

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí' Baahane'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Atsá Biyáázh

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Did You Know...

Níí béeé hoziníshi...



Can you tell where this is?

Díísh háadi até?



submit your answer [HERE](#)

Events:

February: Atsá Biyáázh - Baby Eaglets

- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 9: Superbowl Sunday
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 17: Presidents' Day

March: Wóózhch'ííjd - Cry of Baby Eaglets

- March 4: Mardi Gras
- March 7: Employee Appreciation Day
- March 9: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 14: Pi Day
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 20: Spring Equinox

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & VICE PRESIDENT WELCOME WESTERN & FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY OFFICIALS TO ORIENTATION

From February 4-6, 2025, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) hosted the second installment of the Chapter Officials Orientation series at Twin Arrows Resort in Flagstaff, AZ. This session welcomed newly elected officials from the Western Agency and Fort Defiance Agency chapters, providing them with essential training on Navajo Nation governance, policies, and financial management.

The event featured insightful addresses from key Navajo Nation leaders, including Division of Community Development Executive Director Candice Yazzie and Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya. Their presence underscored the importance of strong leadership, community engagement, and collaboration in ensuring effective local governance.

With 110 chapter houses across the Navajo Nation, each with elected leadership, these orientations are critical in equipping officials with the knowledge and tools necessary to serve their communities effectively.

Three of our local ASC Offices collaborated to plan this event successfully:

- Dilkon ASC
- Ft. Defiance ASC
- Tuba City ASC

This orientation series continues to serve as a cornerstone for strengthening local governance and empowering Navajo Nation leaders in their commitment to their communities.



February Highlights

The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) department remained active in February 2025, continuing its mission to support the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters through technical assistance, governance training, and compliance guidance. With a strong commitment to empowering chapter officials and administrative staff, ASC local offices facilitated multiple events aimed at enhancing local governance and ensuring effective financial and policy management.

A priority of the department during the beginning of 2025 has been in providing orientation to the newly elected chapter officials on topics that impact their chapter operations and continuing to expand on these topics in trainings provided monthly at each ASC local office.

The ASC department remains committed to providing critical resources and training to chapter officials across the Navajo Nation. By offering these learning opportunities, ASC ensures that local governance structures are equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to serve their communities effectively. February was a month of impactful engagements, and as the department moves forward, it will continue its efforts to enhance the capabilities of chapter officials and administrative staff across all agencies.

February 2025

- February 4th - 6th
Fort Defiance/Western Agency Chapter Official Orientation at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
- February 10th
Chapter Carryover posted in the WIND system
- February 6th
Shiprock ASC hosted Land Use Plan Training
- February 11th
Shiprock ASC hosted Financial Monitoring training at Nenahnezad Chapter
- February 11th
Dilkon ASC met with their chapter at the Whitecone Multipurpose Building for the Southwest Region Chapters Rural Addressing Meeting
- February 12th
Crownpoint ASC met with their chapter via Zoom over department and chapter updates
- February 18th
Dilkon ASC hosted a Chapter Official Worksession
- February 20th
Dilkon ASC met with their chapter at the Indian Wells Chapter for an FY 25 Budget Worksession



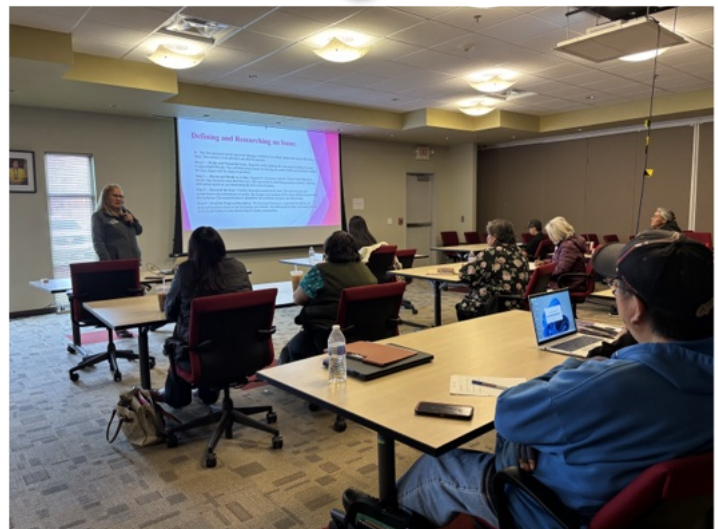
Chinle ASC Office Hosts Training for Central Agency Chapters

On February 13, 2025, the Chinle Administrative Services Center (ASC) local office hosted a specialized training session for its assigned chapters at the Department of Transportation facility in Tse Bonito, NM. The training brought together chapter officials from the Central Agency, offering them an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of key administrative and financial processes essential to their chapter operations. The session covered two crucial topics that play a significant role in the effective governance and compliance of chapter houses:

Financial Reporting – Presented by Robert Jumbo, Administrative Services Officer, this session provided an in-depth review of financial accountability and reporting procedures. Participants gained insights into best practices for maintaining accurate financial records, understanding budget allocations, and ensuring compliance with Navajo Nation financial policies.

Resolution Writing – Led by Edgerton Gene, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist, this session focused on the importance of crafting clear, well-structured resolutions that align with Navajo Nation laws and policies. Chapter officials learned the essential components of effective resolution writing, including legal considerations, formatting requirements, and how resolutions play a role in the decision-making process at the local government level.

This training session was part of the Chinle ASC Office's ongoing efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities for chapters within the Central Agency. By equipping chapter officials with the knowledge and skills necessary for sound financial management and policy implementation, ASC ensures that chapters can operate effectively while meeting governance standards.



Strengthening Local Governance: Chapter Officials Orientations Continue

From February 4-6, 2025, the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) hosted the second installment of the Chapter Officials Orientation series at Twin Arrows Resort in Flagstaff, AZ. This session welcomed newly elected officials from the Western Agency and Fort Defiance Agency chapters, providing them with essential training on Navajo Nation governance, policies, and financial management.

With 110 chapter houses across the Navajo Nation, each with elected leadership, these orientations are critical in equipping officials with the knowledge and tools necessary to serve their communities effectively.

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- Tuba City ASC



Chapter Official Orientation

The three-day agenda was designed to provide a comprehensive overview of key responsibilities and resources available to chapter officials:

Day 1 featured opening remarks from division leaders and presentations on capital project management, community housing and infrastructure, and the Navajo Nation Addressing Authority. Attendees then participated in breakout sessions covering land administration, IT support, rural addressing, ARPA funding, and administrative services.

Day 2 focused on governance and ethics training, with sessions led by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ). Topics included Title 26 governance laws, procurement regulations, ethics in government, and conflict-of-interest policies, ensuring that officials understood their legal responsibilities and the frameworks guiding their decision-making.

Day 3 was dedicated to administrative and financial management, with ASC staff leading discussions on meeting facilitation, financial reporting, local supervision, and travel policies. The event concluded with a general session where participants reflected on the training and discussed their next steps as chapter leaders.



Administrative Services Centers



Chapter Official Orientation

This training series began in January with an orientation at San Juan College, serving chapter officials from the Central and Northern Agencies. With the February session now completed, ASC is in the midst of planning the final scheduled orientation for the Eastern Agency. Additionally, a make-up session will be organized to accommodate any newly elected officials who were unable to attend their designated orientation.

Through these efforts, ASC continues to uphold its commitment to strengthening local governance and ensuring that every chapter official is well-prepared to lead their communities with confidence and expertise.

Thank you, ASC Staff!

Dilkon ASC

Eunice Begay, SPPS
Toni Mina, ASO
Jennifer Ruskin, OS

Fort Defiance ASC

Patricia Begay, SPPS
Derek Echohawk, ASO
Laci Begay, OS

Tuba City ASC

Milford Maloney, SPPS
Kristen Charley, ASO

Thank you, Sponsors!



Indian Wells Chapter



Final Inspection of Phase II Marks Milestone for 65,000 SF Manufacturing Facility



Inspection Day for Phase 2 with President Nygren

The 65,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, managed by the Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) contractor Navajo Engineering Construction Authority (NECA), has reached a major milestone with the final inspection of Phase II on February 27, 2025. This project is groundbreaking for NECA as it represents the company's first vertical construction venture and marks the first CMAR contract undertaken by Project Development, a method designed to minimize change orders while placing full project risk on the contractor.

Phase II of the construction will be completed on March 6, 2025, with efforts underway to secure additional funding for Phase III. The facility has been backed by multiple funding sources, including a \$14 million contribution from the Navajo Nation Council's Sihasin Fund, \$5 million from the Department of Economic Development (DED) Sales Tax Fund, a \$2 million allocation from the New Mexico Capital Outlay Appropriation, and approximately \$150,000 from Project Development's operating budget.

The project has created significant employment opportunities. NECA has provided jobs for 19 construction workers, while Eagle Flight Development, LLC, Indigenous Design Studio +Architecture, and Murphy Brothers Construction have also contributed to the project's workforce. Eagle Flight Development continues to serve as the Department's on-site construction representative, ensuring quality and progress.

As planning for Phase III advances, the Department has engaged Sagebrush Hill Group, LLC, to assist in securing New Markets Tax Credits, funded through the DED Sales Tax Fund. The tax credit application is currently under review by the Department of Justice. Furthermore, a \$17 million funding request has been submitted to the New Mexico Finance Authority, and an additional \$2 million has been requested from the New Mexico Legislature and the Governor's Capital Outlay for the 2025 Legislative Session.

In parallel, Rock Armor Health, a subsidiary of Red Rock Unlimited based in Church Rock, NM, has shown interest in utilizing the facility. Their management team visited the site in December 2024 to assess its potential for future operations.

With Phase II construction completed and



plans for the next phase in motion, the project continues to drive economic development and job creation within the Navajo Nation. As it nears full completion, this manufacturing facility promises to be a key asset in fostering local industry growth and sustainability.



Housing Improvement Program

Hooghan háádadilne'go da'iniísh

HIP Program Team Update

The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) continues to make progress with the BIA/ARPA funding received in 2021. After navigating extensive financial documentation processes, the program is now successfully delivering manufactured homes to the first thirty (30) selected applicants.

To date, HIP has delivered homes to nine (9) applicants across the reservation, beginning with communities in Kayenta, Coyote Canyon, Kinlichee, Sweetwater, Red Valley, Steamboat, Shonto, Mexican Springs, and Naschitti. These

homes provide much-needed safe and comfortable housing for individuals and families who previously lived in substandard conditions.

Recently, Philip Begay, a new homeowner in Kinlichee, received the keys to his manufactured home from Program Manager Rita Begay. This milestone highlights the continued success of the HIP program in providing quality housing to those in need. The dedication of the HIP team ensures that more families will soon experience the security and comfort of a new home

This initiative is part of a larger effort to improve housing conditions for Navajo families in need. Through continued teamwork and support, HIP is making a lasting impact, one home at a time.



Housing Improvement Program

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

FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY
Housing Improvement Program
Bldg# 8229 Field House Road
Google maps location
PWPJ+2P
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504
Phone No.# (928) 729-4017
Fax No.# (928) 729-4277

CHINLE AGENCY
Bldg #2492 SW of Chapter
House
Google maps location
5C3Q+8W
Chinle, Arizona 86503
Phone No.# (928) 674-2260
Fax No.# (928) 674-2266

EASTERN AGENCY
Google maps location
MVM2+83
Crownpoint, New Mexico

HIP Con't

A New Home for Thomas Tulley: A Fresh Start in Coyote Canyon

Coyote Canyon, NM – A heartwarming moment unfolded as Thomas Tulley, a resident of Coyote Canyon, received the keys to his brand-new home. After years of living in a small, deteriorating structure, Tulley now has a safe and comfortable place to call home, thanks to the efforts of community housing initiatives.

The transformation is nothing short of remarkable. The first image to the right shows Tulley's previous home, a modest structure that had served as his shelter. The third image showcases his brand-new home, built through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), providing modern amenities and a much-improved living environment.

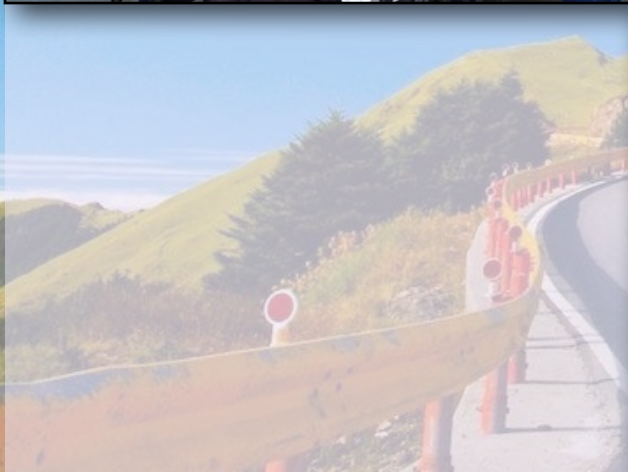
Inside the newly completed home, Thomas Tulley sat in his wheelchair, beaming with joy as he received the keys.



Standing alongside him were Irvin Shorty, the Construction Supervisor, his granddaughter, and the Program Manager Rita Begay. Their collective efforts and dedication made this moment possible, symbolizing the power of community support and perseverance.

This project is part of a broader effort to improve housing conditions for elders and families in rural communities. With proper insulation, heating, and modern conveniences, Tulley's new home ensures he can live comfortably and with dignity.

The success of this project is a testament to what can be achieved when communities come together. Congratulations to Thomas Tulley on his new home!



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsos Bídadiiljeehi

Kentucky football's new left tackle hopes to set example for other Native American athletes



New Mexico State transfer Shiyazh Pete is expected to start at left tackle for Kentucky in 2025. (Photo by Herald-Examiner/Inouillard@herald-examiner.com)

By Jon Hale
February 26, 2025 7:00 AM

In 12 seasons as Kentucky's football coach, Mark Stoops has received no shortage of labels.

As the longest-tenured active coach in the SEC, Stoops has been lauded for his ability to build Kentucky from 2-10 in his first season to eight straight bowl berths, including two 10-win seasons. The labels have been less kind in recent months as a growing number of vocal critics point to a downturn in the team's play over the last three seasons that culminated with a 4-8 record in 2024.

But it's unlikely Stoops has been described by either his supporters or critics in the same way his new left tackle

explained the allure of the Wildcats' coach at the team's newcomer media event this week.

"Coach Stoops is a statesman," New Mexico State transfer Shiyazh Pete said. "He's a very genuine man. And I placed a lot of my trust into him in my final decision."

A statesman?

"He's super honest, and he means what he says," Pete said. "And I like that about him."

Pete's endorsement might say as much

about Kentucky's newest offensive lineman as it does about its coach.

In his first interview session with local reporters since enrolling at UK in January, Pete's tendency to consider a question and craft a well-worded response rather than quickly parroting a PR-crafted talking point was evident.

While the move from New Mexico State to Kentucky brings a much brighter spotlight for Pete, he is used to speaking about more than football as one of the highest profile Native American athletes in the country.

"It's a deep honor," Pete said. "I love what I do, and I do it for my community, for the youth, to give them a beacon of hope that there's a way out of it, there's a way up, there's a

way to create and turn defeat into victory. And I'm proud to be on the frontier of that and to define it."

Pete is a member of the Navajo and Salish nations. He spent time in Montana, Arizona and New Mexico and did not start playing football until his sophomore year of high school.

Due in part to a lack of resources to promote Native American athletes on his reservation, Pete struggled to drum up recruiting interest, his father told the Navajo Times in 2023. He eventually landed at New Mexico State as a walk-on.

Over the next four years, Pete would add muscle to his 6-foot-8 frame and earn a starting job. Kentucky now lists him at 321 pounds after signing him to replace Marques Cox as the Wildcats' starting left tackle.

"It was down to the wire, to say the least," Stoops said of Pete's recruitment. "He is a deep thinker. ... Really remarkable young man. He has been through an awful lot, and he is a great success story."

Pete's original plan was to remain at New Mexico State for his final season of eligibility, but when his offensive line coach, Andrew Mitchell, left New Mexico State for a job at Oklahoma State, Pete decided to consider his options. When Pete entered the transfer portal, speculation about his future destination quickly focused on Vanderbilt, where former New Mexico State head coach Jerry Kill was now on staff and a number of former Lobos players, including quarterback Diego Pavia, were on the roster.

But Pete was deliberate in his recruiting process. Initial reports suggested he did not plan to enroll at a new school until the summer, but Kentucky was able to convince him to fill out the necessary paperwork on the day of the deadline to enroll for the spring semester.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4kfnr1l>

2 high school students receive Navajo Nation Bilingual Seal of Proficiency

Scott Brown
Sun, February 23, 2025 at 5:38 PM MST

NEW MEXICO (KRQE) - Two high school students from New Mexico have earned a very special award for their comprehension of the Navajo language. The official award is the Navajo Nation Bilingual Seal of Proficiency.

New technology aims to tackle agricultural water issues on the Navajo Nation

Officials say that learning a new language begins with comprehension of the language itself. Isaac Merritt, a senior from Shiprock, was honored for his understanding

of Diné. Kaydence Yazzie, a senior at Kirtland Central High School, sang the national anthem in her native language.

Officials said that Kaydence and Isaac illustrate the dedication and talent it takes to achieve bilingual proficiency. Two students from Albuquerque Public Schools also recently won the award.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4ikQ3ce>



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

Yéigo: Diné language AR app for walker and posture training in Native communities wins two MIT awards

By Navajo Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Team Yeigo won the MIT Reality Hack 2025 with its groundbreaking augmented reality-powered mobility aid, designed to help users properly adjust and use walkers to prevent injuries.

With 55 percent of walkers set at the wrong height and 47,000 mobility aid-related injuries annually, Yeigo is bridging the gap in preventative care by using Snapchat Spectacles and smartphone sensors to track posture and ensure proper fit.

Out of over 450 talented attendees, Yeigo was awarded the MIT Reality Hack Gold Prize (1st place) and the MIT Reality Hack Founder's Lab Grand Prize.

Yeigo, is the Diné word for "keep going," Yeigo team member Akilah Martinez's language. The project also addresses broader health care inequities, particularly for Native communities. Martinez, who took care of her másání in hospice, immediately saw the Yeigo mobility aid as a tool that could have benefitted her grandmother.

Yéigo: Diné language AR app for walker and posture training in Native communities wins two MIT awards

Yeigo was inspired by the team's family members who struggled to find properly fitted mobility aids. The tool uses AR technology to measure the correct fit when transitioning to mobility aids like walkers or canes. The tool helps set one's walker height and detect common risks – like bending too far forward – while guiding users to safer movement patterns.

Winning MIT Reality Hack, the premier global competition for AR/VR innovation, solidifies Yeigo's potential in the growing market for preventative health and posture technology, especially with the inclusion of Native communities.

The 2025 Reality Hack at MIT further highlights Native American voices in XR by bringing Martinez back for the second year in a row to present a workshop at the monumental hackathon. Martinez, aka "Glittering World Girl," was joined by Paige Dansinger, the founder of Better World Museum, and Krystal Curley, the



Courtesy | Sean Chee

Members of the Yeigo team look up during the MIT Reality Hack 2025.

founding executive director of Indigenous Lifeways, to discuss "Using your cosmic voice of activation: Socially responsible storytelling" and "XR for interdimensional rebirth" during the MIT conference on day one of the hackathon.

As a creative technologist, Martinez reimagines the development of circular Native economies in the XR industry, creating ownership of storytelling to empower the community, coupled with how Native communities can use XR to revitalize language and culture.

"Yeigo's project marks a major shift in how Extended Reality can serve the public," said Patrick Burton, the Benvision CEO and Yeigo team member. "They took the Snapchat Spectacles, a product marketed toward younger generations for games and entertainment, and found a way to use it to solve problems for demographics who may never have been interested in or even heard of a product like that.

"It was an honor to have mentored this trailblazing team and provided them insights from my own journey leveraging the same technology to help blind people navigate, and I am happy to see their innovation rightfully recognized by the MIT Reality Hack judges."

Founders Lab Advisor Karen W. Lam said, "Team

Yeigo embodied the true spirit of innovation—turning a deeply personal insight into a scalable solution. What started as a mission to ensure proper mobility aid fittings evolved into a technology with the potential to benefit a much larger market, from individuals with mobility challenges to those struggling with poor posture.

"Their commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and addressing the needs of underserved communities exemplifies how human-centered technology drives real progress."

Martinez added, "As a creative technologist working in the Indigenous language and culture field, I am extremely excited (about) how XR technology can help Indigenous communities leapfrog into a more equitable world that is inclusive of our storytelling, epistemology, and communities.

"By winning two grand prizes at the 2025 MIT Reality Hack while implementing Diné Bizaad into Yeigo through the use of Snap Spectacles, we see how the XR community aims to use XR for social good."

Read More: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3h8kmb>

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bidadiljjeehí

Permanent internet now serving Low Mountain

Feb 11, 2025

Permanent internet access is now available for community members in Low Mountain, Arizona, and students at Jeehdeez'a Elementary School. This milestone bridges the digital divide—connecting families, students and businesses to new opportunities.

Funded through CARES Act funds from the previous Trump Administration, this project took four years to complete. Delays in funding and the COVID-19 pandemic forced the community to rely on temporary solutions like Cells On Wheels (COW), which only connected 40 people at a time.

Now, with advanced technology installed by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) and NTUA Wireless, the Jeehdeez'a Broadband Tower serves approximately 200 people using Tarana technology—cutting-edge wireless broadband that provides fast, reliable, and scalable connectivity. This ensures the people of Low Mountain are no longer left behind in the digital world.

"While the community celebrates, they have also



President Buu Nygren and Speaker Crystalyne Curley attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Jeehdeez'a Broadband Tower in Low Mountain, Feb. 10. (Photo/OPVP)

raised concerns about the poor condition of Indian Route 8059," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "Speaker Crystalyne Curley and I heard them. I have pledged to work with my team and the Navajo

Nation Council to explore investments in infrastructure, leveraging \$1 billion of our own funds to strengthen our economy and build a better future.

Navajo high school teacher brings knowledge of ocean to New Mexican desert

Story by Melissa Torres

NAVAJO NATION (KRQE) – A Navajo high school teacher is bringing the ocean to the New Mexico desert.

Kim Etsitty is a science teacher at a school north of Gallup and one of a just few a people chosen for a prestigious fellowship, studying the ocean floor. For months she's been sharing what she's learned with her students.

"I think one thing that we forget as educators is sharing the natural world as our first classroom too," said Kim Etsitty, a Navajo Pine High School science teacher.

As an Indigenous woman, she makes sure to incorporate Navajo teachings into her lessons. "There's a lot of real rich knowledge that is there that we don't really incorporate in Western science. So I think a lot of that has really pushed me to tell those stories, to make science more meaningful," continued Etsitty.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/41y3GPC>



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS
Naanish ʔaʔ'idaat'ehigíí

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/5/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Torreón, NM	\$31,257.36	3/6/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/6/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/7/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/6/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Indian Wells, AZ	\$44,098.56	3/6/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$31,257.36	3/18/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/13/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$31,257.36	3/13/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Blue Gap, NM	\$31,257.36	3/19/2025

(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
<https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Comic of the Month
Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashoh'ʔaʔ'

Quote of the Month
Saad Bʔaʔ Nitsáhakeesigíí



Trends in Veteran Disability Status and Service-Connected Disability: 2008-2022

November 06, 2024

Written by:

Jonathan Vespa and Caitlin Carter

Report Number: ACS-58

This report investigates disability among veterans of the U.S. armed forces and how they compare to the broader nonveteran population. It focuses on disability rates among post-9/11 veterans, that is, those who have served since September 2001. Post-9/11 veterans are the youngest cohort of veterans and more recently have been at the forefront of veteran public health research.

This report uses annual data from the American Community Survey (ACS), 2008 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022. The Census Bureau did not release its standard 2020 ACS 1-year estimates because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, so data from 2020 were not included in this analysis.

Following an earlier report, it looks at the prevalence of service-connected disabilities (SCD) among veterans as well as ACS-defined disabilities among both the veteran and nonveteran population. Last, the report uses statistical regression analysis to examine whether veterans have become increasingly likely to report an SCD or ACS disability over time, while accounting for differences in the demographic and socioeconomic composition of the veteran population.

REPORT AVAILABLE AT: <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/acs-58.pdf>

Trends in Veteran Disability Status and Service-Connected Disability: 2008-2022
American Community Survey Reports

By Jonathan Vespa and Caitlin Carter
ACS-58
November 2024

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, over 13 percent of the U.S. population had a disability.¹ People with disabilities are more likely to face challenges, such as limited access to health care services and experience poorer health outcomes.² They are also more likely to face economic challenges such as unemployment and are at a higher risk of living in poverty.³ Understanding the prevalence of disability and the communities it affects is pivotal to addressing these economic and public health disparities.

Within the population of people with disabilities, veterans represent an important group, especially in terms of public health and public policy. In 2022, of the 16.2 million American veterans in the United States, about 5.4 million received compensation benefits because of a service-connected disability.⁴ In total, more than \$12 billion was spent in 2022 on veterans' disability compensation benefits.⁵

Compared with people who never served in the U.S. armed forces, veterans are more likely to have a disability.⁶ In large part, veterans have higher disability rates because they are older than the population in general (about one-half of veterans are aged 65 and over). Higher disability rates also stem from service-related injuries, as well as the physical and psychological demands of military service. As the veteran population ages and faces further age-related health issues, examining the prevalence of disability is crucial to delivering the benefits and services that veterans need.

This report investigates disability among veterans of the U.S. armed forces and how they compare to the broader nonveteran population.⁷ It focuses on disability rates among post-9/11 veterans, i.e., those who have served since September 2001. Post-9/11 veterans are the youngest cohort of veterans and more recently have been at the forefront of veteran public health research. This report uses annual data from the American Community Survey (ACS), 2008 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022. The U.S. Census Bureau did not release its standard 2020 ACS 1-year estimates because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, so data from

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "Table S1810: Disability Characteristics," 2022, <<https://data.census.gov/tables//ACS/17-2022/S1810?tid=1501>>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Health Equity for People With Disabilities," National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disability, 2022, <<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/humandevelopment/health-equity.html>>.

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Persons With a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics Summary, A01 Results," USDL-23-033, 2022, <<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/dsabl.pdf>>; U.S. Census Bureau, "Table B1810: Age by Disability Status by Poverty Status," 2022, <<https://data.census.gov/tables//ACS/17-2022/B1810?tid=1501>>.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, "Table S2101: Veteran Status," 2022, <<https://data.census.gov/tables//ACS/17-2022/S2101?tid=1501>>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Report Fiscal Year 2022," 2022, <<https://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/ab/r/2022-abr.pdf>>.

⁶ J. A. Betancourt et al., "Exploring Health Outcomes for U.S. Veterans Compared to Non-Veterans From 2003 to 2019," *Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland)*, 9(5), May 18, 2021, p. 604, <<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34070023/>>.

⁷ The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this report for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release (Data Management System [DMS] number P-753384). Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY-24-POP001-0078.

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

February 25, 2025

Volume 25 Issue 4

Experimental Data Products

[Household Pulse Survey: Measuring Emergent Social and Economic Matters Facing U.S. Households](#) [Household Pulse Survey: Measuring Emergent Social and Economic Matters Facing U.S. Households](#)

What is the Household Pulse Survey?

As part of the Census Bureau's efforts to ensure these vital data are produced in an efficient, less burdensome manner that enhances their richness for informing policy, the Census Bureau is introducing new methods for conducting the survey. Since early October 2024, HPS content has been incorporated into a longitudinal design. The longitudinal design will benefit HPS data by allowing direct measurement of change over a much longer period of time in critical elements like spending, inflation, and other social and economic indicators of well-being.

In January 2025, the HPS was relaunched as the Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS). The HTOPS will continue the strong tradition of the HPS by rapidly providing insight into national events that have social and economic impacts on U.S. households. It will complement more traditional federal surveys by producing data much closer to real time as the events develop. The HTOPS will begin producing an experimental data product, like the HPS, but the goal is to produce an official data product as the methodology matures.

[Click here](#) to view [Data Tables](#), [Public Use Files](#) and the [Interactive Tool](#).

[Census Bureau Releases Updated Estimates from the National Experimental Well-Being Statistics Project](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau released new findings from its [National Experimental Well-Being Statistics \(NEWS\)](#) project.

NEWS is a research-driven project to improve how the Census Bureau measures income and poverty. NEWS does this by exploring new methods for creating these economic "well-being" indicators by looking back at data collections from previous years, using a wider range of data sources, and applying new advanced analysis techniques.

For [Version 2.0](#), the Census Bureau had access to a more comprehensive set of data sources, including administrative data, to produce pretax income estimates for the vintage year 2018. The expanded set of estimates include:

Money income – Income received on a regular basis (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, social security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. This was the only income measure released in [Version 1.0](#).

[Click here to continue.](#)

[2025 Event Calendar](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2025.

[Archived Back to Data Basics Webinar Series](#)

If you are looking to improve your data skills, Back to Data Basics is a great opportunity to learn from our experts about how to access and utilize a variety of Census Bureau data products, tools, and resources.

[Training Resources](#)

Visit the Census Bureau's [Educational Resource Library](#) for previously recorded, free training available at your convenience. The library includes presentations, recorded webinars, tutorials and other helpful materials.

Upcoming Training

[New Interactive Charts on data.census.gov](#)

Tues Feb 25, 2025
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

A highly requested addition to [data.census.gov](#) is here! Join us on this webinar to explore our newest feature - chart creation, developed in response to user feedback. Learn how to transform data tables into bar, column, and line charts with our intuitive tools. Our step-by-step demonstration will show you how to create compelling visualizations directly on our platform, [data.census.gov](#). Perfect for anyone working with Census data who wants to enhance their visualizations.

[Discovering the American Community Survey 1-Year Supplemental Estimates](#)

Wed Feb 26, 2025
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Join us for a dive into the American Community Survey (ACS) Supplemental Estimates, and why they are important. ACS Supplemental Estimates are simplified versions of popular ACS tables for geographic areas with a population of at least 20,000. This webinar will provide a brief overview of the ACS with a focus on ACS Supplemental Estimates and how they differ from 1-year and 5-year ACS data products. We will also cover when it is best use each data product, and show you how to access ACS Supplemental Estimates.



Upcoming

Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS)

The BTOS measures business conditions on an ongoing basis. The BTOS experimental data products are representative of all employer businesses in the U.S. economy, excluding farms. The data allow greater insight into the state of the economy by providing continuous, timely information for key economic measures. Data are released biweekly and are available by sector, state, employment size and the 25 most populous metropolitan statistical areas.

Nearly All U.S. Counties Had More Homeowners Than Renters Between 2019 and 2023

The number of owner-occupied housing units increased by 8.4%, from 76.4 million in 2014-2018 to 82.9 million in 2019-2023, according to newly released U.S. Census Bureau data.

The 2019-2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates show that more people owned homes than rented in 3,070 of the nation's 3,144 counties and county equivalents between 2019 and 2023.

Additionally, home values increased 21.7% between the 2014-2018 ACS 5-year estimates and the 2019-2023 ACS 5-year estimates, going from a median of \$249,400 to \$303,400 (estimates from 2014-2018 are adjusted for inflation). The counties with some of the largest dollar amount increases were Pitkin County, Colorado (\$758,800 to \$1,131,200); Teton County, Wyoming (\$1,007,200 to \$1,371,900); Dukes County, Massachusetts (\$812,400 to \$1,104,100); San Mateo (\$1,210,100 to \$1,494,500) and Santa Clara (\$1,111,400 to \$1,382,800) counties in California; and Summit County, Utah (\$729,000 to \$1,000,400).

The rise in both homeownership and home values also came with an increase in the number of owner-occupied households without a mortgage, increasing between the two 5-year periods by 3.9 million units, from 36.9% of owned homes in the 2014-2018 ACS estimates to 38.8% in the 2019-2023 ACS estimates.

"The increase in the number of owned homes without a mortgage could partially explain why the median amount of income homeowners spent toward housing costs decreased from 18.3% to 17.5%," said Caroline Short, a survey statistician in the Census Bureau's Housing Statistics Branch. "Housing data also showed that 61.2% of owned homes had a mortgage. Moreover, the median ratio of income to housing costs for mortgaged homes decreased slightly from 21.6% to 20.9%. But the actual median dollar amount of monthly housing cost rose slightly from \$1,897 to \$1,902."

[Click here to continue.](#)

Less Than Half of U.S. Family Households Include Children Under 18

Four in Five Family Households With a Householder Ages 35-39 Included a Child Under 18 in 2024

About 39% of U.S. family households this year included the householder's children under 18, according to new U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

An interactive data visualization, "Family Households by Age of Householder: 2024," uses data from the 2024 Current Population Survey to compare characteristics of family households – such as presence of children, family size, family members under 18 and homeownership – by the age of the householder.

[Click here to view highlights and data visualizations.](#)



Protect Your Email – Safeguard Your Community

A Warning to Navajo Nation Chapters: Keep Your Email Passwords Safe



Did You Know?

Sharing your email password—even with someone you trust—can lead to serious risks for you, your chapter, and the Navajo Nation. Bad actors can exploit shared or stolen passwords to gain unauthorized access, causing harm to your operations and community.



The Dangers of Sharing Passwords

- **Unauthorized Access:** If your password falls into the wrong hands, someone could access your sensitive emails and misuse them.
- **Data Theft:** Critical chapter information could be stolen, exposing financial, operational, and personal data to criminals.
- **Impersonation:** Hackers can use your account to send harmful messages, scams, or misinformation, damaging your reputation and trust.
- **Community Impact:** A breach of one chapter email account could impact the entire chapter's operations and resources.



Real Consequences Include:

- **Financial Loss:** Fraudsters can manipulate email accounts to divert funds or steal donations.
- **Disruption of Services:** Hackers can lock you out of your account, halting critical communication and services.
- **Legal Troubles:** Mishandling sensitive information could result in compliance issues or penalties.



If You Think Your Account Has Been Compromised:

1. Change your password immediately.
2. Notify your chapter leadership and DCD IT support.
3. Review recent activity in your account for suspicious actions.



How to Protect Your Email Account

- **Never Share Your Password:** Your password is for you alone. Sharing it—even with colleagues—creates unnecessary risks.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Create a unique password with a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using personal information like your birthday.
- **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Add an extra layer of protection to your account. 2FA ensures only you can access your email, even if someone knows your password.
- **Watch for Scams:** Don't fall for phishing emails asking for your password or personal information. Legitimate organizations will never ask you for your password.



Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe

- Your email is a gateway to sensitive information. Protect it to protect your chapter and the Navajo Nation.
- For questions or help with email security, contact the Division of Community Development IT or your chapter's tech support, if available.

Together, we can keep our community safe from cyber threats. Don't let your guard down--secure your email today!



Division of
Community
Development

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

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