

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

July 2024

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## Did You Know...

### Why is the number "4" important to the Navajo?

In the Navajo culture there are four directions, four seasons, the first four clans and four colors that are associated with the four sacred mountains. In most Navajo rituals there are four songs and multiples thereof, as well as Navajo wedding basket and many other symbolic uses of four.

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

## Events:

### July: Ya'iishjaashtsoh - Planting of the Late Crops

July 1-3: Navajo Chapter Technology Conference

Fourth of July: Independence Day

July 26: National System Administrator Appreciation Day

July 30: Navajo Nation and Arizona Primary Elections

### August: Bini'anit'ááts'ósi - Small Harvest

August 12: International Youth Day

August 14: Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day

August 21: Senior Citizens Day

August 26: Women's Equality Day

## Arbin Mitchell Gives Keynote Address at Chapter Technology Conference



The Navajo Chapter Technology Conference, held from July 1-3, 2024, brought together chapter leaders, technology experts, and stakeholders to discuss the future of technology integration within the Navajo Nation. This year's conference focused on key issues such as WIND and chapter website training, chapter project updates and the importance of accurate data management.

The conference began with an invocation by Wilson Stewart Jr., representing the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. Edwin Begay, serving as Master of Ceremonies, provided opening remarks and logistics. Arbin Mitchell, DCD Division Director, welcomed attendees with a message emphasizing the importance of prioritizing chapter budgets, updating the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP), and maintaining accurate information in the WIND system for transparency and accountability.

Key updates were provided by various managers:

- Jaron Charley, ASC Manager, presented an ASC update.
- Dwayne Waseta, CPMD Manager, shared the latest from the CPMD.
- Patrick Dalgai, CHID Manager, and Rita Begay, HIP Program Manager, gave a CHID update.
- Paulene Thomas, Department Manager, discussed the FRF/ARPA updates.
- MC Baldwin, Rural Addressing/GIS Coordinator, provided an AA update.





# 2024 NAVAJO TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



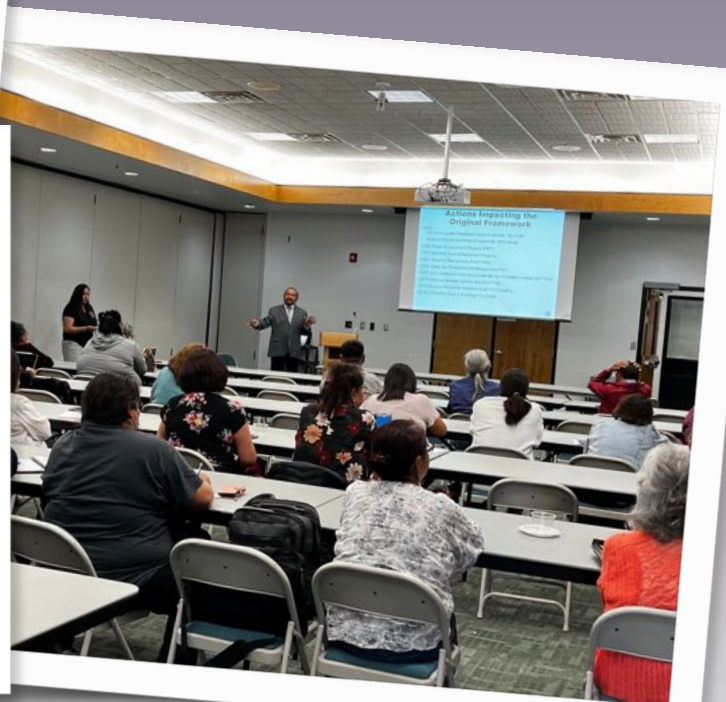
These speakers addressed the attendees on the opening day of the DCD Chapter Technology Conference. Presentations also covered vital topics such as Cyber Security by NNDIT, Department of Personnel Management, Employee Benefits, ARPA updates, and LGA Amendments.

The following days featured work sessions on various crucial subjects, including the WIND budget application, Land Use Planning, CPMD Updates, Rural Addressing Updates, and Chapter Website Training. Each chapter staff member had the opportunity to attend these training sessions over the three-day conference.

Overall, the conference was successful in re-introducing the WIND applications and updating staff since the last training opportunity. The event highlighted the need for chapters to work together, ensure new employees are well-oriented, and maintain accurate and current data in the WIND system. The reallocation of additional funds to underfunded chapters, taken from the CHID's budget, and the potential addition of new positions, such as maintenance and administrative roles, were also significant points of discussion. Enhancing the Navajo Nation Chapter's website to ensure live and accurate information was emphasized as a key priority.

In conclusion, the Navajo Chapter Technology Conference served as a platform for reinforcing the commitment to technological advancement, accurate data management, and effective resource allocation. With a shared vision and collaborative efforts, the Navajo Nation is poised to leverage technology to enhance governance and community services.

Stay tuned for more updates and developments as the Navajo Nation continues to innovate and improve its technological infrastructure.







ARPA Presentation



CPMD Presentation



Website Presentation



Rural Addressing Presentation



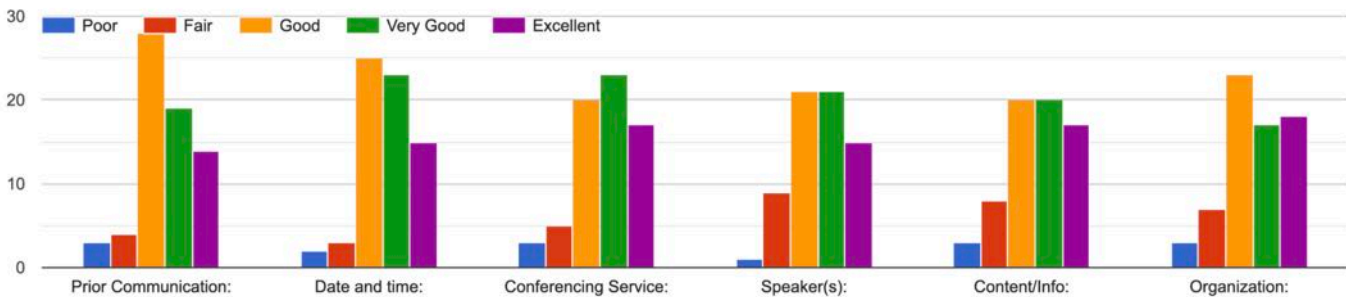
Broad Band Presentation



WIND Budget Presentation

## Survey Results

Overall, how would you rate the 2024 DCD Technology Conference?



### Positive Comments:

"They were very informative and gave a lot of information that I had questions about, so thank you all that presented your presentations."  
 "Nice facilities, conference space, refreshments readily available"  
 "DCD Director made a point of helping Certified Chapters and that ASC needs to help."  
 "That all Chapter Staff were required to attend. This keeps the information uniform."

### What did you think ?

## SURVEY

### Constructive Comments:

"Some of the events needed more time and presenters had to rush through their presentations."  
 "was kind of confusing sharing Arizona information and New Mexico Info"  
 "When topics being discussed when it finally gets to the relevant information time is up for the session. Introductions take too much of the time from the beginning of the work sessions."



2024 NAVAJO TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Thank you!

All our support staff and vendors who contributed to make this event special!



Donated Denise Copeland CPMD



Donated by Kayenta ASC



Lenovo Laptop Winner Arlinda Mailboy



NAVAJO TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INC

65 inch TV WINNER Laura Lee Yazzie



# Powerline Extension Brings Light to Nine Homes in Tse'II'Ahi Chapter

July 25, 2024—The Tse'II'Ahi Chapter of the Navajo Nation in McKinley County has reached a significant milestone with the completion of the Powerline Extension project. After rigorous planning, design, and construction phases, the project has successfully concluded with a final inspection confirming its completion. Now, nine homes in the chapter have access to power, marking a transformative moment for the community.

The Tse'II'Ahi Chapter's Powerline Extension project aimed to bring much-needed electrical infrastructure to homes previously without reliable power. This endeavor was crucial for improving the quality of life for residents, providing them with essential utilities, and enhancing overall living conditions.



The construction phase of the project involved laying new power lines, installing necessary equipment, and ensuring all safety standards were met. The collaboration between various stakeholders, including the Navajo Nation's Capital Projects Management Department and local contractors, was instrumental in overcoming challenges and completing the project on time.

With the final inspection completed, the nine homes now have consistent and reliable access to electricity. This development is not just about lighting homes; it is about empowering the community. Access to electricity enables residents to utilize modern appliances, improve heating and cooling systems, and stay connected through electronic devices. It

also opens up opportunities for educational advancement, economic growth, and improved health and safety.

The successful completion of the Powerline Extension project reflects the chapter's dedication to enhancing the well-being of its residents. It stands as a testament to what can be achieved through strategic planning, cooperation, and a commitment to progress.

Residents of the Tse'II'Ahi Chapter are now enjoying the benefits of this essential infrastructure, with homes lit up and daily activities made more convenient and efficient. The project's success is a source of pride for the community and a stepping stone toward further developments aimed at improving the lives of the Navajo Nation's members.







*Good Luck!*

*Andy*



*Wishing you all the luck as you embark on your new journey! May every step you take lead you closer to your dreams and aspirations.*

*CPMD Staff & Division Staff*

After a dedicated tenure since 2011, Andy Thomas, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist, has embarked on a new chapter beyond the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD). Over the years, Thomas played a pivotal role in the completion of numerous capital projects, including senior centers, Head Start facilities, parking lots, chapter houses, and veterans' centers. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the Navajo Nation's development.

Reflecting fondly on his time at DCD, Thomas expressed a deep sense of fulfillment and enjoyment in his work. Although he has yet to reveal his future plans, he remains open to the possibility of returning to DCD in the future.

Colleagues fondly recall that Thomas was a young, vibrant man, working towards becoming an architect. He brought good innovation, creative designs, and ideas that he wanted to implement for Navajo Nation facilities such as chapters, senior citizen centers, Head Starts, and multi-purpose buildings. Andy has been responsible for millions of dollars' worth of projects that have come to fruition for the Navajo Nation. He states, "Keep the momentum moving forward in a positive way."

Colleagues, teammates, and clients across the 110 Navajo Chapters sorely will miss his expertise and the supportive presence he brought to every project. Andy Thomas's legacy of dedication and accomplishment will undoubtedly endure within the community he has so faithfully served. He will be missed by many individuals as we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.





# Housing Improvement Program Information

## Community Housing Infrastructure Department

Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

Phone# 928.729.4319

Fax# 928.729.4277

email: [rbegay@nnchid.org](mailto:rbegay@nnchid.org)

2nd email: [rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto: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

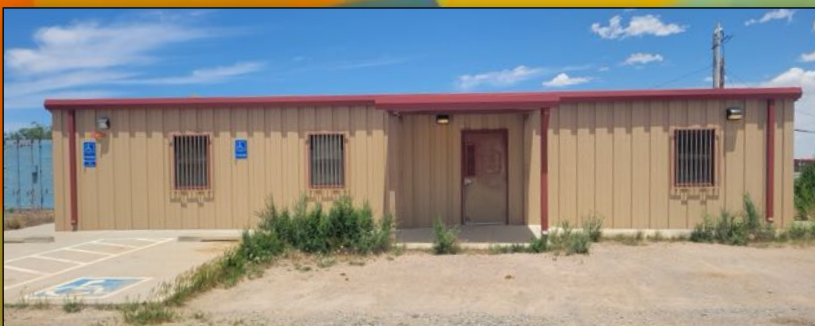
Chinle, Arizona

HIP Program Office Crownpoint ----->

[Google maps location](#)

MVM2+83

Crownpoint, New Mexico





# "Janet Hathley Celebrates New Beginnings with Home from Housing Improvement Program"

The Housing Improvement Program gave a proud owner a one-bedroom home in Rock Point on July 3, 2024. The owner, Janet Hathley, was so happy to have a home of her own after many years of ordeals. Ms. Hathley and her children prepared a meal for the HIP staff to show their appreciation. After Ms. Hathley and her successor signed the necessary papers, we listened to Ms. Hathley tell us about her struggles. Her story made us feel that our elders were raised to never give up, no matter how hard life is, because, in the end, you will get what you want or need. As she was telling her life story, she would get emotional and thank the staff for the

house they built for her to enjoy. She was selected as a potential client for Fiscal Year



2021 back in January 2022, but due to the pandemic, there was a delay in building the home until two years after she was approved.

Though she was one of the top priorities, she had to



redo her homesite lease, which had to go through probate, causing further delays. HIP is a federally funded program that does its best with limited funds to help as many clients as possible. We are about to complete two more projects within the next month or so: one is a new one-bedroom home, and the other is an addition with minor renovations, which will be posted in August.





# Tech Tips

## TOP TIPS FOR USING GOOGLE *for effective communication*

### 01.

**Keyboard Shortcuts:** Use "C" to compose, "R" to reply, and "E" to archive.



### 02.

**Filters & Labels: Organize Automatically:** Set up filters to label, archive, or forward emails based on specific criteria.-  
**Prioritize:** Use labels to categorize and prioritize your emails.



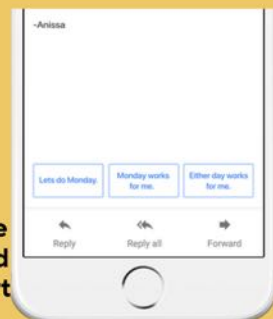
### 03.

**Undo Send: Enable Feature:** Go to Settings > General > Undo Send and choose the cancellation period (5-30 seconds).  
**Retract Emails:** Use the undo send feature to recall emails sent by mistake.



### 04.

**Smart Compose & Smart Reply:** Predictive Text: Use Smart Compose to write emails faster with suggested phrases.  
**Quick Responses:** Use Smart Reply to send quick, pre-written responses to emails.



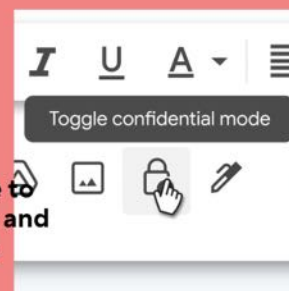
### 05.

**Snooze Emails: Reminders:** Snooze emails to temporarily remove them from your inbox until you need them.  
**Stay Organized:** Use the snooze feature to manage emails you want to address later.



### 06.

**Confidential Mode: Sensitive Information:** Use confidential mode to send emails with an expiration date and restrict access.  
**Extra Security:** Set a passcode for added security when sending confidential information



### 07.

**Advanced Search: Search Operators:** Use search operators like "from:example@example.com" or "has:attachment" to find specific emails.  
**Filter Results:** Combine operators to narrow down your search results effectively.



### 08.

**Integration with Other Google Apps: Google Calendar:** Create calendar events directly from your emails.  
**Google Tasks:** Add tasks from your emails to your Google Tasks list for better productivity.





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

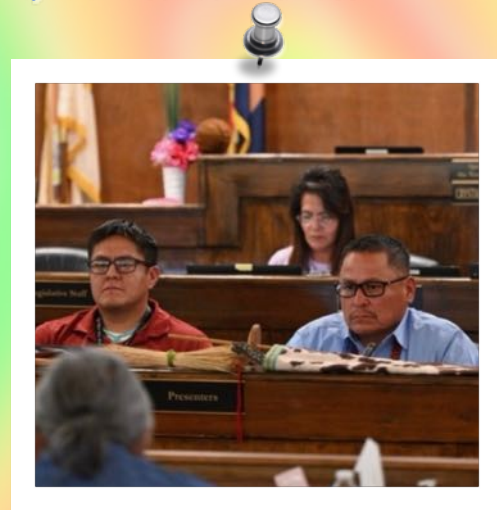
## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

In July, our Administrative Services Centers team supported the 110 Navajo chapters by reviewing budgets and providing essential technical assistance.

Our eight local offices collaborated with division programs and other Navajo Nation offices to organize various trainings and meetings, including new employee orientations, project management sessions, and best fiscal practices, fostering growth and sustainability.

The DCD and ASC Departments provided legislative councils with necessary data to pass the FY24 Summer Youth Employment Program funding allocations. The Navajo Nation President signed the legislation on 07/26/2024 at Tsale Dine College. These allocations are now posted on the WIND system for chapters to budget, enabling chapters to offer employment opportunities and work experience for the youth in their communities.

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



SOURCE: NN COUNCIL INSTAGRAM

ASC Office:	Date of Meeting/ Training:	Meeting Location:	Meeting/Training Description: (list any presenters and topics)
Shiprock ASC	7/9/2024	Red Valley	CLUPC worksession to revise their community land use plan. Revised and updated 110 pages out of a 269 page document.
Shiprock ASC	7/11/2024	TseDaaKaan	CLUPC Orientation
Shiprock ASC	7/16/2024	Google Meet	Monthly Staff Meeting to provide updates and Information
Shiprock ASC	7/17/2024	Cove	Land Use Plan Public Hearing Cove CLUPC
Shiprock ASC	7/23/2024	Red Valley	CLUPC worksession on revising Land Use Plan
ASC	7/19/2024	DCD, Window Rock, AZ	FY2024 Budget with Mr. Mitchell
Chinle ASC	7/24/2024	Chinle ASC Office	Presenter: Edgerton Gene Fiscal Policy and Procedures Records Management Policy and Procedures
Dilkon ASC	7/24/2024	Google Meet	Staff Meeting to provide updates and Information
Shiprock ASC	7/25/2024	Newcomb Chapter	CAP Work Session
Chinle ASC	7/25/2024	Chinle ASC	Presenter: Edgerton Gene Records Management Policy and Procedures Navajo Nation Privacy and Access to Information Act Navajo Nation Local Governance Act 2024 NN Budget Instructions Manual - Chapter Budget Procedures - Appendix M



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## *CROWNPOINT ASC*

*CPR & First Aid Training with AED  
Dine College Center  
July 18, 2024*

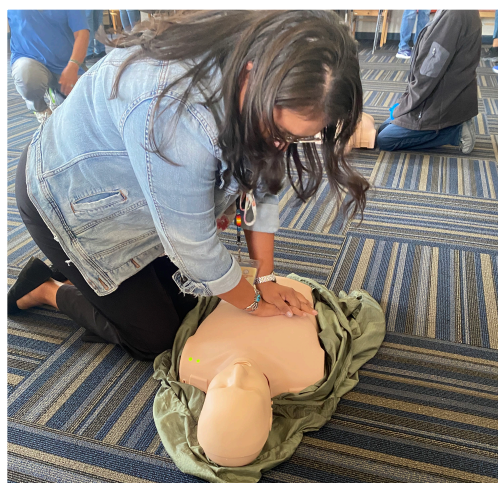


*On July 18, 2024, our Crownpoint ASC Office under the leadership of Tyrone Begay (Senior Programs & Projects Specialist) collaborated with Richard Bates (Safety Officer) from the Navajo Occupational Health and Safety Department to host a First Aid, CPR, and AED Training for Eastern Chapter Staff at the Dine College Center in Crownpoint, NM. During this training, participants received valuable knowledge on essential life-saving skills.*

*This National Safety Council course was designed to ensure participants can provide life-saving care when it's needed most. With personalized learning, interactive scenarios, peer-to-peer learning, and hands-on skill practice the group received instruction that was both informative and engaging.*

*This training is a significant step in enhancing the safety and preparedness of our staff, so they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to respond effectively in emergencies.*

*Upon successful completion of the course, participants earned a National Safety Council First Aid, CPR, and AED certification. This certification satisfies OSHA-mandated job requirements, workplace or other regulatory requirements, and is valid for two years.*





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

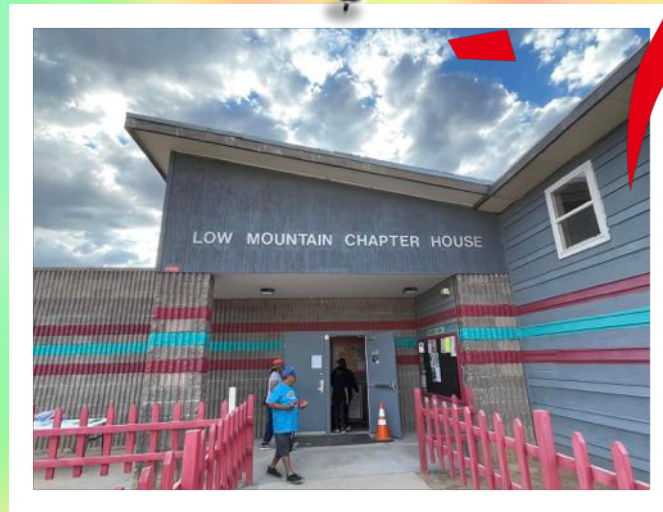
## STAFF UPDATES

### CONGRATULATIONS ELLA!

*We are thrilled to announce a recent promotion on our team at Low Mountain Chapter! On July 15th, 2024, Ella Nelson started as our new Community Services Coordinator (CSC), marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Low Mountain community.*

*Ella has worked with the division since October of 2012. She first joined the chapter, serving as our dedicated Accounts Maintenance Specialist (AMS). In this role, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to meticulously managing the chapter's finances and ensuring the integrity of our financial records through the Chapter's MIP system.*

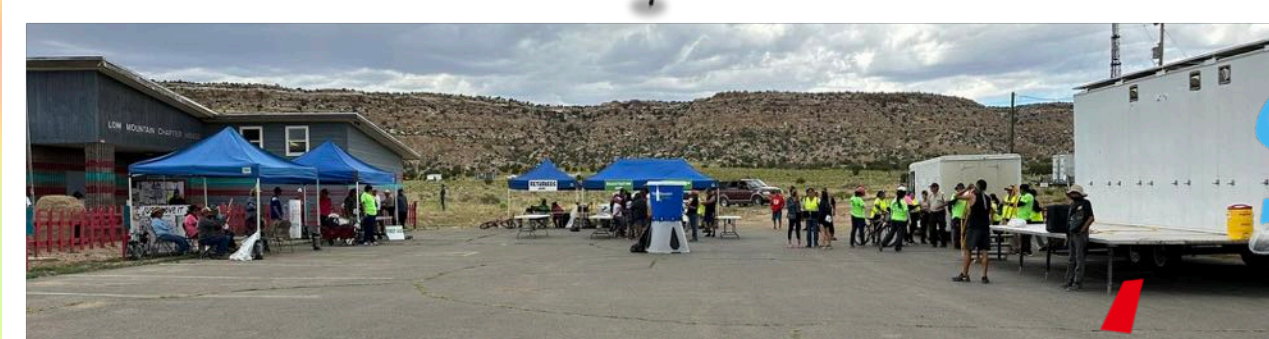
*Bringing a wealth of experience from her previous role, Ella's expertise has already proven invaluable to Low Mountain. During her tenure as AMS, Ella seized every opportunity to immerse herself in the chapter's operations, gaining invaluable insights along the way. Her dedication and proactive approach have not only benefited the community but have also prepared her to seamlessly transition into her new role as CSC.*



SOURCE: LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE  
JUST MOVE IT! EVENT ON 07/09/2024

*As Ella 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 Low Mountain Chapter to even greater heights.*

*Join us in congratulating Ella on her well-deserved appointment as our new Community Services Coordinator!*



SOURCE: LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE - JUST MOVE IT! EVENT ON 07/09/2024



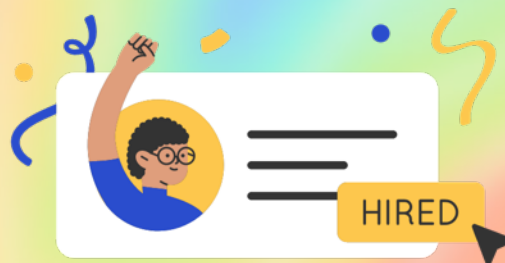
# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

We're excited to bring you some fantastic news in our July 2024 newsletter: our team is expanding! We are thrilled to introduce several new members who have recently joined us. Their commitment to serving our communities is truly inspiring, and we are eager to see the positive impact they will make. Please join us in giving a hearty welcome to our newest team members. They come with a rich background of experience and a passion for our mission, which focuses on delivering vital services to communities across the Navajo Nation. We're confident that their contributions will greatly enhance our efforts and strengthen our support for those we serve.

Staff Name	Office	Position
<b>Katrina Hadley</b>	Teecnospos Chapter	Accounts Maintenance Specialist
<b>Madelena Yazzie</b>	Oak Springs Chapter	Community Services Coordinator - Temp
<b>Wendy Begay</b>	Lukachukai Chapter	Accounts Maintenance Specialist

Join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to these new members, and let's look forward to the bright future that lies ahead as we continue to advance our mission of service and community empowerment together!





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## *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.





# DCD ARPA *Updates*

by Paulene Thomas, Dept. Mgr II; Dawnelle Begay, Planner/Estimator; Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator

## New Beginnings - Whippoorwill ARPA/FRF Community Projects

Marietta Denny, Chapter Manager for Whippoorwill Chapter, has been one busy worker. With an approved ARPA Subrecipient Agreement for two major community projects, she has started these projects and kept them moving along by performing material estimates, maintaining the project scope of work, monitoring, inspecting, and closing out each subproject to ensure ARPA funding is expended and in compliance.

The Elderly Bathroom Modification Project involved conducting home visits and housing assessments, giving preference to the elderly, persons with physical challenges, and veterans. During the assessment of elderly bathroom conditions, Ms. Denny and her team of workers found issues such as dilapidated shower walls, no water heater, no bathroom door, and worn or missing floor tiles, to name a few.

Motivated to make a change, they used the ARPA/FRF funds that were disbursed to the LGA chapter to begin tackling these issues. The pictures are a visual testament to the achievements the Whippoorwill Chapter has accomplished for its community. Great job!



Before



After



Before



Before



After



Before



After



# DCD ARPA Updates - cont.

Resolution CJN-29-22, in Section 11, allocated ARPA/FRF funds for bathroom additions for each council delegate region. The Division of Community Development ARPA Office was designated the project manager for the ARPA bathroom addition projects in November 2023. It has been working with the Indian Health Services Sanitation Facilities Construction, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), and Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority (NECA) to achieve the goal of constructing bathroom additions. To date, the DCD ARPA Office has issued eight (8) work orders to NECA. Of these, Work Orders 1 and 2 have been fully completed, while the remaining six are nearing completion. We are pleased to report that we have completed 65 bathroom additions since November 2023. Currently, 90 bathroom additions are in progress, and we aim to complete these before winter. Additionally, in the past two weeks, we have issued two more Work Orders to NECA—Work Orders 7a and 8—encompassing a combined total of 146 clients. Overall, once we complete all Work Orders 1 through 8, we anticipate having over 300 bathroom additions constructed across the Navajo Nation.

The DCD and DCD ARPA Office extend their gratitude to NECA for their tireless efforts and dedication to taking on additional work. We appreciate all that NECA has accomplished, striving to continually improve the bathroom additions projects and increasing its efforts to ensure improved quality following the former CARES Act Bathroom Addition Project. Furthermore, we would like to extend special thanks to the Indian Health Services Sanitation Facilities Construction and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) teams for their significant contributions to this project. Thank you to the chapters and local governments for their participation. Let us continue to build and create lasting memories for the families benefiting from these bathroom additions.

Work Order 1	19 recipients (constructions)	100% complete
Work Order 2	9 recipients (constructions)	100% complete
Work Order 3	56 recipients (constructions)	100% complete 80% complete
Work Order 4	304 recipients (constructions)	90% complete
Work Order 5	56 recipients (constructions)	75% complete 100% complete
Work Order 6	40 recipients (constructions)	In progress
Work Order 7a	105 recipients (constructions)	In progress
Work Order 8	41 recipients (constructions)	In progress
Total	304 assessments	
	326 constructions	

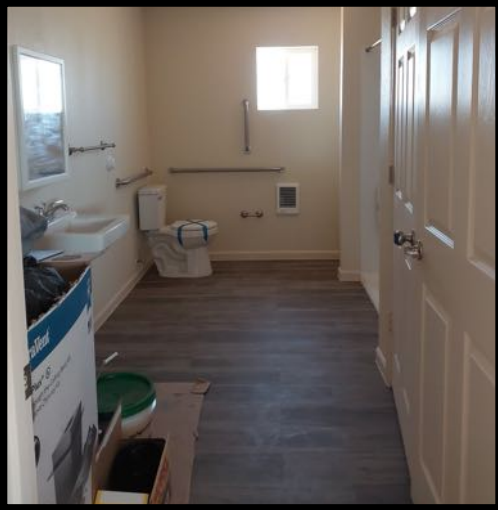
by Paulene Thomas, Dept. Mgr II; Dawnelle Begay, Planner/Estimator; Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator



# DCD ARPA Updates - cont.

Ganado, Arizona

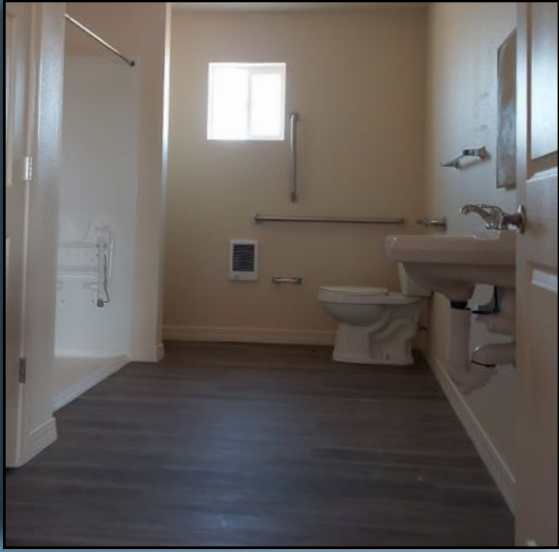
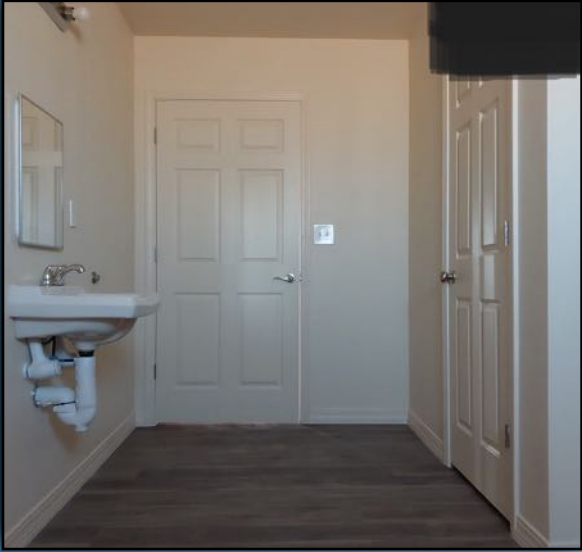
by Paulene Thomas, Dept. Mgr II; Dawnelle Begay, Planner/Estimator; Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator





# DCD ARPA *Updates - cont.*

Ganado, Arizona





# DCD ARPA *Updates - cont.*



**Dennehotso,  
Arizona**

**1st home  
delivered  
Bernice Begay  
with chapter  
staff**



by Paulene Thomas, Dept. Mgr II; Dawnelle Begay, Planner/Estimator; Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator



# DCD ARPA Updates - cont.

## New Gooseneck Trailer! Thanks to ARPA/FRF!

The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development ARPA Office (DCD ARPA Office) is the office charged with managing the numerous ARPA/FRF-funded projects that have approved Expenditure Plans. The Council Delegate Regional Allocations were appropriated by Navajo Nation law, CJN-29-22, in the total amount of \$211,256,140, with \$8,802,339.50 allocated to each council delegate region. There are over 438 ARPA/FRF projects that have been approved by the Navajo Nation Council or the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

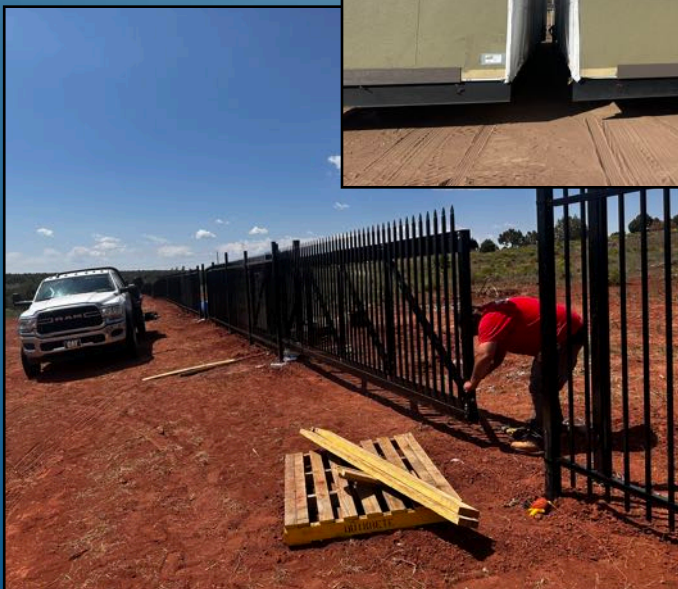
The DCD ARPA Office assisted the Crystal Chapter with the purchase of a gooseneck trailer, which was successfully delivered to the Crystal Chapter on July 12, 2024. The Crystal Chapter Manager was very excited, saying it was "BEAUTIFUL – well built to last many years."

Congratulations, Crystal Chapter!



## ARPA/FRF Community Projects at Nazlini Chapter Government

The Nazlini Chapter Government was among the first four LGA chapters to use ARPA/FRF funds from the council delegate regional allocations. They were ahead of others by securing a signed ARPA Subrecipient Agreement (SRA) for four projects: consulting services, a warehouse project, an administration building, and a cemetery project. The Nazlini Chapter Government has made significant progress with these ARPA/FRF projects.



by Paulene Thomas, Dept. Mgr II; Dawnelle Begay, Planner/Estimator; Ryan Begay, Planner/Estimator



# DCD ARPA Updates - cont.

## ARPA/FRF Projects on the Move!



The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD) provides administrative oversight for eighteen (18) ARPA Subrecipient Agreements (SRAs) involving a total of fifty (50) ARPA projects. These SRAs include sixteen (16) LGA-certified chapters, enabling them to receive American Rescue Plan Act/Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA/FRF) funds directly according to a disbursement schedule. The LGA chapters can manage their ARPA SRA projects locally using their five management systems (FMS). The chapters have received their first disbursements and have been reporting their progress on their ARPA SRA projects in their monthly reports to the DCD, the Fiscal Recovery Fund Office (FRFO), the Office of the Controller (OOC), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The Cornfields Chapter has reported progress in its Food Assistance Program. On April 17, 2024, the chapter assembled and distributed 125 boxes of food to its community members.





# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Tech student recognized for developing 'Kibble Balance' machine

NTU program viewed as pathway to STEM-related field for Native students

By Alx Lee Tri-City Record Reporter  
Friday, Jul 19, 2024 3:21 PM

Navajo Technical University student Jonathan Chinana presented at the 2024 American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Courtesy photo)

Cuba, New Mexico resident Jonathan Chinana has successfully developed an affordable weighing machine alongside professors and colleagues based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology at Navajo Technical University.

The Kibble Balance is a device that measures mass and is designed to significantly lower costs associated with previous models, Chinana said.

"In this case, the weight of a test mass is exactly offset by a force produced when an electrical current is run through a coil of wire immersed in a surrounding magnetic field," the NIST website said about the Kibble Balance.

A system design platform, LabVIEW, developed by the NIST was used to measure and display a current from voice coils.

"We are introducing the International Prototype of the Kilogram (IPK) issue and the concept of a Kibble Balance,"

Chinana said.

According to a news release from NTU, the institution is the only tribal college with ABET accreditation ensuring graduates are prepared for the profession they pursue.

"The Electrical Engineering program at NTU is seamlessly intertwined with Computer Science, IT, and Diné culture and language programs," the release said.

The project was a collective effort between mentors, instructors and team members, which Chinana expressed gratitude toward.

"Two of our seniors showcased their focused projects centered on the design process," Peter Romine, associate professor of electrical engineering, said. "These projects are invaluable avenues through which students amass crucial knowledge."

A presentation, poster and research paper were developed by students to articulate their projects.

Chinana has been involved in summer youth camps including the NTU/NASA Robotics Academy, leading programming prompts to help with robots, the release said.

"During my formative years, I encountered academic



Navajo Technical University student Jonathan Chinana presented at the 2024 American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Courtesy photo)

challenges and gained an understanding of the struggles of self-directed learning," Chinana said. "Through introducing Native students to this field, we hope to ignite their curiosity and independent thinking, gently encouraging them to explore the numerous opportunities within STEM and paving the way for their future success."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3yrUgqw>



Source: The Navajo Nation Office of the President

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren took center stage at the House Natural Resources Committee hearing, advocating for crucial water rights legislations that could secure \$12 billion in settlements for tribes across Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana. No stranger to the struggle for water access, Nygren shared his personal connection to the issue, citing that "Roughly a third of Navajo households lack running water, including the home I grew up in," according to a statement obtained by the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation. Nygren's testimony underscores a collective action to redress decades of water scarcity that has hit close to home for many indigenous

communities.

Discussing the four water rights bills, Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Craig Andrews, Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairwoman Tanya Lewis, Taos Pueblo Governor Fred Romero, and Acoma Pueblo Governor Randall Vicente also joined the discourse, each bearing the weight of their people's needs and the hope of resolution after prolonged legal battles. The bills in question, including H.R. 8940 and H.R. 3977, aim to effectively distribute water resources and rectify past oversights. Turner, an esteemed member, was absent, having chaired a previous hearing on a related matter.

Arizona Republican Congressman Anthony

## Navajo Nation President Heads Historic Push for \$12B Water Rights in Arizona, New Mexico & Montana

Ciscomani, a staunch advocate of the legislation, emphasized the transformational potential these settlements hold for both tribal communities and the state's water future. As President Nygren stated, "This settlement will resolve the water rights claims for three Indigenous nations." Moreover, it will invest in vital water infrastructure, fulfilling a fundamental human need and upholding a standard of equality for these communities.

Fulfilling a duty towards indigenous tribes, Brian Newland, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, testified in support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. He illuminated the government's obligations, articulating the imperative to ensure tribes possess a secure homeland wherein they can perpetuate their way of life. "This means ensuring that each tribe has a protected homeland where its citizens can maintain their tribal existence and way of life," Newland expressed. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the

Bureau of Reclamation, David Palumbo, relayed the practical preference for negotiated settlements over litigation, advocating for judicious use and equity of water resources for tribal lands.

Through the navigation of political arenas and lawmaking channels, New Mexico Democratic Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez has borne witness to water rights contentions, transitioning from litigation as a green attorney to legislating as a seasoned policymaker. Speaking from years of frontline experience, she bolstered support for the settlements by reminiscing on past conflicts, now eased by collaborative efforts. Furthermore, President Nygren underscored the gravity of the situation concerning H.R. 6599, underlining the urgency to address cost adjustments and extension of project deadlines to ensure the continuous advancement of the communities reliant on these water initiatives.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3WKQjt5>



# Bulletin Board

## Envisioning legal frameworks for Diné Fundamental Law

By Herb Yazzie, Therese Tuttle, Mike Hamersky, and Josey Foo

Editor's note: Herb Yazzie is the former Navajo Nation chief justice who served from 2005 to 2015. Therese Tuttle specialized in the law cooperative corporations for over 23 years. Mike Hamersky is the Climate Change and Land Use Policy fellow at the Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. He is also an adjunct professor at Fordham University's School of Law, where he received his law degree. Josey Foo served as attorney in the chief justice's office for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court for eight years. Foo is the executive director of Indian Country Grassroots Support.

Every Diné knows that the Diné Fundamental Law has long been under great stresses. The immutable law remains unknown to lawyers. Younger generations struggle to find support for knowing their own language, in which our immutable laws are conveyed. Nonprofits of various kinds present Diné wellness models as if they are entirely separate from principles of governing. Or, nonprofits address single topics of urgent importance to our people, such as food sovereignty or water conservation, without joining together to repair our whole way of life. All generations want historical teamwork to be restored, which is what k'é and hózhó really means. Yet none of it is understood fully by the lawyers, non-profits, youngsters, and even those many elders among us who were subjected to having wisdom and knowledge wiped out in boarding schools.

In a few short weeks on August 5 at Twin Arrows, we will be coming together in a forum to tell each other our legal and principled frameworks so that, at the very least, the foundations of Diné Fundamental Law will be in the minds of lawyers and the people. This is so that both may get to work to relieve the stresses that have long pressured Diné cultural practices. These stresses include generational efforts by the federal government to wipe out knowledge among the Diné people. The forum, entitled "Live, Work, Govern using Diné Fundamental Law," will kick off a partnership between the Diné people and lawyers who acknowledge the western system's flaws, and who believe the Diné people have more than sufficient cause to be suspicious of such lawyers. However, suspicions must be set aside. We are at a critical time not only for permanent loss of Diné cultural being – the loss of living Diné ways – but also at a time of great danger for Mother Earth and her beloved creatures.

The lawyers and planners who will be present at Twin Arrows are from Pace University Law School's Land Use Law Center, from a premier cooperative law firm which helped draft legislation for cooperative law in California, and from the USDA-Strengthening Co-op Capacity for Historically Underserved Farmers program. What they will all be saying is, "We're in." We are in with getting behind tribal envisioning expressed by the Diné people themselves, to set aside legal frameworks that oppress that vision, and come up with new frameworks that need such an envisioning to come into being.

Diné Fundamental Law is not an anthropological study, nor is it merely for individuals to learn self-sufficiency, the Four Directions, k'é and hózhó as if it were merely a religion, or merely exercise like yoga, nor is it performative, nor should it be limited to a few phrases introducing ourselves in Diné bizaad, nor is it just the Diné gentleness and consideration in speaking.

The foundation is the Life Way itself, that it's high time lawyers get with the program, abandon their anthropological preconceptions, and provide the legal help for the Life Way to actively function through all applicable laws, both federal and tribal.

It can be done. It can be done.

1 N.N.C. § 204. Diiyin Dine'é Bitsaadee Beenahaz'aanii (Diné Customary Law (1 N.N.C. § 204)) declares these "rights and freedoms" – knowledge of the values of principles for living in balance and beauty with all creation (hózhó), the sacred system of k'é, the sacred Diné language, the protection of the unity and wellbeing of each family, and the empowerment of everyone especially children to participate in the growth of the Navajo Nation on the basis of the immutable law.

Last year, in the first "Envisioning Diné Bikéyah for our families in 102 years" held in Window Rock, families envisioned a paradise in which language was known and teamwork was practiced. Above all, youth envisioned their elders planning their future properly for them, in which their ingenuity would be treasured alongside language and teamwork. It appeared to be the consensus that such planning is not taking place.

Lawyers and planners know only what the people choose to let be known to them. We have to begin including them in knowledge, and task them with making sure our immutable laws are not watered down, distorted, or otherwise destroyed.

Unless we are clear-minded, lawyers may not be able to help us. Remember it is not anymore about lawyers telling us what we can do, and then us filling in the blanks only to be told by them that we are still asking too much, or that what we intend to ask is inappropriate for the western governing system.

No, in our sovereign nation today, it has to be about Diné people asserting what makes us distinct as a people in the very governing systems and life and work practices that have been unraveled since before Hwéeldi. Our assertion must include telling lawyers



Forum Theme:

Live, Work, Govern using  
Diné Fundamental Law



what Diné Fundamental Law sets forth for a team approach to living, working and governing, how our system centered on local matriarchies, naalchiidi and naachid that allowed local independence and interconnectedness to share innovations and solve problems in ways the western systems do not work.

An essential aspect of Diné Fundamental Law is what has been translated as the "Diné family," groups of five-fingered beings who team together in mutual love and adherence to k'é and hózhó, for the purpose of achieving generational goals. In many areas – including Naschitti in the Chuska Mountains – such inter-familial teamwork has involved customary land use areas, with stories passed down of communal droving of our livestock in large numbers. Families talk about structured communal teamwork. Yet, structured communal teamwork in which familial labor over livestock is shared, and in which livestock themselves tell us what they may need, has not been possible since Livestock Reduction in 1933.

Lawyers do understand that the circumstances surrounding Livestock Reduction no longer apply, yet the regulations remain on the books. Science has moved on from 1934, when the carrying capacity of district land units was first established. The same carrying capacity numbers from those days appear to still be in use today, limiting livestock to bounded areas regardless of season or communal ingenuity. The misassumptions of science from back then seem to be known widely, yet the federal system machine is slow to move. Remember that the federal system is intended to be a non-moving structural system. In the federal system, it is the localities that have the quick ability of partnerships, problem-solving, and swift innovation.

At this time in our long history into the past and viewed towards the future for all our generations to come, we need to end regulations that stifle communal cooperation and ingenuity, particularly in the treatment of our livestock, and one another, and Mother Earth.

The rest of the world knows that ecosystems and human beings must be in balance. Places meant to be protected cannot merely be set aside and isolated from other beings. On the Navajo Nation, we know there are insufficient resources to cull and maintain undergrowth, and our forest areas themselves are decaying from isolation from relationships with other creatures, cut off from the complex and beautiful pattern of mutual nurturing by Mother Earth and all its beings.

It is time to cease second guessing ourselves and approach our own patterns and practices exactly how they are intended.

Information on the "Live, Work, Govern using Diné Fundamental Law" forum on August 5, 2024, at Twin Arrows may be found at <https://indiancountrygrassroots.org>. Walk-ins are welcome.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3Yrs0S2>



# Bulletin Board

## Broadband conference promotes collaboration in providing stronger internet for Navajo Nation



Corey Nelson, 4CED's broadband program manager, opened the conference on Tuesday. (David Edward Albright/Tri-City Record)

Four Corners Economic Development, Alliance for Navajo Broadband organized event at San Juan College

By David Edward Albright Tri-City Record

Saturday, Jun 29, 2024 8:45 AM

A regional Broadband Future Conference, organized by Four Corners Economic Development and the Alliance for Navajo Broadband, was held to promote collaboration in providing stronger internet services for the Navajo Nation.

The full-day event, which was held Tuesday at San Juan College's Henderson Fine Arts Center, featured speakers from broad-ranging agencies, including New Mexico Broadband and various tribes.

The Alliance for Navajo Broadband, now in its third year of operation, is a nonprofit dedicated to improving broadband access, affordability and choices for the Navajo people.

Joy Thompson, executive director of the Alliance for Navajo Broadband, said the Alliance grew out of the need to advocate for the Navajo Nation due to the impact of COVID-19, and for policies conducive for broadband development.

"What we're all about is broadband access, broadband affordability and choice of provider and recently we added to that list the adoption of broadband in the Navajo Nation," she said. "We had a conference last fall where we had 100 chapter

officials in this room. And we collaborated we discussed we brought up issues and we gathered all of that data and provided it to the Navajo Nation."

Thompson said the Alliance has advocated for a broadband office on the Navajo Nation.

"There's not a wall between the reservations and the rest of the world. It is it needs to have a collaborative conversation ... so let's establish some working relationships," she said.

Tim Gibbs, 4CED's executive director, said the idea of the conference is to "people thinking about all the ways that broadband affects people's lives and what the future holds for broadband."

The broadband initiative was funded under a Just Transition Fund grant.

"It's a unique opportunity ... it looks at energy communities that are in transition, but have a vibrant future ahead of them," Gibbs said about the JTF grant.

The JTF grant was funded by foundations such as the Rockefeller and Hewlett. It's aligned with the Federal Power Initiative, Gibbs said.

He drew parallels with electric power, saying that about 10% of rural America had power in the early 1930s. Through a series of federal actions that set the stage for communities to form co-ops and work together, 90% of rural America had power within 16 years.

"We're going through a similar dichotomy now with broadband ... if you're in some of the municipalities right around here you have multiple options for broadband service ... speed and price point," Gibbs said, adding that is not the case for many in the region. "Broadband is at the center of a fast changing world. This is the genesis of a new economy, and it's based upon information it's based on the flow of information and commerce."

Farmington is the largest major metropolitan district without an interstate highway, commercial airport or railroad.

"But we still connect to every corner of the world and broadband is that highway --- that superhighway," Gibbs said.

San Juan College president Toni Pendergrass encouraged people to work together in providing broadband to areas in need. (David Edward Albright/Tri-City Record)

San Juan College serves nearly 8,800 students annually on the credit side and almost 4,000 on the corporate training side, she said, adding that SJC is the fourth largest college in the state.

The college's Native American and Hispanic student populations are 32% and 21%, respectively, and the average age is about 28, according to San Juan College president Toni Pendergrass.

San Juan College received a large grant from the State of New Mexico, which will pay interns \$15 an hour when hired as interns, Pendergrass said, adding that 476 students were placed in internships and apprenticeships last year.

"One out of three (SJC students) do not have reliable home technology, internet access or a personal computer," she said.

SJC bought 750 laptops for students, along with Wi-Fi hot spots through local legislative delegation funding. However, Wi-Fi funding is not sustainable, according to Pendergrass.

"The college cannot pay \$40 to \$50 a month for Wi-Fi hot spots for all of our students. That's why we need to work on this very closely with each other," Pendergrass said.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3A59Hli>



# Bulletin Board

## 76th Navajo Nation Fair set for Sept. 4-8 in Window Rock

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 76th Annual Navajo Nation Fair returns Sept. 4 - 8 at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock.

This year's theme is "Honoring Heritage: Celebrating Harvest, Livelihood & Kinship." The focus will be to preserve Navajo cultural heritage.

"Under Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's leadership, new people were put in charge to make sure changes were made to avoid financial problems of past fairs," said Mike Halona, Division of Natural Resources executive director. "Through careful planning and resource management, we will make sure to spend every dollar wisely. We want this to set a new standard for financial stewardship for future fairs."

In January, the division moved the Navajo Nation Fair Office to division headquarters to address lingering issues and redevelop the operations and facilities at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds.

Now, spearheaded by division, fair organizers ensure that resources will be used efficiently, effectively and safely to set a sustainable path for future celebrations.

"This momentous event isn't just about tradition," Halona said. "It's about embracing contemporary fiscal responsibility. We are going to ensure that every dollar received contributes to a flourishing event and supports the local business community."

Since its inception in 1948, the Navajo Nation Fair has been a beacon of Navajo culture, drawing as many as 100,000 fairgoers. It brings together the 110 Navajo chapters to celebrate traditional events loved by Navajos and visitors.

This year's fair will continue that legacy. There will be time-honored activities like the traditional Navajo Song & Dance, the All-Indian Rodeo, Junior Rodeo, the Navajo Nation Fair Parade, arts and crafts exhibits, 4-H livestock show, horticulture, Kids Day, Elder Fest, carnival, the popular inter-tribal powwow and more.



READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4c2g0cJ>

## COVID-19 face masks recommended indoors on Navajo Nation

(DOH), issued a COVID-19 health advisory notice July 28 that recommends the wearing of face masks in indoor spaces.

The notice comes as the result of an uptick in Covid cases on the Navajo Nation.

"We are seeing a slight uptick of Covid cases on the Navajo Nation and across the U.S.," said Del Yazzie, director of the Navajo Epidemiology Center. "However, hospitalization and mortality rates remain low. We ask people to continue to practice protective measures."

Yazzie said protective measures include staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, practicing good hygiene, wearing a mask when sick, staying home when sick, seeking care for testing and treatment.

Older people are considered at higher risk. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose and headache.

The Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation has resumed requiring masks and the Kayenta Service Unit is continuing its requirement to wear masks in its facilities.

The Tuba City Library began requiring face masks for all patrons and staff at the library July 21.

DOH said vaccines significantly lower the risk of getting very sick, being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19. The current COVID-19 vaccine offers some protection against the latest variants and an updated vaccine is expected in the late summer or fall.

Even when someone is no longer feeling sick, they could still spread the virus, the DOH said. The ability to spread the virus may decrease over time, depending on how long or severe the illness is.

For more information, including helpful prevention tips, call the Navajo Department of Health at (928) 871-6350.



READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4dH24X9>

Source: <https://www.nursetogether.com/>



# PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
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
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	\$30,046.32	8/5/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$30,046.32	8/20/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, 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	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Teecnospos, AZ	\$42,407.28	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
Office Specialist (S)	Kayenta, AZ	\$30,046.32	8/5/2024
<b>Capital Projects Management Department</b>			
Registered Architect	Window Rock, AZ	\$75,585.60	OUF
<b>Executive Administration</b>			
Senior Accountant (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$53,849.52	8/13/2024
(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





## Census Bureau Announces Sites for 2026 Census Test

July 22, 2024

Press Release Number CB24-CN.19

JULY 22, 2024 – The U.S. Census Bureau today announced the sites for the 2026 Census Test, the first of two major on-the-ground tests planned in preparation for the 2030 Census.

The 2026 Census Test will evaluate the viability of innovations and enhancements planned for the 2030 Census, with particular focus on improving the count of hard-to-count and historically undercounted populations.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct 2026 Census Test operations in six locations:

- Colorado Springs, CO (selected areas within the metro area).
- Huntsville, AL (selected areas within the metro area).
- Tribal Lands Within Arizona (Fort Apache Reservation, home to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and San Carlos Reservation, home to the San Carlos Apache Tribe).
- Spartanburg, SC (selected areas within the metro area).
- Western North Carolina (Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, and Swain counties, and Qualla Boundary, home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians).
- Western Texas (Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, and Presidio counties).

"These locations provide optimal opportunities for us to implement all the changes and enhancements we have planned for the test, under real conditions and on a larger scale than research simulations allow," said Daniel Doyle, deputy chief of the Census Bureau's Decennial Census Management Division. "Together, these sites will enable us to test the improvements we're designing in our efforts to get a complete count of historically undercounted and hard-to-count populations."

The test sites cover a mix of areas with:

- High percentages of historically undercounted populations.
- Historically low response rates.
- Tribal areas.
- Rural areas.
- Limited internet or cell phone service.
- A high percentage of households that don't receive mail directly to their address.
- Seasonally vacant housing.
- A high number of multiunit structures and/or hidden units in urban areas.
- Significant housing growth.

Universities, correctional facilities, military housing, and other types of group quarters.

In a webinar held today, Census Bureau officials discussed how each site contributes to the test's objectives and requirements, particularly those designed to help improve enumeration among hard-to-count and historically undercounted populations. Links to Census Bureau demographic, social and economic data about each site are available in the 2026 Census Test Press Kit.

In addition to the test activities in the six sites, the 2026 Census Test includes a separate national sample. The Census Bureau will mail materials to this nationally representative sample of households, inviting them to respond to the test online, by phone or by mail. This builds upon the Census Bureau's ongoing small-scale testing and will help the Census Bureau improve the 2030 Census online

questionnaire and invitation materials. It will also provide insight on self-response rate trends, which will inform 2030 Census planning for field infrastructure, communications and other operations. The sample size for the national component will be determined based on the detailed plans in development for the test and available resources.

### Next Steps

Now that the sites have been determined, the Census Bureau will finalize the design of the 2026 Census Test next year, including specific details about how operations will be implemented during the test.

"We look forward to working with tribal and local officials in these areas," Doyle said. "Your participation will help us work toward the goal of a complete and accurate count of every area of the country in 2030."

The Census Bureau plans to begin community outreach in summer 2025 and recruitment of temporary field staff in early fall 2025. Both components – the national sample of households and people living in the test sites – will be asked to respond to the test in spring

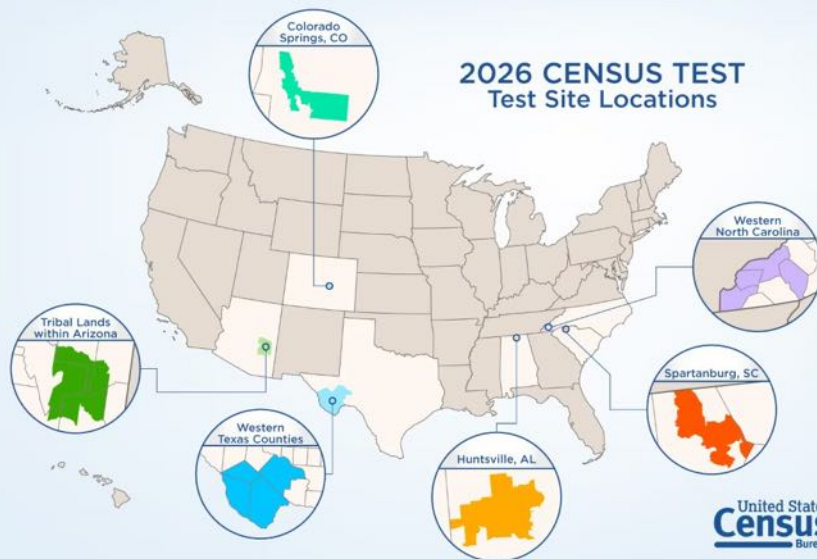
2026. Census Day, the test's reference day, will be April 1, 2026. Test operations are expected to conclude in summer 2026. The Census Bureau will share updates throughout the planning process for the test. Because the 2026 Census Test is focused on testing operations, rather than on tabulating or disseminating data, no data products will be produced from the test.

### About 2030 Census Preparations

Attempting to count every person living in the United States is an incredibly complex endeavor. Throughout the planning process, the Census Bureau uses research, stakeholder and public input, and a wide range of expertise and testing to inform decisions. The design of the 2030 Census will mature through 2029. The Census Bureau will continue to engage stakeholders and provide updates throughout the decade.

For more information, visit the 2030 Census and 2026 Census Test webpages.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/2026-census-test-site-selection.html>



The 2026 Census Test will focus on six operational areas: (1) making it easier for people to respond on their own online, by phone or by mail; (2) improving in-person household data collection; (3) improving methods for counting people living in group quarters; (4) enhancing outreach efforts to create awareness, build trust, and encourage response; (5) enhancing the infrastructure that supports census operations; and (6) processing data concurrently with data collection

### Data-Driven Criteria

The Census Bureau used a rigorous, data-driven process to select the sites for the 2026 Census Test and developed four main sets of criteria: (1) geography, (2) living quarters characteristics, (3) staffing, and (4) technical characteristics. The Census Bureau then analyzed household and geographic data from censuses, Census Bureau surveys, and publicly available data to identify sites that met the criteria.

"It's important to note that no one location covers all the requirements of this test," Doyle said. "It's the combination that's powerful. As a group, they will enable us to meet all the testing objectives, while also meeting available budget, systems and other resource constraints."



# A Snapshot of the Nation's Housing Stock

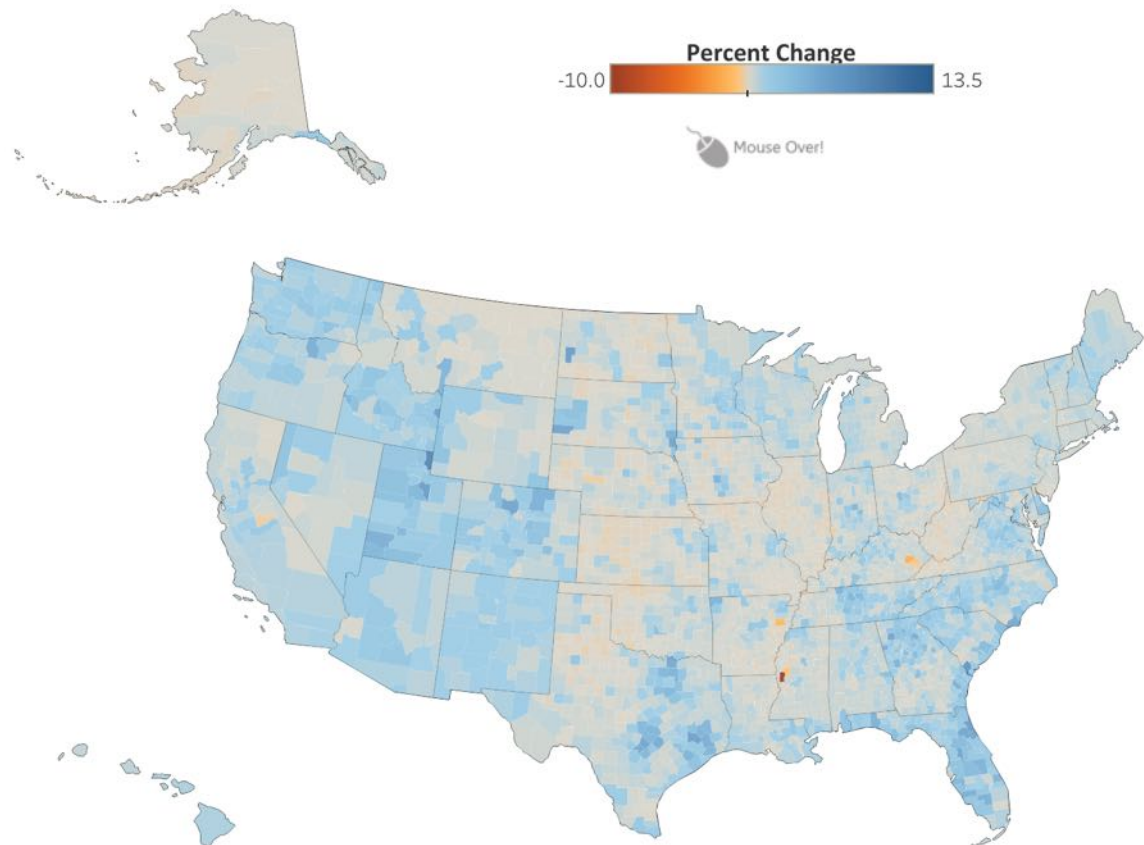
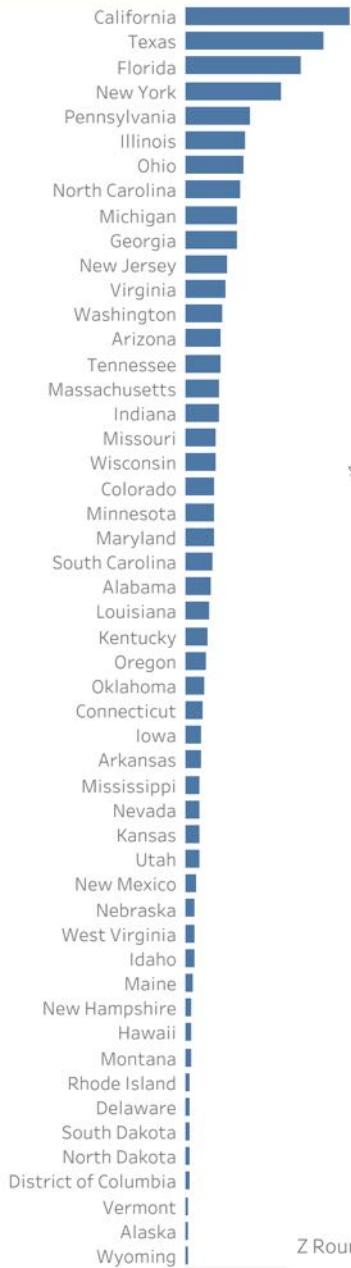


## Housing Units in the United States

County: All State: All

Vintage 2023 Housing Unit Estimate: **145,344,636**

July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023, Numeric Change in Housing Units: **1,554,999**



Z Rounds to zero.





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

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 **Pet Help**

 **Spay/Neuter FAQ's**  
 **Resources**

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**ANIMAL CONTROL**



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Many Farms  
**(928) 781-4380**

Shiprock  
**(505) 368-1235**

Tuba City  
**(928) 283-3089**



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
**CENTRAL DISPATCH**  
**928-871-6491/7041**

- Forestry Issues
- Wildlife Poaching
- Livestock Trespassing
- Dogs Running-at-Large
- Livestock Inspection





**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](http://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.



# July 2024



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