfelt remarks, reflecting on the journey to provide housing for the Navajo families. Heather Duncan-Etsitty, CEO of NHA, shared her personal experience of being a product of NHA and emphasized her passion for addressing housing needs within the Navajo Nation.

"The day I applied, I had to hitchhike from Chinle all the way to Window Rock and I applied that day for housing" Duncan-Etsitty said. "Not even two weeks later, I got a call saying, we got you a home. I took care of that home. I loved that home. I got myself back into school and to this day, I have so much love and compassion for our people, the families that we put into these homes."

Marcus E. Denetdale, an NHA Board of Commissioners member, gave a special thanks to everyone involved in making the project a success.

"There's a lot of people that are behind the scenes to make a project like this successful, to make a project like this happen," Denetdale said. "These decisions are not just impacting one home but are impacting generations

to come."

NHA project manager Edison Johnson reflected on the challenges of the Bennett Freeze and emphasized the significance of providing homes for Navajo families.

"When I look back, the Bennett Freeze is almost five decades now, and the elders that we interviewed, they're now in their eighties and nineties," Johnson said. "I know we're told that you guys take too long, but I always say just hang on, bear with us, you'll see this. And I'm just so glad that we can see it now."

Jimmie Eltsosie, a recipient of one of the six newly constructed houses, proudly invited NHA and the public to his new home to host the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Although Eltsosie doesn't speak English, he expressed appreciation to everyone involved in making his new home a reality. Until now, Eltsosie has been living in a



travel trailer parked on the property behind the new home. Eltsosie plans to have the new home blessed by a medicine man.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4aEVHsg>

Native American advocate is challenging former state senator for District 30 seat

BY: JEANETTE DEDIOS - MAY 28, 2024 7:46 AM

Two Democratic candidates are vying for the District 30 State Senate seat in western New Mexico. With no Republican candidate running that means whoever wins during the primary election, will be the winner. Advocate Angel Charley is facing off against former State Senator Clemente Sanchez.

Redistricting plays a key role in this race. The Republican incumbent Joshua Sanchez is now running for District 29 and some Native communities like Isleta Pueblo are now part of District 30.

But Charley, who's from Laguna Pueblo and the Navajo Nation, said this race has not been won yet.

"Well, it depends, right?" she said. "Native vote needs to turn out, it's not enough to have the numbers reflect. The numbers don't mean anything if we don't show up."

District 30 also includes Acoma, Zuni and Laguna pueblos as well as Alamo Navajo Nation.

Charley formerly led the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and now

leads Illuminative, a national organization focused on Native representation. She said that all the work she did at the coalition brought her to where she is now.

"We did a lot of advocacy and education around state legislature bills, especially around murdered and missing Indigenous women," she said. "So supporting the MMIWR task force, holding the taskforce accountable, advocating for funding for multiple initiatives across multiple issues. We were one of four organizations that came together to codify the Indian Child Welfare Act, which is now a state law."

Her top priorities include protecting abortion access and reproductive care, and lessening the state's dependence on oil and gas.

"I've long advocated for our lessening dependence on oil and gas and extractive industries, because there's a correlation with violence against Native women when extractive industries are present," she said.

Charley said that her opponent has a history of making decisions that are not in the best interests of District 30 and the state of New Mexico.

"His legislation on minimum wage is one of the reasons that we have the \$12 minimum wage we do right now," Charley said. "He didn't tie it to inflation, so it could have and should have been higher than it is right now."

She said that people need to have a livable wage.

"We cannot continue to live paycheck to paycheck, work multiple jobs, single income households just cannot make ends meet. It's just not acceptable."

Sanchez, who is not Native, said he spent his life among the Acoma and Laguna communities. His wife is from Acoma and his children are half Native American.

"I know our Native American communities because I've lived here longer than my opponent has been alive," he said.

Sanchez lost to progressives in the 2020 primaries. His main priorities include finishing a new interchange in Valencia County, for which he helped secure \$75 million when he was in office previously.



He also wants to tackle infrastructure projects.

He said that his experience makes him an ideal candidate.

"I know how to get legislation drafted, I know how to get it passed through the House and Senate," he said. "And I know how to get it signed by the governor. And I have been doing that for eight years and have been successful in legislation and getting that done."

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3V5Wiq6>

Bulletin Board

Navajo President Buu Nygren signs \$4.8 million legislation to construct long-awaited Cameron Chapterhouse

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – After a 30-year wait, the paperwork to build a new Cameron Chapter chapterhouse took just three months to move through the Navajo Nation Council.

On May 2, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed legislation to allocate \$4.8 million for the construction of the new chapter- house received a unanimous 20-0 vote.

Flanked by Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalayne Curley and legislation sponsor Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson, the President described Cameron as a “Mecca” that millions pass through on their way to destinations like Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Lake Powell and the Grand Canyon.

“Good ideas are always good ideas,” he said. “And building a new chapterhouse is great idea.”

Speaker Curley said it is usually hard for the council to pass a two-thirds vote but this resolution to approve the new chapter- house received a unanimous 20-0 vote.

“This resolution received the full support of the council,” she said. “We had no opposing votes.”

The new chapterhouse will replace the two modular buildings the chapter has been using for years.

Speaker Curley said she was a legislative assistant for the 23rd council at the time modular buildings went in so she was happy to see the 25th council approve this needed improvement.

Delegate Johnson said his grandfather Frank Johnson was a longtime chapter official. As he was looking through papers, he said, he found his signature on a chapter document.

“Just to see my grandfather’s signature, Frank Johnson, and my grandmother’s, as a witness, was there, too,” he said. “It’s been a long time coming, over 30 years, to get



Students from the Ganado Head Start were invited by Navajo President Buu Nygren to join Speaker Crystalayne Curley, Delegates Casey Johnson and Helena Nez-Begay, Cameron Chapter President Charlie Smith, Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler and Cameron Chapter staff after signing legislation to build a new Cameron Chapterhouse.

this new building.”

Cameron Chapter President Charlie Smith said he remembered seeing his mother attend meetings in the

aging chapterhouse.

“A lot of those people would sit there for hours and hours,” he said. “I wondered, when are we going to tear

25th Navajo Nation Council Joins President Nygren in Signing a Resolution Bringing Water Infrastructure to Kin Dah Lichii Chapter

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee Chair Vince James joined Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren in signing Resolution CAP-24-24 allocating \$2.5 million from the Sihasiin Fund for waterline extensions. The signing took place at Johnny Curtis’ residence, an impacted community member, in the Kin Dah Lichii Chapter.

In addition to the \$1,386,000 for the 16 homes in Kin Dah Lichii Chapter, the resolution included Council Delegate Carl R. Slater’s amendment to the resolution for a related expenditure plan requesting \$1,155,000 from the Sihasiin Fund to the Navajo Area IHS for the completion of two projects in the Rock Point Chapter and Rough Rock Chapter. The amendment funds the completion of waterline extensions in the Rock Point Chapter for \$849,000 and completes a well project in Rough Rock Chapter for \$306,000.

Council Delegate Slater’s amendment to the expenditure plan will provide water to over 120 homes in Rock Point and Rough Rock Chapters, highlighting the Navajo Nation Council’s commitment to addressing water access challenges across the region.

Resolution sponsor Chair James emphasized the importance of the resolution in meeting the urgent infrastructure needs of the community.

James stated, “The Kin Dah Lichii Chapter appreciates the collaborative efforts of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Indian Health Services, Kin Dah Lichii Chapter



community, and President Nygren, whose collective dedication will bring critical infrastructure to families needing the basic amenity of running water.”

President Nygren acknowledged the resolution as a testament to the Navajo Nation’s commitment to serving its citizens and improving quality of life. He indicated the importance of directing funding where it is most needed,

ensuring that communities like Kin Dah Lichii have access to essential resources and infrastructure.

During the 2024 Spring Session, the resolution gained unanimous support of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, emphasizing the Council’s commitment to addressing access to clean water for Navajo Nation residents.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4dNDIf0>

Bulletin Board

RETIREES HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE RENDERED TO NAVAJO PEOPLE

By Donovan Quintero

Special to the Times

FLAGSTAFF – When she went to work for the Navajo Nation, the retirement program was in its first year.

This is around when longtime Navajo Nation employee Shirley L. Begay, who was not present at the 23rd Annual Retiree Recognition & Luncheon Banquet, started her journey serving the Navajo people in 1974.

On Tuesday, Begay, who is Tséjįkįnį, born for Tótsohnií, and whose grandfathers are Táchíí'ní, said she didn't attend the banquet because she was sick.

The grandmother of 16 said she tried to work for two more years, which would have gotten to 50 years, but it was time to move on.

Begay was honored for 48 years of service to the Navajo people at the retirement banquet.

Begay said she started her long, illustrious career in accounting at the controller's office (under former Controller Mark Grant), where she worked with the Division of Social Services and the Division of Health in Fort Defiance Agency. She said she was often on the road, traveling to Winslow, Jeddito, Sheepsprings, Gallup, Newlands, and Sanders.

MacDonald's creation – 'great step'

The significance of former Chairman Peter MacDonald Sr.'s creation of the Navajo Nation Retirement Plan in 1973 could be felt on Friday at the retirement banquet in Twin Arrows, Arizona, where Begay and 129 other fellow now-former tribal employees were honored for their services.

Fifty-one years earlier, MacDonald signed the long-sought tribal program at what is now the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President. Valley National Bank, which, at the time, acted as the tribe's trust agent in disbursing the retirement payments, and the Navajo Forest Products Industry, or NFPI, helped the tribal chairman establish the retirement program.

At its height, NFPI employed about 500 Navajo people to harvest 472,716 acres of commercial timber, one of the largest sawmills in the U.S., with a payroll of nearly \$2 million. In operation since November 1958, NFPI has produced products such as Navajo pine lumber, pulp chips for paper, mulch and landscaping bark, and various related products.

According to a 1969 report produced by the MacDonald Administration, 8,412 Navajo people were employed in nonagricultural industries in the Navajo Nation, nearly half of whom were female.

Most of the reported nonagricultural employment on the reservation was heavily concentrated in three major industrial categories: services, government, and manufacturing.

Despite the employment boom, the tribe had no retirement plan, as many of the Navajo workers began reaching or exceeding 20 years of employment.

MacDonald said in a Navajo Times news article at the time of the signing that he believed the retirement program was a "great step" for the Navajo Nation.

"It will have many benefits to the Navajo people over many years," MacDonald said in 1973. "Also, it will help to ensure the tribe's ability to ensure stability in the tribal government and in the efficient delivery of its services to the Navajo people."

Diné vote for change

In 1976, the Navajo people voted for change three years later when it unseated Peter MacDonald Sr. and elected Peterson Zah.

Shirley L. Begay said she worked with both leaders and got along well with them.

"I worked with those guys. They were pretty good," she said. "All these years, I worked with the (chairmen) and presidents."

When she retired, she said she felt sad. She reminded the staff she worked with work with another.

"I told them to work well together because we are related by clan, so don't be disrespectful to one another," Begay said. "And teach the new employees who come on staff. Just work together, help each other, and teach each other because you could learn from them, too. That's what I did, I tell them."

She said she and her husband, who's also retired, plan to travel, perhaps even take advantage of a free trip they were told they could use since one of their daughters works at an airline.

"We are told we can fly for free," Begay said.

Safeguarding retirement program

The Navajo Nation Retirement Plan Administration Committee, RPAC, is now tasked with safeguarding the retirement program and is supported by the Navajo Nation Department of Retirement Services, which also provides technical assistance.

Delegate Shaandijn Parrish, the chairwoman of RPAC and the Budget and Finance Committee, shared her inspiration with the retirees in a speech she gave at the banquet.

"I'm really grateful for the opportunity to be here," Parrish said. "And I can't wait to see to see the leadership that is left in place for our younger generation. Our younger generation have big shoes to fill."

Parrish, Delegate Carl Slater, who co-chairs RPAC, Controller Sean McCabe, Justice JoAnn Jayne, Charlotte Bigthumb, the Department of Personnel Management Human Resources director, and Arbin Mitchell, the executive director for the Navajo Division of Community Development, make up the retirement committee.

"It's such a huge responsibility to try to make sure that they they're able to get the retirement at the time that they request," said Parrish, who represents Chitichinbi'tó, Dennehotso, and Kayenta.

Emerson D. Tsosie, who retired from contract accounting in the controller's office after 23 years of service, said it was time for the younger generation to take over the helm he had helped steer for over two decades.

"I've been there for a while – give it to the younger generation and let them know learn and apply at a point that they can take over as a younger person," said Tsosie. "I've been there for so many years. It's time to give them a chance and give them the opportunity to go forth with their careers."

Tsosie, from Fort Defiance, plans to travel, go fishing, and enjoy his retirement.

"I just want enjoy life as it is, you know," he said.

Celebrating 130 employees

Debbie Nez Manuel, the Navajo Division of Human Resources executive director, said the retirement banquet celebrated the 130 Navajo tribal employees.

"Let's remember for every closure along the journey of life, we know there is another fresh start that begins. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our relatives for their unwavering service to the nation," Nez Manuel said. "Today, we celebrate among 130 champions."

Begay said she is considering contracting with the tribe, which would not jeopardize her retirement benefits.



Special to the Times | Donovan Quintero
Emerson Tsosie gives a speech during the 23rd Annual Retiree Recognition & Luncheon Banquet at Twin Arrows Casino Resort on May 10.

"I don't feel that old either," she said, adding that to work with the tribal government, "You gotta put a lot of love in your heart" to do it.

Nez Manuel said on average, about 40-50 tribal employees retire monthly. Some retirees attend a banquet to honor their services where they're gifted. This year, the retirees were

gifted with native-designed suitcases and appreciation plaques.

Here are the 130 Navajo employees who were honored and recognized at the retirement banquet:

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3yEcmaV>

35 years and more of service

Elouise Y. Begay
Shirley L. Begay
Terry Benally
Teresa M. Chee
Cerina L. Dayzie
Roxanne D. Gorman
Aileen Hale-Chee
Paul E. Howard
Eugene Jarvison
Darlene B. Miles
Nancy T. Nez
Roger Peshlakai
Tommy Yellowhair

30-34 years of service

James F. Adakai
Elmer P. Begay
Miranda F. Blatchford
Edison L. Brown
Anthony C. Dan
Suzanne C. Enos
Barbara Johnson
Sylvia C. Kelsey
Lucinda Nelson
Caroline Padilla
Bernice Sage-Yazzie
Chester Stanley
Patsy Z. Yazzie

20-29 years of service

Peggy B. Abrigo
Laura A. Becenti
Donna D. Begay
Stanley Benally
Vera Blackwater
Bernice Boone
Ames W. Brown
Margaret J. Dee
Jesse Delmar
Sylvia Dodge
Betty A. Donald
Elaine J. Henderson
Edwina M. Kee

Arval T. McCabe

Marlene Nakai
Leroy Nez
Linda Y. Patterson
Martha Saggboy
Victoria Seletstewa
Arnold Silversmith
Bernice Skeet
Tiffany A. Tallman
Geraldine Thompson
Joe L. Tisi Jr.
Emerson D. Tsosie
Esther R. Yazzie

10-19 years of service

Jimmy F. Antonio
Louise J. Atene
Rebecca Baker
Caroline B. Barber
Albertson E. Begay
Cynthia B. Begay
Joann Begay
Margie A. Begay
Cecelia A. Belone
Orlando Benally
Melinda J. Bidtah
Arlene Billie
Francis Chischilly
Faralie Coonsis
Pamela Douglas
Vida B. Frank
Darlene K. Gene
Pernell Halona
Norma L. Herrera
Sara Jodie
Amos F. Johnson
Dewayne Johnson
Elmer Johnson
Henrietta C. Johnson
Belinda M. Jones
Veronica A. Jones
Harrison Juan Sr.
Darlene R. Kee
Verna A. Kenneth
Richard F. Kontz

Lydia J. Largo
Maverette Lee
Deborah S. Manuelito
Julia A. Manuelito
Patricia A. Maples
Richard W. Marsh Jr.
Benjamin McCurtain Jr.
Velma Miller
Isabelle J. Natonabah
Sarah Navaho
Sherry Nelson
Manuel W. Notah
Davis Peshlakai
Zella A. Peshlakai
Cassandra J. Platero
Nancy M. Poyer
Steven L. Prince
Della Rockbridge
Daniela Roth
Lois M. Sanchez
Mark Sanchez
Violet P. Simms
Delores Skeets
Durinda Skeets
Herbert Smith
Wilfreda M. Stewart
Edith M. Tahe
Evangeline Todacheeny
DeJuan H. Tolth
Ruby Tom
Ella M. Tsosie
LaVonne Tsosie
Sampson Tsosie
Selina A. Tsosie
Jennifer K. Tullie
Elaine Upshaw
Fitzgerald Upshaw
Melinda J. Wagon
Dolly J. Wagoner
Kelvina M. Whitegoat
Jolena R. Yazza
Louise J. Yazzie
Myrtle M. Yazzie
Nellie J. Yazzie-David

Bulletin Board

Sage Memorial Hospital on Navajo Nation gets \$177M major overhaul, 1st since 1930

Kevinjonah Paguio/Cronkite News

Desert stretches out around the little town of Ganado, which sits in the western part of the 27,000 square miles of the Navajo Nation.

Ganado is home to Sage Memorial Hospital, a Native-managed comprehensive health care system serving thousands of people in surrounding Navajo communities. The medical facility has operated out of its current facilities since 1930. Back then, the outpatient building, Ponce Hall, was home to the first Native American nursing school.

Now, 93 years later, Sage Memorial Hospital has built a 95,614-square-foot state-of-the-art hospital that is more than twice the size of the original hospital and will significantly increase patient capacity.

This ambitious endeavor aspires to provide better, more advanced health care to the Navajo Nation, but equally important is Sage Memorial's mission to incorporate and honor the traditions of the Diné, the name that Navajo people use for themselves.

The hospital's core values have been kept in the Diné language: bee lá'í 'dlj, meaning togetherness and unity; hodilzin, meaning sacred; hózhó meaning beauty and balance; and if'ílj, meaning respect.

Navajo Health Foundation – Sage Memorial Hospital is a private nonprofit corporation governed by an all-Navajo board of directors. The new facility is entirely self-funded by Sage Memorial Hospital and is slated to open this fall.

Melinda White, the hospital's CEO, anticipates enormous benefits to the Navajo community.

"We want to be the best rural health facility," White said. "The space we're currently at is very tight, and we're not able to see as many patients as we would like. And in the new building, because there's a lot more space, we're able to have a higher patient volume."

Community care and local impact

There are 12 health care facilities run by the Indian Health Service (IHS) within the Navajo Nation, but some Navajo residents must travel 50 miles or more to reach basic health services, and specialized services are even more scarce.

Dr. Kenneth Anaeme, chief medical officer at Sage Memorial Hospital, said the nearest hospitals able to offer specialized care are in Albuquerque and Flagstaff.

"If you have someone who's sick enough to require advanced care, now you're talking about a two-and-a-half-hour drive to the nearest tertiary center that can care for that patient," Anaeme said. "One of the issues we have is just the lack of specialized treatment capabilities here at Sage. So, that was causing a lot of distress for families."

Anaeme said Sage Memorial can currently treat some primary health conditions such as diabetes, influenza, urinary tract infections, pneumonia, traumatic injury, alcoholism and more.

"Health care should be efficient, easily accessible," Anaeme said. "It should be evidence-based, and it should be patient-centered."

... If we're trying to make the health care of our population efficient, not having delays in treatment, we need to have facilities that are state-of-the-art and that can accommodate things like telemedicine, the treatment of a patient at the source, rather than having to rely on transportation to another place."

White said the move from the old cramped facility with outdated equipment to the new state-of-the-art facility will be a time warp. "We're going from one place to another, where everything is going to be literally electronic. It'll be very different, very, very different for us."

White got her start in the medical field at Sage Memorial many years ago.

"I actually grew up in Albuquerque, and at one point in my life, I used to say, 'I want to be a medicine woman,'" White said. "When I was very young and when I moved back to the reservation, I applied at Sage Memorial Hospital and started off as a medical records clerk."

White was one of 10 students accepted to a nursing program at Northern Arizona University, and went on to work as a nurse in infection control. After learning hospital administration through



Sage Memorial Hospital's new campus in Ganado on the Navajo Nation.

various mentorships, White went back to Sage Memorial, drawn by its community-driven mission.

"How can we actually put those two together," White said, "and create this hospital that accepts the traditional values, accepts the traditional aspects of it, and at the same time provides the Western medicine side."

The new hospital has generated excitement in surrounding communities. Delores Noble, 66, a resident of the Steamboat community, approximately 20 miles from Ganado, received care at Sage Memorial for years, then took on a role on the hospital's board of directors.

Noble currently gets physical therapy at Sage Memorial for piriformis syndrome, a condition in which a muscle in the buttocks spasms and causes pain, and she gets in-house dental care. Most recently, she's used the new cardiology services for concerns about heart palpitations.

Noble is satisfied with her care at Sage Memorial but said the lack of privacy in the small facility is a concern. The current emergency department does not have private rooms; instead, patients share one room, divided into sections by curtains.

"We don't have privacy, so it's really embarrassing to hear conversations from the other patients, just a curtain away," Noble said.

In the new facility, there will be 12 exam rooms in the ER, giving patients privacy and space.

The construction of the new facility is visible from Highway 264, a road that many community members use daily, according to Noble. She said she's heard positive reactions to the prospect of the new medical facility.

"You can see, you know, the beginnings and the walls, as the steel beams went up," Noble said. "They saw it taking shape. You have that hope. You have that sense of, 'Oh, we can't wait to see our new hospital.' It's something that has been talked about, and it's finally coming true."

Recent changes

A key issue Sage Memorial faces is limited care capabilities. Any time a patient has a critical care issue the hospital cannot address, the patient is flown to the nearest facility that can provide that service, often in Flagstaff or in the Valley, hours away from family members and their community.

In developing the new hospital, Anaeme and the medical team conducted a survey to determine what services were needed to keep patients from having to go off-site for additional care.

"We figured out that critical care services, cardiology services, general surgery services, those were probably our top three

reasons for sending patients out," Anaeme said. "We decided to tackle them one at a time. General surgery services are somewhat not conducive to telemedicine, right? So that left us dealing with the other two."

Anaeme first established a contract with a cardiology provider who was able to see patients weekly via telemedicine. According to Anaeme, after seeing the work being done at Sage Memorial Hospital, the provider was inspired to switch to a hybrid practice, coming in person once a month to see patients. Before, the hospital could not offer advanced cardiology tests, but now it can provide in-house echocardiograms and stress tests.

As for critical care, Anaeme introduced the use of telemedicine carts.

"The critical care remains telemedicine because the critical care providers are out of state," Anaeme said. "But they're able to beam in through advanced technology that we have with our telemedicine carts, that are actually used to see patients. They can provide all the diagnostic testing we want."

New facility and services

The new two-story building is nearing the final stages of construction.

Jarom Prows, the hospital's director of facilities, shared its progress as of April 10.

"I would say we are between 95 and 98% complete," Prows said. "Final paint has gone down, carpets, flooring, all the finishes are there. We are starting to do our punch walks ... you look for minor imperfections and call those out, to have a contractor fix them."

The new facility is full of technologically advanced equipment that staff will need to be trained to use. Other new services will include an obstetrics and labor and delivery ward, women's health services, orthopedics, general surgery and an expanded intensive care unit with four beds.

Prows said the team did not cut any corners in procuring high-grade equipment.

"We're getting all brand-new equipment, for the most part," Prows said. "We have a new X-ray machine, CT machine, mammography machine. We have really fancy, state-of-the-art OR booms."

The new hospital grounds will also house an optometry office, 16 dental chairs and a dedicated pediatric clinic. The team hopes the additional health care services will limit the amount of travel patients need to do.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3yxqa7n>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	\$42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$30,046.32	6/4/2024
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	\$42,407.28	6/7/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaile, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Low Mountain, AZ	\$42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lake Valley, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajilee, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Torreón, NM	\$30,046.32	6/12/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Capital Projects Management Department			
Registered Architect	Window Rock, AZ	\$75,585.60	OUF
CHID/Housing Improvement Program			
Laborer (T)	Window Rock, AZ	\$23,218.56	5/30/2024
Executive Administration			
Senior Programs and Project Spec (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$63,642.24	5/29/2024
Solid Waste Management Department			
Senior Planner	Window Rock, AZ	\$53,849.52	6/7/2024

(OUF) Open Until Filled
 (S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check) Closing Dates may change

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at <http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/jobs.html>

Comic of the Month



Quote of the Month



Wealth by Race of Householder

Households With a White, Non-Hispanic Householder Were Ten Times Wealthier Than Those With a Black Householder in 2021

April 23, 2024

Written by: Briana Sullivan, Donald Hays, and Neil Bennett

Households with a White, non-Hispanic householder had 10 times more wealth than those with a Black householder in 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

A householder is a person who owns or rents a housing unit and whose name appears on the deed or lease. In this article, White is used to describe non-Hispanic White householders; Black householders can be either Hispanic or non-Hispanic.

In 2021, households with a White householder made up 65.3% of all U.S. households and held 80.0% of all wealth.

Those with a Black householder made up 13.6% of all U.S. households but held only 4.7% of all wealth. And their median wealth (\$24,520) was about one-tenth the median wealth of households with a White householder (\$250,400).

Wealth is the value of assets owned minus the value of debts owed. It provides economic security, serving as a source of liquidity during times of unstable income or in the face of unexpected expenses, and opportunities for upward mobility [PDF <1.0 MB].

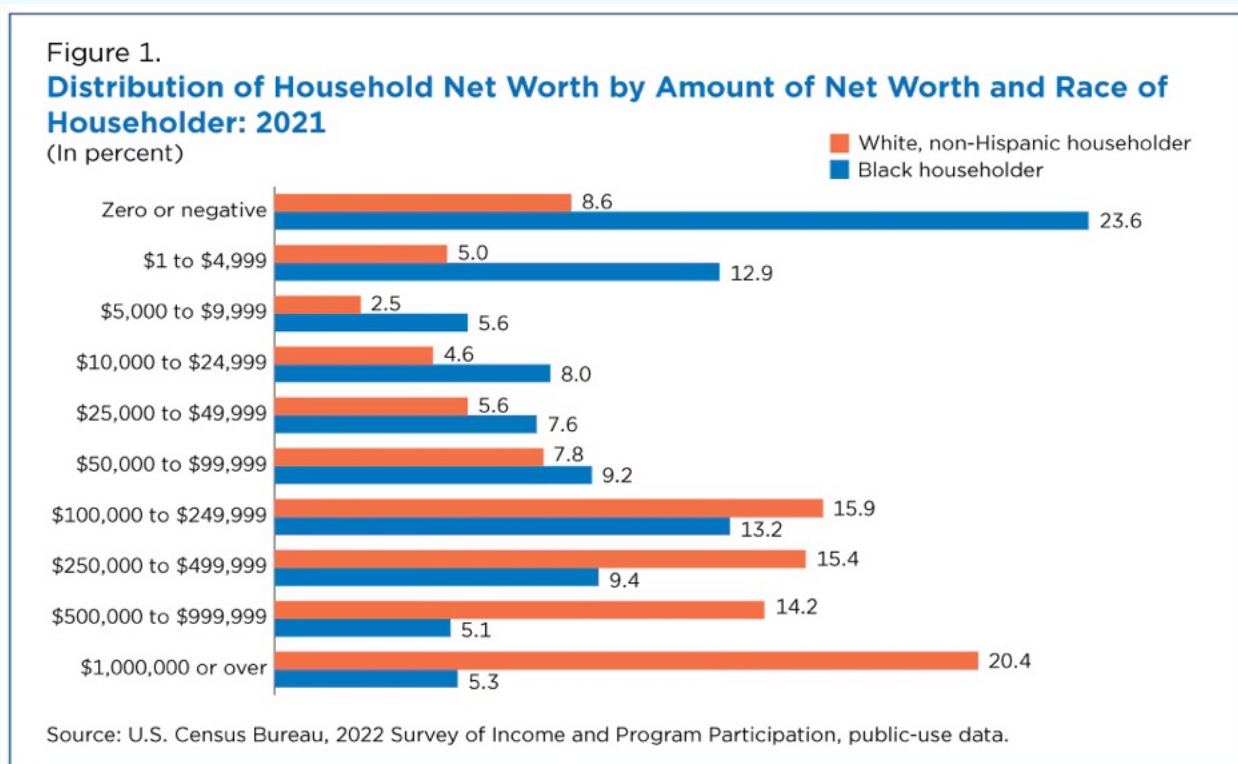
The latest SIPP tables on household wealth in 2021 show wide variations across demographic and socio-economic groups.

How Household Wealth Is Distributed by Race of Householder

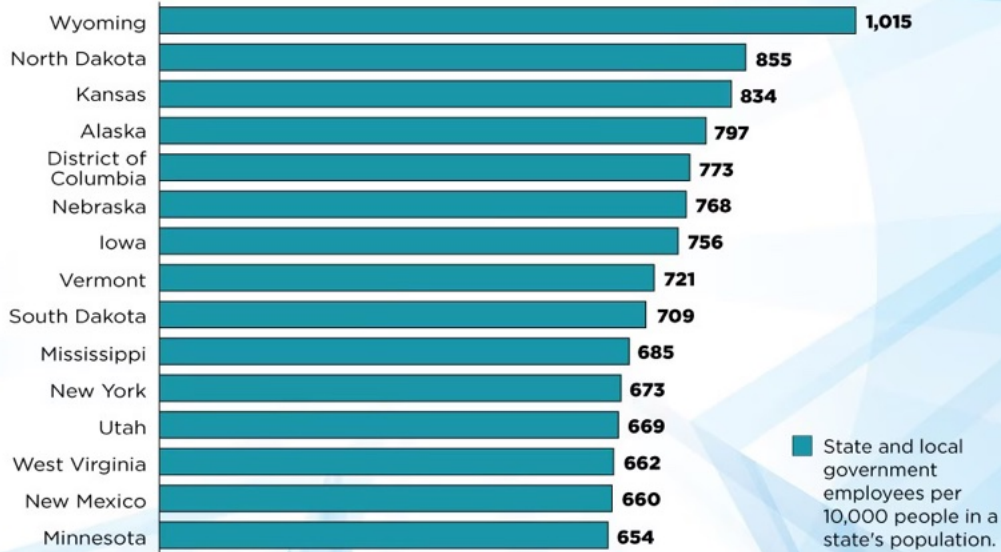
About 1 in 5 households with a White householder and 1 in 20 households with a Black householder had wealth over \$1 million (Figure 1).

Just under 1 in 4 households with a Black householder and 1 in 12 households with a White householder had zero or negative wealth.

Households with negative wealth do not have a direct safety net to draw upon in times of need; they are more likely than other households to experience higher rates of financial insecurity and are vulnerable to economic shocks.



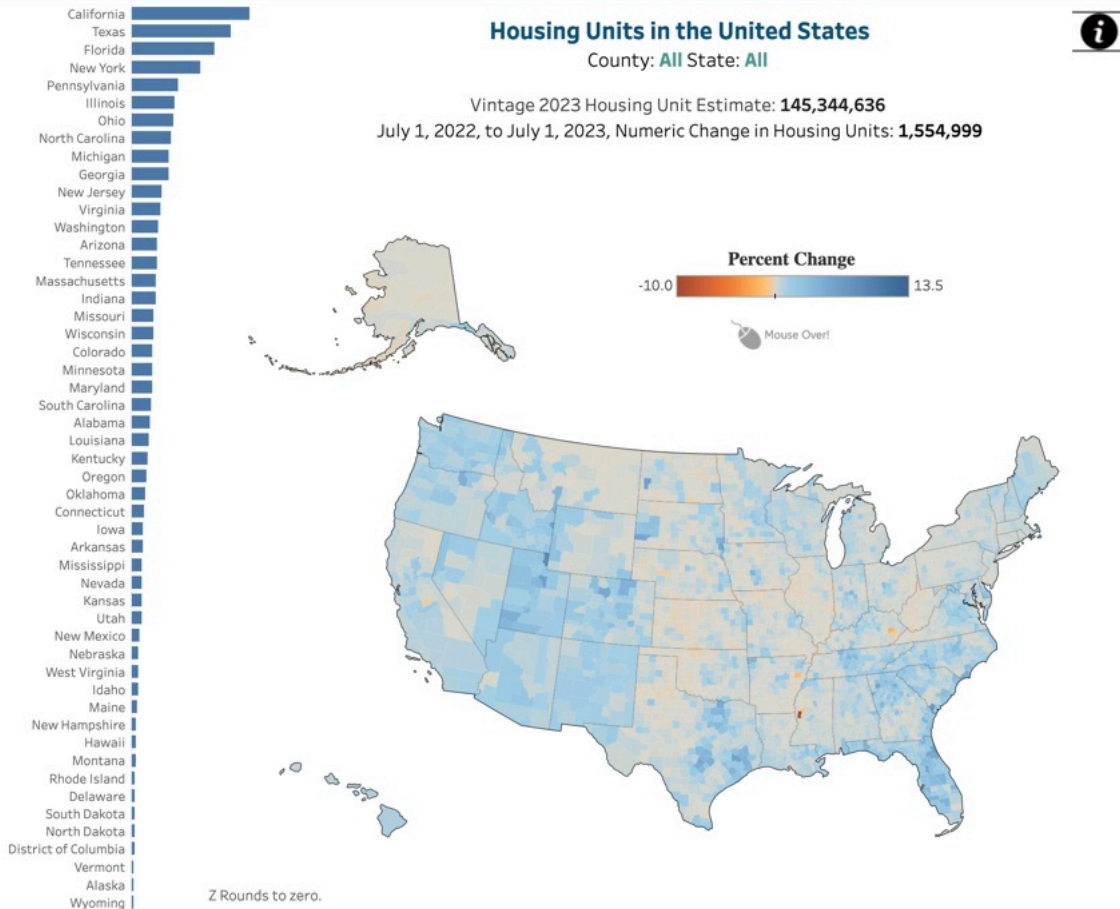
Most Public Sector Employment Per 10,000 People: 2023



Note: Numbers are rounded.



A Snapshot of the Nation's Housing Stock



May 2024

Announcing

2024 CHAPTER TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



July 1st - 3rd, 2024
San Juan College
Henderson Fine Arts Center

Reboot & Reconnect



ATTENTION

DCD ARPA Telephones:

Paulene Thomas	(928)551-8935
Edwin Begay	(505)870-6252
Dawnell Begay	(928)551-8941
Ryan Begay	(928)551-8947

**You may contact us Monday-
Friday 8:00 am-5:00pm**



MAIN: (928) 871-7182

WWW.NNDCCD.ORG



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2024 Schedule Now!

Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

TOPICS

- Review the *Title 26 LGA - Zoning & Community Based Land Use Plans*
- Provide overview of Land-Use Planning for Navajo Chapters
- Review the CLUPC certification process
- Strategic Planning assistance
- Community assessment collection tools & methods
- Introduction of land use planning topics
- Technical Assistance

CONTACT US

Baca- Gallup, ASC

Garena Adeky, SPPS
gadeky@nndcd.org

Ft. Defiance, ASC

Patricia Begay, SPPS
pdbegay@nndcd.org

Chinle, ASC

Edgerton Gene, SPPS
egene@nndcd.org

Keyenta, ASC

Calvin Tsosie, SPPS
cetsoisie@nndcd.org

Crownpoint, ASC

Tyrone Begay, SPPS
tjbegay@nndcd.org

Shiprock, ASC

Elizabeth Washburn, SPPS
eliza-beth@nndcd.org

Dilkon, ASC

Eunice Begay, SPPS
ejbegay@nndcd.org

Tuba City, ASC

Milford Maloney, SPPS
mmaloney@nndcd.org

Executive Staff

Latasha James, Senior Planner
ljames@nndcd.org

Jaron Charley, Dept. Manager
jcharley@nndcd.org

Chapter Unit Attorney

Rodgerick Begay, Attorney
rbegay@nndoj.org

Housing Improvement Program

Bldg #8229 Field House Road
Fort Defiance, Arizona

Rita M. Begay
Program Manager I
P.O. Box 527
Fort Defiance, AZ

Phone No.# (928) 729-4017
Fax No.# (928) 729-4277

FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY
Housing Improvement Program
Bldg# 8229 Field House Road
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Phone No.# (928) 729-4017
Fax No.# (928) 729-4277

CHINLE AGENCY
Bldg #2492 SW of Chapter House
Chinle, Arizona 86503

Phone No.# (928) 674-2260
Fax No.# (928) 674-2266

WESTERN AGENCY
CLOSED
contact Chinle Agency Office.

EASTERN AND SHIPROCK AGENCY
CLOSED
contact Fort Defiance Agency Office.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP)

Community Housing & Infrastructure Department – CHID

Division of Community Development



Contact any of the HIP Agency Office for additional information or to obtain housing assistance application.

Application can be downloaded from the DCD Website:
nndcd.org

The **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** is federally funded by P.L. 93-638 contracts. The program is to improve the living standards by providing decent, safe and sanitary homes within the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Nation. HIP provides housing assistance through home repairs, renovation, and replacement of existing house or new construction to assist very-low-income families and/or individual.

Eligibility Requirements

- Total annual household income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- Enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe.
- Lives in an approved Navajo Tribal service area.
- Present housing is substandard.
- Has no other resource for housing assistance.
- Has not received assistance from HIP for repairs, renovation, replacement and new housing, or down payment assistance.
- Has not received any other type of federal government sponsored housing program assistance over the previous 20-year period.
- Down Payment Assistance available to eligible borrowers to participate in HIP. The applicant must still meet all the eligibility requirements. A letter from the funding institution that specifies the down payment amount and closing costs required to qualify for the loan must be provided.

Application Requirement

Complete housing assistance application must be fully complete and sign and date. Provide required documents.

- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) and Social Security Card; for all permanent household members.
- Provide proof of all income for all permanent members of the household.
 - Award letters from social security, general assistance, retirement, unemployment benefits and other unearned income.
 - Signed copies of current 1040 tax returns, including W-2s, if filed.
 - Signed notarized statement explaining why you did not file a tax return.
 - Signed notarized statement of how you support yourself, if you are reporting no income received.
- Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.
- If claiming disability, provide a Doctor's statement or documents verifying disability.
- Must have a finalized and approved home site lease in your name.
- Cultural Resource Compliance Form & Archaeological Inventory Report
- Proof of Veteran status (veterans' card, discharge forms, DD214)

All permanent household members over the age of eighteen (18) years is required to provide and complete all income verification forms.

All applications are reviewed to determine if you are eligible. Eligible applicants are ranked in order of need, from highest to lowest, based on the total numeric priority ranking points outlined in the 25 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 256.14. The application can be carried over into next fiscal year but the applicant must submit an undated information form and provide income documentation for all permanent household members.

Housing assistance applications are available beginning February ending September 30. To obtain an application, call your local agency office.

**25 C.F.R., Part 256
HIP REGULATIONS REVISIONS;
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 10, 2015**

NEW RANKING POINTS

- **Annual Household Income**
- **Aged Person;**
- **Disabled Individual;**
- **Dependent Children;**
- **Veteran;**
- **Homeless;**
- **Overcrowded;**
- **Dilapidated House;**
- **Down Payment Assistance; Applicant must meet all HIP requirements and must be eligible. Applicant must be approved for a home with a bank or mortgage company.**

May 2024



The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Norbert Nez, Editor

Denise Copeland, Assistant Editor

Sylvia Jordan, Contributing Writer

Tia Yazzie, Contributing Writer



Division of Community Development • P.O. Box 1904, Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7182
www.nndcd.org