

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

March 2021

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Did You Know...

The Navajo terms for some common everyday objects were borrowed from Spanish. For example: **coffee**. In Spanish, it is café. In Navajo, gohwééh

Events:

March: Wóózhch'ííd - "First cry of eaglets"

March 14: Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 20: Spring Equinox

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day

April: T'áächil - "Growth of early plants"

April 1: April Fools Day/ Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 begins

April 4: Easter Sunday

April 22: Earth Day

Sawmill Chapter Sanctions Lifted



Sawmill Chapter has endured a long struggle with audit findings since the late 90's. In 1997, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) completed a performance audit of the chapter and issued audit report no. 97-25. In 1999, a follow-up review of the audit recommendations was conducted and Sawmill Chapter issued audit report no. 00-03. To address the audit recommendations that were not implemented, the chapter developed a corrective action plan (CAP) which was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee on May 09, 2000, per resolution BFMY-45-00.

In 2003, the Office of the Auditor General conducted its first CAP follow-up review and determined that Sawmill Chapter did not fully implement its CAP to resolve the audit findings. On October 7, 2003, the Budget and Finance Committee approved sanctions, per resolution BFO-147-03, on Sawmill Chapter for failure to fully implement its CAP.

In 2015, a second follow-up review was conducted by OAG and since no significant improvements were found, they concluded the sanctions would remain in place. In 2016, a third CAP follow-up review was conducted by OAG and the sanctions remained in place since the chapter again did not fully implement its CAP.



The chapter continued to work diligently on implementing its CAP during this time. Finally, on February 26, 2021, the Office of the Auditor General concluded that Sawmill Chapter had reasonably resolved the audit issues from the 1997 audit of the Chapter and lifted the sanctions against the Sawmill Chapter and its Officials. Accordingly, a memorandum will be provided to the Office of the Controller to release all withheld funds in accordance with 12 N.N.C. Section 9.

Congratulations to the Sawmill Chapter Administration team and all individuals who contributed to the hard work of implementing the CAP including: former Chapter Coordinator, Shawn Livingston; Chapter AMS, Ronald Deschinny; Fort Defiance ASC ASO, Derek Echohawk; PEP workers -- Angela Brown, Lisa-Marie Yazza, Wilton Howard, Tyrel Lee, Jammie Billiman, Annarita Begay, Keshuan Williams, Orlando Manuelito, Adrian Benally, Christopher Chee, Alex Johnson, Irvin Dooline, Irvin Watchman, Jared Brown, and Nicolette Begay; and Stacy Manuelito, CFE Senior Auditor, and her team. Support also came from Fort Defiance ASC SPPS Patricia Begay, Sawmill Chapter President Woodie Bennett, Vice-President Lewis Shirley, Council Delegate Wilson Stewart Jr., and Legislative Advisor Timothy Begay.

With the lifting of the sanctions, the chapter and the community now have many more opportunities to grow and expand services including possible LGA certification in the future.

Heavy Equipment Orders Delivered to Five Chapters



ROCK POINT, AZ – It was a cold, windy day but the sun was shining on Rock Point chapter with the delivery of a brand-new backhoe. The delivery is the first of many for the Navajo chapters that submitted requests through the Sihasin heavy equipment legislation, CJA 001-21, passed by the Navajo Nation Council earlier this year for purchases of well-needed heavy equipment. It's the culmination to all the hard work of many people who came together to accomplish this tremendous task. Among those in attendance at the delivery and dedication, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Honorable Council Delegate Carl Slater, Chapter Officials – President Patterson Yazzie, Vice President Janice Lee Jim, and Secretary/Treasurer Nancy J. Harvey with Administrative Service Center staff – Edgerton Gene, Robert Jumbo and Tia Yazzie. Also, in attendance was Elmer Johnson, Heavy Equipment Project Manager for CPMD presiding over the impromptu gathering. While Facebook live was streamed by the Navajo Nation President's office, Honorable Carl Slater expressed appreciation to President Nez and the Division of Community Development for the assistance and willingness to help the local communities. "It is a tool for community empowerment", noted honorable Carl Slater. He explained that the equipment was to be used for septic, cisterns and assisting chapters with burials, and mentioned his appreciation for the chapter staff in recognizing the needs of the chapter community. Rock Point chapter will also receive a motor grader delivery in the coming days to assist with community roads. The moment was a brief but joyous occasion to mark the beginning of many more deliveries to the Navajo Nation chapters as they begin receiving their heavy equipment orders.

March 2021

The second chapter to receive their heavy equipment delivery, a Skid Steer, was Toohaltsooi Chapter during the first snow storm of spring 2021. In attendance were Mr. David Valdez, 4Rivers equipment; Elmer Johnson, CPMD; Kevin Begay, CSC and chapter PEP Workers.



Cove chapter was next and they received three pieces of heavy equipment: a motor grader, a backhoe and a skid steer. Notably in attendance at the dedication ceremony on Thursday, March 25, were: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez; Honorable Council Delegate Amber K. Crotty; Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, DCD; and Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler, Division of Human Resources. The event was also live streamed on Facebook Live.

Cove Chapter President James Benally very graciously expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in helping the chapter with the paperwork particularly Margaret Begay, CPMD, and Cove Chapter personnel: Lorraine Johnson-Roy, Chapter Manager, and Lorinda Cadman, Administrative Assistant. During her remarks, Dr. Pearl Yellowman expressed, "Whatever you build today will feed your grandchildren in the future and that's what we want for this equipment. That's how we add value to it. That's how we extend the life and use of this heavy equipment. It expands the capacity of your nation, tribe and local community."

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The communities of Littlewater and Casamero Lake each received a backhoe on Friday March 26th, 2021. In attendance at Littlewater for the dedication and blessing included: James Adakai, CPMD Dept. Manager; Thomas Barbone, President; Ernest Yazzie, Vice President; June Barbone, Secretary/Treasurer; Elmer Johnson, Heavy Equipment CPMD Project Manager; and Mr. David Valdez, 4Rivers Equipment.



Other CPMD staff also joined George Tolth, Casamero Lake President and his chapter staff to witness the delivery of Casamero Lake's backhoe that same day. It was an eventful week for all chapters involved and congratulations to all of the communities.

Rock Point Facebook Livestream <https://fb.watch/4x1vp4Fj56/>

Cove Facebook Livestream during town hall: <https://fb.watch/4x1sNOYsgn/a>

ASC Completes Chapter Supply Distribution Operation



The Administrative Services Center (ASC) Department has completed the CARES Act Chapter Supply Distribution which started on December 28, 2020 and finished on March 31, 2021. The three-month long COVID-19 Emergency Response distribution operation led by the Division of Community Development (DCD) has come to an end.

Overall Operation Numbers:

- Over 380+ truckloads of goods received at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds tent and Gamerco BIA warehouse
- Over 9,060+ pallets of goods received from the National supply chain
- Over 565+ truckloads of goods delivered to the Chapters
- Over 9,465+ pallets of goods delivered to all 110 Chapters

At the end of the operation, extra supplies were sent to the 3 satellite Chapters: Alamo, Tohajilee, and Ramah. DCD Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman, extends appreciation and recognition to the ASC staff and warehouse staff that worked diligently during this operation to make sure Chapter communities received much needed supplies. Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager, stated, "We gained knowledge and experience in emergency supply logistics planning, staging and points of distribution in logistics operations. Our ASC managers and key staff have been on duty since the start of the Navajo Nation government closure on March 16, 2020 and I am grateful for their dedication and commitment during this pandemic."

One big take away and need identified by this Emergency Operation was the need for forklifts and delivery trucks to reach all 110 Chapters across the Navajo Nation. DCD is thankful for the partnership with CTI and other organizations that provided trucks and forklifts to the overall operation from the beginning to the end. DCD and ASC intend to request additional training and technical assistance in Emergency Management systems, response, and recovery for all 110 Chapters.



Navajo Nation anticipates \$14.9 million in Capital Outlay Funds from the State of New Mexico

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer extend their appreciation to the New Mexico State Legislature and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham for working together with the Navajo Nation in support of House Bill 285, which was approved recently by New Mexico lawmakers. If signed into law, the measure would provide approximately \$14.9 million in Capital Outlay Funds for Navajo chapters located in the state of New Mexico.

“On behalf of our communities in the state of New Mexico, I extend my appreciation and gratitude to the New Mexico State Legislature for supporting these much-needed projects and initiatives. I also thank the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and all of the Chapter officials for their advocacy and support during the recent state legislative session. We know there are many needs throughout the state that require funding and it is no different here on the Navajo Nation. We thank Gov. Lujan Grisham for all of her support on many issues throughout the legislative session and we respectfully ask her to sign H.B. 285 into law to provide additional funds,” said President Nez.

Throughout the New Mexico State Legislature’s 60-day session, President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council met virtually with state lawmakers on several occasions to advocate for the approval of Capital Outlay Funds.

“When we work together, we accomplish great things for our Navajo people. The Office of the President and Vice President advocated strongly for the Capital Outlay Funds as well as reauthorizations for chapters. We are eager to continue working together to complete more projects that will bring long-term benefits for Navajo families and our communities,” stated Vice President Lizer.

In addition, the New Mexico State Legislature reauthorized a total of 21 capital outlay projects from previous years for the Navajo Nation. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has until April 9 to consider House Bill 285. The \$14.9 million project listing for the Navajo Nation includes the following:

NAVAJO NATION CAPITAL OUTLAY 2021

New Mexico Legislature HB 285

County: Bernalillo

1655	TOHAJIILEE CHP WATERLINE CONSTRUCT	\$200,000		GF
1655	TOHAJIILEE CHP WATERLINE CONSTRUCT	\$192,000		STB

County: Cibola

705	RAMAH CHP CEMETERY CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Ramah Chapter	STB
704	RAMAH CHP VEH PRCHS	\$150,000	Ramah Chapter	STB

County: McKinley

1546	BAAHAALI CHP ACCESS ROAD DES	\$100,000	Baahaali Chapter	GF
1540	BAAHAALI CHP HOUSE IMPROVE	\$250,000	Baahaali Chapter	STB
923	BACA CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Baca/Prewitt Chapter	GF
923	BACA CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$175,000	Baca/Prewitt Chapter	STB
2761	BAHASTLAH CHP WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Twin Lakes Chapter	GF
1083	CASAMERO LAKE CHP BATHRM ADDITIONS EXPAND	\$100,000	Casamero Lake Chapte GF	
1080	CASAMERO LAKE CHP CMTY CEMETERY UPGRADE	\$40,000	Casamero Lake Chapte STB	
1206	CHICHILTAH CHP FENCE CONSTRUCT	\$57,000	Chichiltah Chapter	STB
1001	CHICHILTAH CHP WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCT	\$500,000	Chichiltah Chapter	STB
1120	CHICHILTAH CHP WWATER SYSTEM CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Chichiltah Chapter	STB
2669	CHURCH ROCK BATHROOM ADDITIONS CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Church Rock	GF
1915	CHURCH ROCK CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Church Rock Chapter	STB
1553	COYOTE CANYON CHP WATERLINES EXTEND	\$150,000	Coyote Canyon Chapte	STB
1023	CROWNPOINT CHP CEMETERY CONSTRUCT	\$181,000	Crownpoint Chapter	STB
1804	CROWNPOINT CHP RODEO GROUNDS IMPROVE	\$100,000	Crownpoint Chapter	STB
955	CRYSTAL CHP GREEN KNOLL SPLIT MESA WATER SYS CONS	\$200,000	Crystal Chapter	GF
956	CRYSTAL CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$150,000	Crystal Chapter	STB
1563	IYANBITO CHP HOUSE FENCE CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Iyanbito Chapter	STB

1563	IYANBITO CHP HOUSE FENCE CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Iyanbito Chapter	STB
1666	LITTLE WATER CHP FIBER OPTICS INSTALL	\$50,000	Little Water Chapter	STB
691	MANUELITO CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$150,000	Manuelito Chapter	STB
688	MANUELITO CHP POWERLINE CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Manuelito Chapter	STB
2671	MARIANO LAKE TOP MESA & HOSTA BUTTE POWER EXTEND	\$300,000		STB
925	MEXICAN SPRINGS CHP ADMIN BLDG CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Mexican Springs Chapt	STB
1150	NAHODISHGISH CHP BATHRM ADDITION CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Nahodishgish Chapter	GF
1150	NAHODISHGISH CHP BATHRM ADDITION CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	Nahodishgish Chapter	STB
4150	NAVAJO TECH UNIV CLASSROOM HVAC IMPROVE	\$400,000	Crownpoint	STB
811	OJO ENCINO CHP HEAVY EQUIP PRCHS	\$25,000	Ojo Encino Chapter	STB
822	OJO ENCINO CHP HOUSE REN	\$125,000	Ojo Encino Chapter	STB
1679	PINE DRIVE DES PINEDALE CHP	\$50,000	Pinedale Chapter	STB
1687	PINEDALE CHP CMTY CEMETERY CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	Pinedale Chapter	STB
1872	PUEBLO PINTADO CHP BUZZARD CANYON POWERLINE CONS	\$20,000	Pueblo Pintado Chapte	STB
2661	PUEBLO PINTADO SEWER LAGOON CONSTRUCT	\$100,000		GF
872	RED LAKE CHP STREETS CONSTRUCT	\$125,000	Red Lake Chapter	STB
1817	RED ROCK CHP ADMIN PKG LOT CONSTRUCT	\$150,000	Red Rock Chapter	STB
1517	RED ROCK CHP HOUSE CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Red Rock Chapter	STB
1834	ROCK SPRINGS CHP MULTIPURPOSE BLDG CONSTRUCT	\$200,000	Rock Springs Chapter	STB
2676	SMITH LAKE CHP COMMUNITY POWERLINE EXTEND	\$150,000		GF
1887	SMITH LAKE CHP HEAVY EQUIP REPAIR SHOP CONSTRUCT	\$125,000	Smith Lake Chapter	STB
2680	THOREAU CHP REGIONAL SCADA SYS CONSTRUCT	\$200,000		GF
1768	THOREAU CHP VETERANS SERVICE CTR CONSTRUCT	\$300,000	Thoreau Chapter	STB
1177	TOHATCHI CHP LEACH FIELD RPLC	\$80,000	Tohatchi Chapter	STB
1850	TOHATCHI CHP PUB SAFETY COMPLEX CONSTRUCT	\$50,000	Tohatchi Chapter	GF
1850	TOHATCHI CHP PUB SAFETY COMPLEX CONSTRUCT	\$1,000,000	Tohatchi Chapter	STB
797	TSA-YA-TOH CHP POWERLINE EXT & CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Tsa-Ya-Toh Chapter	GF
797	TSA-YA-TOH CHP POWERLINE EXT & CONSTRUCT	\$50,000	Tsa-Ya-Toh Chapter	STB
1828	TSAYATOH CHP SCATTERED POWERLINE EXT CONSTRUCT	\$300,000	Tsa-Ya-Toh Chapter	STB
2722	TSE'II'AAHI' CHAPTER POWERLINES CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	Tse'ii'ahi Chapter	GF
1856	TSE'II'AAHI' CHP WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCT	\$175,000	Tse'ii'ahi Chapter	STB
1844	TWIN LAKES CHP HOUSE DEMOLISH	\$100,000	Twin Lakes Chapter	STB
1847	TWIN LAKES CHP VETERANS' CTR CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Twin Lakes Chapter	STB
1740	WHITEHORSE LAKE CHP BATHROOM ADDITION CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Whitehorse Lake Chapt	GF
1740	WHITEHORSE LAKE CHP BATHROOM ADDITION CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Whitehorse Lake Chapt	STB

County: Multiple Co

1728	LITTLE WATER CHP RGNL BEACON BISTI WATER SYS CONSTR	\$26,200		GF
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County: San Juan

1459	BECLABITO CHP HELIPAD ACCESS RD IMPROVE	\$100,000	Beclabito Chapter	STB
1432	BECLABITO CHP HELIPAD CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Beclabito Chapter	STB
1648	DINE COLLEGE N SHIPROCK CAMPUS GYM HVAC RPLC	\$325,000	Shiprock	STB
4089	DINE COLLEGE SHIPROCK AGR MLTPRPS CTR IMPROVE	\$1,100,000	Shiprock	STB
4090	DINE COLLEGE SHIPROCK CAMPUS FIRE LANE CONSTRUCT	\$700,000	Shiprock	STB
945	GADII'AAHI/TO'KOI CHP ADMIN CMLX CONSTRUCT	\$120,000	Gadii'ahi Chapter	STB
951	GADII'AAHI/TO'KOI CHP SENIOR CTR CONSTRUCT	\$150,000	Gadii'ahi Chapter	STB
1855	HUERFANO CHP ADOBE POWERLINE CONSTRUCT	\$125,000	Huerfano Chapter	STB
1858	HUERFANO CHP CARSON N WATERLINES/BATHRMS CONSTRU	\$50,000	Huerfano Chapter	STB
1754	HUERFANO CHP WATER SYS IMPROVE	\$200,000	Huerfano Chapter	GF
1738	LAKE VALLEY CHP WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCT	\$175,000	Lake Valley Chapter	STB
2728	LAKE VALLEY CHP WATER SYS IMPROVE	\$157,000	Lake Valley Chapter	GF
991	NAVAJO RT 367 IMPROVE UPPER FRUITLAND CHP	\$100,000	Upper Fruitland Chapte	STB
1661	NAVAJO RT 5001/US 491 LIGHT CONSTRUCT NEWCOMB CHP	\$150,000	Newcomb Chapter	STB
1639	RED VALLEY CHP BATHRM ADDITIONS CONSTRUCT	\$100,000	Red Valley Chapter	STB
1836	SHIPROCK CHP SENIOR CENTER PKG LOT IMPROVE	\$100,000	Shiprock Chapter	STB
1173	SHIPROCK INDUSTRIAL PK ST LIGHTS IMPROVE	\$100,000	Shiprock	STB
2726	SHIPROCK JUDICIAL COMPLEX	\$500,000	Shiprock	STB
433	SHIPROCK MLTPRPS VETERANS CTR CONSTRUCT	\$39,000	Shiprock	STB
1518	T'IISTOH SIKAAD CHP BATHRM CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	T'iistoh Sikaad Chapter	STB
1045	TOOH HALTSOOI CHP NM HWY 134/US HWY 134 RD IMPROVE	\$80,000	Tooh Haltsooi Chapter	STB
1864	TSE ALNAOZTII' CHP WATERLINES/BATHRM CONSTRUCT	\$115,000	Sanostee Chapter	STB
1644	TSE'DAA'KAAN CHP FARM EQUIP PRCHS	\$45,000	Tse'Daa'Kaan Chapter	STB
1658	TSE'DAA'KAAN CHP SERVICE CTR PLAN	\$100,000	Tse'Daa'Kaan Chapter	STB
1633	TWO GREY HILLS CHP SCATTERED POWERLINE EXTEND PH 1	\$50,000	Two Grey Hills Chapter	STB
996	UPPER FRUITLAND CHP CMTY CEMETERY CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	Upper Fruitland Chapte	STB
2718	WHITE ROCK CHAP POWERLINE EXTEND	\$150,000	White Rock Chapter	GF
1686	WHITE ROCK CHP MLTPRPS BLDG CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	White Rock Chapter	STB

County: Sandoval

1249	COUNSELOR CHP CEMETERY CONSTRUCT	\$100,000		STB
1475	TORREON-STAR LAKE CHP CMTY LIB CONSTRUCT	\$300,000	Torreon Chapter	STB

County: Socorro

1922	ALAMO CHP STRG & DISTRIB BLDG CONSTRUCT	\$75,000	Alamo Chapter	STB
2764	ALAMO CHP WATER WELLS CONSTRUCT	\$150,000		GF

TOTAL APPROPRIATION: \$14,902,200

READ MORE at <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Mar/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Navajo%20Nation%20anticipates%2014%209%20million%20in%20Capital%20Outlay%20Funds%20from%20the%20State%20of%20New%20Mexico.pdf>

Native American communities take the lead on vaccinations after facing staggering rates of COVID-19

The pandemic's impacts will be felt for generations.



By Kat Eschner, March 19, 2021

Some American Indian tribes across the country have been more successful with their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns than many US states, but there's still a long way to go. A recent infusion of cash from the American Rescue Plan, which came into effect last week, will help immeasurably, says Thomas Sequist, a member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe and chief patient experience and equity officer at Mass General Brigham in Boston. But the pandemic's unequal impacts on Native Americans will be felt for generations to come.

Native American tribes are sovereign, which has allowed them to be much more nimble in organizing their vaccine rollouts to address community needs and concerns, CNN reports. But settler governments at the federal and state level have used that very sovereignty to deny Native American communities access to much-needed resources—for infrastructural improvements and equal access to the same opportunities for leveraging land and natural resources afforded to other communities across the country. At the same time, critics say the US has failed in its treaty obligations to provide healthcare to Native Americans.

This put Native American communities at a serious disadvantage coming into the pandemic. COVID-19 death and infection rates in this relatively small population were significantly higher than those of the general public. Analysis of COVID-19 deaths by race by APM Research Lab found that Native Americans have the highest death rate in the country: When adjusting for age, American Indians are 2.2 times more likely to have died from COVID than white and Asian Americans.

Many of the people who died were elders that carried irreplaceable knowledge. Lila Kills in Sight, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, told NPR in February that she lost her 81-year-old mother to COVID-19 after having to take the older woman to the hospital following a painful fall. Now, she said, "I walk in the door and I don't have nobody greeting me, nobody to talk to in Lakota. ... We've lost so many elders, a lot of Lakota speakers and what they took with them, we're never going to get back."

Some of the hardest-hit communities in the country were on reservations, such as the Navajo Nation—whose land touches Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah—which lost more than 1,200 people and saw nearly 30,000 COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began.

Now, the Navajo Nation is one of the places leading the country in vaccination rates. But the pandemic still isn't over, and communities are reckoning with catastrophic losses. "It's easy to sort of forget about these communities, but they have been extraordinarily traumatized by this experience," Sequist says.

While the allocation of vaccines for those living on reservations is "encouraging," for urban Indians—a population of approximately 3 million people spread out across the country—getting vaccinated may not be so simple, according to Nicole Lurie, a strategic advisor at the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and the former Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Department of Health and Human Services. "Most Native Americans do not live on reservations," she says, and their experiences with health systems may not be positive.

"[The allocation] doesn't mean that people are taken care of, and I think that's a really important thing to remember," Lurie says. Research shows urban Indians deal with health disparities at a parallel or even higher frequency to those who live on reservations.

The recently-enacted American Rescue Plan includes total appropriations of nearly \$6.1 billion for targeted COVID-19 relief through both the federal Indian Health Service agency and services geared towards urban Indians.

"This will be an incredible funding source to address the COVID pandemic by providing resources to track disease, develop a public health response, administer vaccines, and make investments in core infrastructure such as telehealth," Sequist said in an email. But it's also just the beginning, he says. "We need long-term solutions."

READ MORE AT: <https://www.popsci.com/story/health/covid-native-american-vaccination/>

\$24 million in new heavy equipment begins to arrive at chapters



ROCK POINT, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Council Delegate Carl Slater joined Rock Point Chapter officials on Monday, as the community celebrated the very first delivery of new heavy equipment for chapters on the Navajo Nation, using \$24 million in funding that was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council and signed into law by President Nez and Vice President Lizer on Jan. 30, 2021. More heavy equipment is scheduled to be delivered to many more chapters on the Navajo Nation in the following days and weeks to help meet local community needs.

“The new heavy equipment empowers chapters to fulfill many local needs for our Navajo people. With the purchase of the new equipment including graders, backhoes, utility vehicles, flatbeds, and more, also comes more responsibility for chapters to maintain and care for the equipment and to ensure that elders, disabled, and those in great need benefit. As Navajo people, we have overcome many challenges to be where we are today, and I will continue to support our chapters as they work to provide direct support to our Navajo people. I thank the 24th Navajo Nation Council, all chapters, Division of Community Development, Office of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, Risk Management, and many others who collaborated to put together the legislation and expedite the purchase of the new equipment,” said President Nez.

Rock Point Chapter President Patterson Yazzie, Vice President Janice Lee Jim, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Harvey, Farm Board Member Bobby Yazzie, and Community Services Coordinator Charlene Kirk were in attendance as the Rock Point community received a new backhoe on Monday.

Council Delegate Carl Slater, who represents Rock Point as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, thanked his Council colleagues, President Nez, and the Rock Point Chapter officials for their support and reminded local residents of the importance of prayer in overcoming adversities such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This past year has been very challenging. We’ve lost lives, but we’re still here today and that’s a blessing. I encourage all of you to begin each day with a prayer so that we continue to move forward and make more progress. Many of our residents in Rock Point don’t live right off the main highway. We have a long history of farming and many residents live in rural areas while caring for their sheep, cows, horses, and other livestock that sustain our way of life. Let this new equipment signify a new beginning for our community. As we gradually move out of this pandemic, let’s continue to work together and envision where we want our community to be in 20 years, 50 years, and 100 years from now,” said Delegate Slater.

Under the guidance of Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, the Navajo Nation was able to expedite the purchase of the new equipment beginning in February and begin the process of delivering to chapters this week.

“We commend all of the local officials who worked with leadership to develop the list of heavy equipment needs and all of the hard-working Navajo Nation employees who were tasked with moving it forward. Now, we are seeing the hard work pay off, but there is still much work to be done to help residents and maintain the equipment so that it benefits our communities for many years to come,” said Vice President Lizer.

Below is a listing of the heavy equipment and water infrastructure projects that were approved through Resolution CJA-01-21.

Chapter	Heavy Equipment/Project	Estimated Cost
Beclabito	Pallet Stacker	\$6,903.00
Beclabito	Truck	\$95,347.00
Beclabito	Trailer	\$7,200.00
Beclabito	Vehicle	\$42,258.00
Cove	Heavy Duty Semi-Truck	\$170,200.00
Red Valley	Vehicle, Backhoe, Water Truck	\$157,060.50
Sanostee	Dump Trailer, ATV	\$26,422.26
Two Grey Hills/ Toodiena	Dump Trailer,	\$17,990.00
Cove	Backhoe	\$108,014.00
Gadi/Ahi	Gooseneck trailer	\$13,900.00
Godi/Ahi	Truck w/Flat Bed	\$64,888.00
Sanostee	Backhoe	\$106,063.49
Sanostee	Vehicle	\$53,114.48
Gadi ahi Chapter	Truck	\$64,888.00
Gadi ahi Chapter	Meal Delivery Van	\$64,860.00
Sheep Springs Chapter	Forklift	\$54,590.00
Sheep Springs Chapter	Heavy Equipment Trailer	\$7,199.98
Sheep Springs Chapter	Truck	\$145,700.00
Cove Chapter	Truck	\$59,160.00
Cove Chapter	Motor Grader	\$238,500.00
Cove Chapter	Loader	\$55,650.00
Two Grey Hills	Septic Truck, Truck, Backhoe	\$333,753.95
Tsala	Backhoe	\$103,763.40
Tsala	Motor Grader	\$255,158.96
Rock Point	Backhoe	\$108,014.00
Rock Point	Grader	\$255,158.96
Lukachukai	Grader	\$255,158.96
Tse Chizhi (Rough Rock)	Backhoe	\$103,763.40
Tse Chizhi (Rough Rock)	Grader	\$255,158.96
Round Rock	Backhoe	\$118,683.96
Round Rock	Grader	\$255,158.96
Round Rock	Forklift	\$55,120.00
Mexican Water	Gooseneck Trailer, Vehicle, ATV	\$99,096.54
Red Mesa	Vehicle	\$42,032.45
Sweetwater	Vehicle	\$61,015.00
Teec Nos Pos	Vehicle	\$59,150.34
Aneth	Backhoe	\$116,918.00
Aneth	Vehicle	\$63,005.34
Aneth	Trailer	\$12,120.00
Red Mesa	Trailer	\$7,900.00
Red Mesa	Vehicle	\$61,226.00
Tolikan/Sweetwater	Backhoe	\$100,776.14
Mexican Water	Truck	\$30,963.25
Mexican Water	Water Truck	\$54,754.95
Mexican Water	Trailer	\$13,378.34
Red Mesa Chapter	Truck	\$62,294.00
Red Mesa Chapter	backhoe tractor	\$114,019.00
Baca/ Prewitt	Commercial Semi-Truck	\$154,918.58
Ojo Encino	Backhoe, Vehicle, Trenchor	\$183,455.57
Ojo Encino	Trailer	\$19,000.00
Torreon	Vehicle	\$56,003.00
Baca/Prewitt Chapter	Water Truck	\$163,236.50
Baca/Prewitt Chapter	Commercial Truck	\$83,730.00
Casamero Lake Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Littlewater Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Littlewater Chapter	Flatbed Trailer	\$21,050.00
Pueblo Pintado Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Whitehorse Lake Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Torreon Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Ojo Encino Chapter	Flatbed/Single axle trailer	\$2,386.00
Counselor Chapter	Backhoe	\$107,378.00
Counselor Chapter	Commercial Truck and 11 Flatbed Trailer	\$74,900.00
Counselor Chapter	Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer	\$13,200.00
Oak Springs	Motor Grader, Backhoe, Flatbed Truck,	\$397,630.00
Mariano Lake	UTV	\$7,999.99
Pinedale	Backhoe Vehicle, Flatbed	\$166,334.11
Mariano Lake	Heavy Duty Truck	\$79,900.00
Mariano Lake	Backhoe	\$105,048.13
Thorsau Chapter	Skid Steer Loader	\$56,710.00
Thorsau Chapter	Refrigerated Trailer w/Generator	\$49,600.00
Thorsau Chapter	Flatbed Truck	\$83,446.00
Thorsau Chapter	30' Flatbed Trailer	\$20,110.00
Iyanbito Chapter	25' Trailer	\$23,836.00
Iyanbito Chapter	Skid Steer Loader	\$46,019.00
Churchrock Chapter	12' Flatbed and 16' Flatbed	\$4,999.00
Churchrock Chapter	Backhoe	\$101,230.00
Churchrock Chapter	Diesel Truck	\$85,238.00
Churchrock Chapter	Flat Bed	\$2,100.00
Churchrock Chapter	ATV 4x4	\$10,349.00
Churchrock Chapter	ATV 4x4	\$3,749.00
Churchrock Chapter	ATV Side by Side	\$13,999.00
Churchrock Chapter	Utility Dump Bed	\$2,100.00
Churchrock Chapter	Lock Boxes	\$9,540.00
Mariano Lake Chapter	Skid Steer Loader	\$46,007.00
Mariano Lake Chapter	30' Equipment Trailer	\$19,000.00
Mariano Lake Chapter	Truck/4x4	\$73,752.00
Mariano Lake Chapter	40' Container	\$18,336.00
Mariano Lake Chapter	Water Tank	\$733.00
Smith Lake Chapter	2020 Backhoe	\$105,943.00
Smith Lake Chapter	Commercial Truck w/ Flat Bed installed	\$99,850.00
Smith Lake Chapter	Dual Wheel 30' Heavy Duty Equip Trailer	\$19,000.00
Smith Lake Chapter	2020 7'10" Refrigerated Unit Mounted on Trailer	\$42,762.00
Smith Lake Chapter	2021 Truck 2500HD 4WD Crew Cab 172"	\$39,285.00
Dikon	2 Vehicle, Dump Trailer, 2 Flatbed Utility, Gooseneck Trailer	\$147,095.58
Dikon	Backhoe and Water Truck	\$264,150.22
Indian Wells	Backhoe	\$74,200.00
Greasewood	Road Grader	\$301,196.31

Chapter	Heavy Equipment/Project	Estimated Cost
Greasewood	Water Truck	\$117,064.37
Indian Wells	Truck	\$81,286.85
Indian Wells	Motor Grader	\$299,450.00
Teesto	Water truck	\$110,793.07
Whitecone	Backhoe	\$112,803.14
Whitecone	Gooseneck	\$27,822.27
Whitecone	Water Truck	\$123,335.68
Whitecone	Motor Grader	\$301,196.31
Whitecone	Truck	\$50,550.34
Whitecone	Water Tank	\$185,915.63
Whitecone	Semi Trailer	\$89,500.00
Whitecone	Semi Truck	\$125,048.90
Chinle	Backhoe/Truck	\$175,524.91
Chinle	Motor Grader	\$169,500.00
Shiprock Chapter	Water Truck	\$174,541.92
Shiprock Chapter	Truck, Fork lift	\$88,750.95
Shiprock Chapter	Backhoe	\$115,999.00
Shiprock Chapter	Excavator	\$74,094.00
Shiprock Chapter	Crawler Dozer	\$203,838.00
Shiprock Chapter	Steer Loader	\$56,710.00
Navajo Mountain	Motor Grader	\$252,000.00
Shonto	Backhoe, Vehicle	\$162,400.00
Tsah Bii Kin (Inscription House)	Dump truck, trailer	\$196,150.00
Tsah Bii Kin (Inscription House)	Backhoe	\$105,575.00
Ojato	Backhoe	\$95,850.00
Ramah	Motor Grader	\$255,166.60
Ramah Navajo	Backhoe	\$113,358.58
Ramah Navajo	Backhoe	\$100,059.90
Tohajilee Chapter	Backhoe	\$106,166.00
Alamo Chapter	Diesel Truck	\$65,967.00
Alamo Chapter	Flat Bed	\$7,900.00
Alamo Chapter	Forklift	\$4,890.00
Alamo Chapter	Pallet Jack	\$1,050.00
Forest Lake	Backhoe, Gooseneck, Photovoltaics, Vehicle	\$325,854.77
Pinon	Backhoe	\$104,955.03
Pinon	Commercial Delivery Truck	\$112,000.00
Pinon	Truck	\$66,013.00
Hardrock	Backhoe	\$112,803.14
Hardrock	Flat Bed Truck	\$64,147.00
Hardrock	Grader	\$301,196.31
Whippoorwill	Forklift	\$54,590.00
Black Mesa	Backhoe with attachments	\$94,668.00
Black Mesa	Bulldozer	\$199,810.00
Blue Gap-Tachee	Backhoe, Motor Grader	\$405,744.76
Low Mountain	Backhoe	\$90,850.00
Nazlini	Water Truck	\$93,003.00
Low Mountain	Vehicle	\$57,845.00
Low Mountain	Gooseneck Trailer	\$12,500.00
Many Farms	Dump Truck	\$135,486.32
Many Farms	Flatbed Trailer	\$14,100.00
Tselani/Cottonwood	Motor Grader	\$327,864.84
Nageezi	Backhoe, Motor Grader	\$384,613.87
Crownpoint	Backhoe	\$103,659.53
Crownpoint	Vehicle	\$63,592.00
Crownpoint	Water Truck	\$180,673.00
Crownpoint	Flatbed trailer	\$19,000.00
Huerfano	Truck/skid steer	\$76,945.28
Lake Valley	Skid Steer Loader	\$58,300.00
Lake Valley	Vehicle	\$47,482.52
Nageezi	Heavy Duty Truck w/flatbed	\$98,900.00
Standing Rock	Skid Steer Loader	\$52,651.23
Standing Rock	Beclabito - 2021 Mack GU713	\$95,347.00
White Rock	Backhoe	\$109,498.00
Becenti Chapter	Backhoe	\$103,660.00
Becenti Chapter	30' Flatbed Trailer	\$19,000.00
Becenti Chapter	Truck	\$63,592.00
Standing Rock Chapter	Water Truck	\$145,045.00
Nahodishgish Chapter	Backhoe	\$98,850.00
Nahodishgish Chapter	Backhoe 20' Trailer	\$16,200.00
Huerfano Chapter	Truck	\$58,347.00
Huerfano Chapter	Equipment for Truck	\$9,860.00
Huerfano Chapter	Skid Steer	\$89,600.00
Lake Valley Chapter	16' Flatbed Trailer	\$4,900.00
White Rock	Truck	\$65,967.00
White Rock	Flatbed	\$7,900.00
Dennehotsa	Backhoe	\$93,943.00
Kayenta	Water Truck	\$64,051.00
Chichinbeto	Backhoe	\$103,243.64
Toh Nanees Dizi (Tuba City)	chainsaws	\$4,903.10
Toh Nanees Dizi (Tuba City)	Backhoe	\$122,679.30
Bodaway-Gap	Trailer, Backhoe, Utility Trailer	\$348,126.66
Lechee	Vehicle, Backhoe, Water Truck	\$242,950.00
Coppermine	Towing trailer	\$27,820.76
Tonalee	Backhoe	\$105,850.00
Kalibeto	Backhoe	\$145,383.23
Mexican Springs	Skid Steer	\$50,969.16
Tohatchi	Security Cameras	\$3,107.27
Coyote Canyon	Backhoe	\$102,742.11
Coyote Canyon	Skid Steer	\$50,701.20
Mexican Springs	Heavy Duty Truck w/flatbed	\$99,850.00
Tohatchi	Backhoe	\$109,300.00
Tohatchi	Gooseneck Flatbed	\$11,900.00
Tohatchi Chapter	Farm Tractor	\$49,500.00
Tohatchi Chapter	Tractor attachments and Trailer	\$15,500.00
Twin Lakes Chapter	Trailer	\$23,836.30
Naschiti Chapter	Motor Grader	\$299,450.00

Chapter	Heavy Equipment/Project	Estimated Cost
Houck	Backhoe	\$118,683.96
Houck	Utility Trailer	\$21,000.00
Lupton	One ton Pick-up truck	\$99,617.00
Lupton	Tires for Backhoe loader	\$1,790.00
Lupton	Backhoe Maintenance Service	\$1,465.20
Lupton	Pin Bucket	\$1,532.76
Lupton	Pin Lock Bucket	\$1,179.32
Lupton	Bumper Pull attachment	\$3,500.00
Lupton	Gooseneck trailer	\$7,500.00
Lupton	Motor Grader	\$255,158.96
Nahata Dzil	Tractor	\$25,877.00
Nahata Dzil	Loader Attachment	\$5,597.00
Nahata Dzil	Backhoe Attachment	\$1,585.00
Nahata Dzil	Gooseneck Attachment	\$8,435.00
Nahata Dzil	Tractor Attachment	\$1,250.00
Nahata Dzil	Tractor Bucket attachment	\$850.00
Nahata Dzil	Tractor Disc	\$2,485.00
Nahata Dzil	Forks attachment	\$785.00
Nahata Dzil	Gooseneck Trailer	\$6,892.25
Nahata Dzil	Gooseneck Trailer	\$8,764.76
Lupton/ TseS/Ani	Vehicle	\$57,863.27
Klagetoh	Backhoe	\$103,763.40
Klagetoh	Backhoe, Commercial Truck, Motor grader	\$885,928.00
Wide Ruins	Tractor	\$36,300.00
Wide Ruins	Flatbed Trailer	\$3,245.00
Wide Ruins	Dump Trailer	\$8,995.00
Wenahazad	Backhoe, Tractor	\$179,535.00
Newcomb/TiisNideshish	Water Tank	\$9,000.00
San Juan	Backhoe	\$109,498.00
Burnham	Backhoe	\$108,564.95
Newcomb	Vehicle	\$52,927.92
Tii Tsoh Sikaad	Motor Grader	\$271,886.11
Tse Daa Kaa Chapter	Backhoe/Motor grader	\$118,692.00
Upper Fruitland	Truck	\$66,966.80
Manuelito	Backhoe, Motor Grader	\$379,485.55
Baahaali	Skid steer loader attachments with jackhammer	\$74,198.94
Baahaali	Skid steer loader	\$79,523.89
Tsayatoh	buck replacements for backhoe	\$4,092.99
Chichillah Chapter	Forklift	\$44,000.00
Red Rock Chapter	Utility Terrain Vehicle	\$14,578.80
Red Rock Chapter	4x4 Truck	\$51,615.00
Red Rock Chapter	Tractor/Loader 4x4 w/16" Blade and 16" Trailer	\$32,000.00
Red Rock Chapter	Tractor/Loader 40,000 LB Capacity)	\$42,507.00
Red Rock Chapter	Tractor/Loader 4x4 w/8" Blade and 16" Trailer	\$32,000.00
Rock Springs Chapter	Backhoe	\$106,908.00
Rock Springs Chapter	4x4 Truck	\$51,615.00
Tsayatoh Chapter	Heavy Equipment	\$56,325.76
Cameron	Backhoe	\$94,743.00
Leupp	Backhoe	\$111,509.87
Leupp	towing trailer	\$27,820.76
Coalmine Canyon	Backhoe, Flatbed Dump Truck, Water Truck, Skid Steer	\$159,132.00
Birdsprings	Motor Grader	\$165,806.09
Tolani Lake	Trailer and Backhoe	\$140,943.96
Cornfields	Water Truck, Snow Plow, Dump Truck	\$108,085.95
Ganado	Vehicle, Water Truck	\$73,754.99
Jeddito	Vehicle, Water Truck	\$118,850.00
Steamboat/Hoyee	Trailer, Dump Trailer, Water Truck	\$96,806.00
Kin Dah Lichii	Backhoe	\$118,683.96
Kin Dah Lichii	Lake Valley Trailer	\$4,900.00
Fort Defiance	Backhoe	\$95,814.29
Sawmill	1 ton truck	\$68,794.00
Crystal	Backhoe	\$99,534.00
KACHINA RENTALS LLC		\$32,224.00
MEDIFY AIR LLC		\$30,503.00
T & T DISTRIBUTING CO. INC.		\$1,223.03
PPE PRODUCTS INC		\$11,907.65
Power Generator Service; 8 ea. Multiquip Wispenwatt generator		\$6,500.00
Thoreau/Baca - SMA		\$250,000.00
ENWP - SMA Amendment #16		\$680,000.00
Whitehorse Lake - SMA Amendment #16		\$60,000.00
Torreon Hydrants - SMA Amendment #16		\$91,000.00
Counselor Lybrook - SMA Amendment #16		\$50,000.00
Smith Lake - SMA (#10)		\$170,000.00
Tohajilee - SMA #6		\$2,522,000.00
DigDeep		\$1,007,300.00
Whitehorse Lake - D&R Tank		\$74,226.00
Tohajilee - Lone Mountain		\$500,000.00
Thoreau/Baca - Stewart Bothers		\$105,807.80
Thoreau/Baca - NECA		\$350,617.66
Counselor Lybrook - NECA		\$246,126.70
Torreon Hydrants - NECA		\$45,574.70
ENWP - NECA CO#1		\$1,300,000.00
Ramah - Dooley Construction Solutions		\$448,452.08
Cutter Lateral - NECA CO#1		\$500,000.00
Source Global		\$5,582,890.23
FBFA-Stewart Brothers		\$616,888.20
Aermotor Global Windmill and Supply; 14' and 16' complete windmill (FBFA)		\$28,467.59
GEFCO; Mud Pump		\$206,518.74
RDO Equipment; 2 ea. JD 724L wheel loader		\$447,088.73
RDO Equipment; 7 ea. JD 850L crawler dozer		\$2,110,553.56
RDO Equipment; 4 ea. JD 250G excavator		\$917,084.61
Power Generator Service; 8 ea. Multiquip Wispenwatt generator		\$508,898.40
MCT Inc.; 8 20-ton equipment trailer		\$179,510.40
MCT Inc.; 4 ea. Dorsey utility trailer		\$98,000.00
MCT Inc.; 4 ea. Holden lowboy trailer		\$251,625.60
RDO Equipment; 3 ea. JD 672G motor grader		\$774,991.95

USDA grant will help FLC open distance learning centers in Shiprock & Window Rock

Facilities will offer high-speed Internet access



Mike Easterling, Farmington Daily Times

FARMINGTON — Fort Lewis College hopes to open "rural connectivity centers" in Shiprock and Window Rock, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation soon. The institution received a nearly \$1 million grant from the federal government to facilitate distance learning.

The \$950,060 award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is one of 86 projects across the country being funded through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program. The program is designed to help rural education and health care entities remotely reach students, patients and outside expertise, according to a press release.

The Durango, Colorado-based college applied for the grant in June 2020 and was informed last week it had won, according to assistant professor Benjamin Waddell, the lead principal investigator on the project. He said a group of college officials would get together in the days ahead to discuss the next steps in opening the rural connectivity centers and begin discussions with stakeholders in the communities where they will be opened.

The centers are planned for Ignacio and Antonito, Colorado, in addition to the centers on the Navajo Nation. The facilities are designed to improve access for approximately 3,270 FLC students in those communities, according to the press release.

Waddell, who estimated that between 15% and 20% of his students are Navajo, said he was entertaining hopes that Fort Lewis College would receive some degree of funding from the USDA when he helped craft the grant application last spring. But he harbored some doubts that the college would receive a full grant.

"It was a complete shot in the dark, but what we were trying to do was unique in terms of what this grant usually serves," Waddell said, explaining that FLC's proposal included a strong element of cultural pedagogy. "That was different from what most recipients had done in the past."

Waddell said when he began working on the application in March of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown began, it didn't take him long to realize that the proposal he was putting together would fundamentally change the way classes would be taught if it were implemented. Waddell said he was conducting his classes in his basement, trying to offer the best instruction he could through a virtual format. But he recognized the limitations of that approach.

For the two semesters he had taught since then, Waddell said he has been employing the HyFlex course design, which is a far more advanced digital instruction model. He described it as an approach that offers "a classroom you can walk into physically or virtually," one that works just as well for an on-campus student in Durango or a remote student in Shiprock.

"It provides flexibility in real time to the student," he said.

A camera system transmits and records every lecture, allowing remote students to follow along as if they were in the classroom. That system also allows students who were present in the classroom to go back and digitally review any material they might have missed the first time around, he said.

HyFlex also includes an online platform component where materials such as class quizzes and reading assignments can be accessed. Waddell sees that as a godsend for students who face long commutes to the college or those who have heavy demands on their personal time that other students don't, often causing them to miss in-person classes.

"They can easily catch up in a way that would be difficult in a traditional classroom," he said.

Waddell said that is the difficult reality that many of his Navajo students face.

"We recognize so many of our students struggle with their commitment to their family and place and community," he said. "A lot of our students begin to run into those barriers three or four or five week in (to a semester). This makes it so much easier to help nontraditional or minority students. ... I've found that retention is much better in a HyFlex classroom, and performance is better."

He said he normally sees a considerable drop-off in engagement among his students after the third or fourth week of a semester, but that has not been the case since he started teaching through the HyFlex system.

"I would say 85 to 90% of my students are super engaged, and a year ago, that wouldn't have been the case," he said.

Waddell said he has become so enamored of the HyFlex system that he considers it an indispensable tool.

"I started doing it because of COVID, but to be honest, I wouldn't do it any other way now," he said.

The USDA grant FLC received will allow the college to align the HyFlex platform with its planned rural connectivity centers. Waddell described those facilities as more than traditional classrooms or computer labs, but they are primarily designed to serve as sites where students who lack high-speed Internet access at home can go and enjoy the benefits of that service while remaining in their community.

Waddell said the centers would be unique to their community, so each one will look and feel different. In Antonito, for instance, FLC officials are working with the mayor to remodel a historic train depot, he said.

"We're finalizing the details so they work best with their community culture," he said. "It really does depend on the community."

Read more at: <https://www.daily-times.com/story/news/local/2021/03/08/usda-grant-1-million-facilitate-distance-learning-fort-lewis-college/4603236001/>

Bulletin Board

Deb Haaland makes history as first Native American Cabinet secretary after Senate confirmation



WASHINGTON – The Senate has confirmed Deb Haaland to head the Interior Department, making her the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary.

The vote was 51-40. All Democrats and a handful of Republicans voted to confirm her.

"Rep. Haaland's confirmation represents a gigantic step forward in creating a government that represents the full richness and diversity of this country, because Native Americans were, for far too long, neglected at the Cabinet level and in so many other places," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the Senate floor before the vote Monday evening.

For more than 171 years, the federal agency responsible for managing the U.S. relationship with hundreds of recognized tribes has never had a Native American at its helm.

But some Republican lawmakers are unhappy with Haaland, not only over President Joe Biden's climate change agenda, which includes an oil and gas drilling pause on public lands, but her past statements calling for an end to natural gas fracking and pipeline development. The GOP is also upset about a tweet she sent in October saying "Republicans don't believe in science."

Haaland, 60, is an enrolled citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna Native American tribe in New Mexico. She won reelection to a U.S. House seat in November but will be leaving Congress to take her position in Biden's Cabinet.

Now confirmed, she will lead an agency with more than 70,000 employees that is responsible for managing 480 million federal acres – nearly one-fifth the land area of the United States – as well as 2.5 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. The department's portfolio includes more than 400 national parks, 100 national monuments and about 500 national wildlife refuges.

The sprawling agency includes not only the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, but it also manages and administers 55 million acres of estates held in trust by the United States for hundreds of Native American tribes, including the Pueblo of Laguna.

Pressing issues such as land rights, health care and sacred site protections may not satisfy every tribe in a Biden administration, tribal leaders and other Native American advocates acknowledge. But they expressed a sense of hope that, with Haaland, they would have a key ally in the Cabinet, and that true give-and-take on hot-button issues might finally occur.

Environmental groups applauded the vote, too.

"Today is a historic day for all of us who care for our public lands and waters," said Theresa Pierno, president and CEO for the National Parks Conservation Association. "As a descendant of the original guardians of our lands, she brings a unique perspective, unlike any Interior secretary before her."

Last month, Haaland was questioned by Republicans during her confirmation hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, not only over the president's aggressive efforts to stop drilling on public lands but also her own public statements opposing fossil fuel extraction.

In her hearing, Haaland downplayed some past statements, saying at one point that "it's President Biden's agenda I would move forward, not my own." Later, she acknowledged the interior secretary "serves all Americans, not just one small district in New Mexico."

Haaland also tried to deflect the criticism from several Republican senators over oil, gas and coal development, saying public lands could be used more for clean energy such as wind and solar. And she promised to help fossil fuel workers find new opportunities in an economy that will rely less on carbon-emitting industries.

Read more at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/03/15/deb-haaland-confirmed-becomes-first-native-american-cabinet/4700097001/>

Global Water Institute leads effort to improve water and food security with the Navajo Nation

Five-year project confronts critical water crisis



Chris Booker, Ohio State News

A new effort led by researchers at The Ohio State University will help the Navajo Nation mitigate the lack of water and food security at a time when the Navajo communities are facing new challenges due to COVID-19.

The Global Water Institute (GWI) is partnering with the Navajo Nation and a consortium of partners including Assist International, Netafim, Suez WTS USA, Inc., WorldServe International and the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment to confront the critical water crisis and improve agriculture and public health outcomes of the Navajo Nation. This federally recognized tribe with reservation lands in the states of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah is one of the largest in the country, with over 330,000 members, 175,000 of whom reside on the reservation.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a catalyst for this project, but the truth is that COVID put a spotlight on the long-existing, and intensifying lack of water and food security on the Navajo Nation," said Tom Darrah, director of the GWI. "Today, nearly 10,000 Navajo families lack domestic piped water, requiring more than 40% of families to drive long distances and congregate to get clean water – action that can help spread a highly contagious virus and makes access to water incredibly expensive."

The five-year project aims to address the Navajo Nation's most serious water needs and provide agricultural and public health training. Initial actions include upgrading existing boreholes using sustainable solar-power pumps, drilling new water wells and developing agricultural training.

"Increased access to sustainable high-quality water enables everything; water really is life," said Rudolph Shebala, the executive director of natural resources for the Navajo Nation.

Long-term project goals include establishing more than 300 new sustainable water access points, including solar-powered water filtration, recycling and compost hubs, and internet hot spots. In parallel, GWI will conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment, led by Mary Rodriguez, assistant professor of agricultural communication, education and leadership. Leah Bevis, assistant professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics, will lead measurement and evaluation research to determine the project's effectiveness and impacts.

An important component of the project is to train a cohort of Navajo students at Ohio State in each of the focus areas to maximize the long-term impact of the project for the nation.

Darrah stressed it's a collaborative project with the Navajo Nation.

"We're there to identify their wants and needs and to make sure we are bringing the best science, technology and policy to bear to find sustainable solutions for the needs they identify," he said.

The mission of GWI is to tap into the intellectual resources at Ohio State and leverage the expertise of external partners to solve complex water-related problems associated with a lack of water and food security. For this convergent research project, in addition to the external partners, GWI is working with faculty, staff and students from five colleges – Engineering, Arts and Sciences, Public Health, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the Fisher College of Business – as well as the International Programs in Agriculture and OSU Extension's Global Relations Committee.

Read more at: <https://news.osu.edu/global-water-institute-leads-effort-to-improve-water-and-food-security-with-the-navajo-nation/>

Bulletin Board

Congress approves the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to provide COVID-19 relief, stimulus checks, unemployment benefits

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commend the passage of the American Rescue Plan by Congress on Wednesday, a \$1.9 trillion relief package designed to help the United States recover from the devastating impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which includes \$20 billion for federally-recognized tribes to help mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus.

The U.S. House passed the original American Rescue Plan bill on Feb. 17. On March 6, the Senate passed its version of the bill, which was sent back to the House for a final vote on Wednesday. President Biden is expected to sign the rescue package into law later this week.

“We appreciate the support of Congress and our federal partners and for working together with our administration to ensure that all tribal nations were included in the American Recovery Plan. We look forward to President Biden signing the measure into law and we are eager to continue working with the Department of the Treasury. The bill provides significant discretion for the Secretary of the Treasury to determine funding for each tribe. Our administration recommended that allocations for tribes be based on four factors that include population, land base, number of employees, and direct COVID-19 impacts measured by coronavirus infections, deaths, and other key factors. The Navajo Nation was hit very hard by COVID-19, but thanks to our health care workers, frontline warriors, and our Navajo people, we are pushing back and fighting hard to mitigate the impacts and save lives. With the new relief funds, we anticipate providing more direct relief and assistance for our Navajo people as well as funding projects that provide long-term benefits,” said President Nez.

In addition, the American Rescue Plan would also provide approximately \$6 billion for Indian Health Service, \$1.2 billion for HUD tribal and Native Hawaiian housing programs, \$1.1 billion for educational programs including the Bureau of Indian Education, over \$1 billion for tribal child care programs and \$75 million for tribal TANF, \$900 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, \$600 million for economic and infrastructure investments, \$20 million to mitigate the impact of on Native languages, and \$19 million to help combat domestic violence.

“The Navajo Nation is fighting hard to mitigate through this pandemic. With the CARES Act funds, we were able to provide direct relief for our Navajo people in the form of financial relief, PPEs, food and water, and cleaning supplies. We also assisted businesses and entrepreneurs who were hit hard by the pandemic. Through the collaboration of many entities, the Nation was also able to provide water resources, bathroom additions, electricity, internet service, and other improvements for many families and communities. We look forward to continuing building off of that success and working together to make more progress,” said Vice President Lizer.

The American Rescue Plan also includes \$1,400 stimulus checks for qualified individuals and dependents, extends unemployment compensation, continues existing eviction and foreclosure moratoriums, funding for schools to mitigate COVID-19, and provides funds for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

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

Delegates commend completion of N27 road construction between Nazlini and Chinle

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Blue Gap/Tachee, Tselani/Cottonwood) and Eugene Tso (Chinle) expressed appreciation to the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) and the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) for the completion of the 10.86-mile Navajo Route 27 (N27) road project between Nazlini and Chinle.

Delegate Begay said: “The N27 road has been in the works for several years under current and previous Nazlini Chapter leadership. Seeing this work completed by the Navajo Nation’s own workforce and contractors is also a proud moment for our communities. We thank the Navajo Department of Transportation and the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority for making this a reality.”

Although the \$33.33 million N27 project experienced several delays as a result of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, road construction resumed and continued into the end of 2020 with the installation of several cattle guards and fencing along the route.

The N27 project also features a new roundabout in Chinle where N27 meets Route 7. The route additionally includes reinforced steel and concrete grades to prevent erosion, new drainage systems and road signage.

Begay added: “I’m very grateful for the residents of Flat Rock in Nazlini and those living in the Three Turkey Ruins areas. Their participation in advocating for this project means they now don’t have to worry about traveling during inclement weather, especially those who commute to work daily including our kids during school years. At the same time, we continue to advocate at the local and state levels for important road projects that will improve the quality of life for our Navajo citizens.”

Delegate Tso said: “As a former grazing official, I remember visiting the grazing permit holders to request their consent on this project. I commend the leadership of NDOT Executive Director Garrett Silversmith in completing this project. This road is now safe for our school buses carrying our precious children. It will mean less repairs for vehicle owners who no longer have to travel through the mud causing wear and tear. I hope to see N27 designated as a scenic route, which can attract tourists to boost the local economy.”

Director Silversmith also cited the help of all of the Chinle and Nazlini Chapter Officials for their key roles in the success of the N27 road project.

READ MORE AT: <https://files.constantcontact.com/0401fa70801/f801f357-80ea-426c-9507-663bbf7fd004.pdf>

President Nez signs off on land lease to develop housing units for Dilkon Medical Center employees

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Council Delegate Elmer P. Begay, Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. Board members, and Dilkon Chapter officials as he signed off on a 32-acre land lease to develop housing units for employees of the Dilkon Health Care Center, which is currently under construction in Dilkon, Ariz., located in the southwest portion of the Navajo Nation.

“The Winslow Indian Health Care Center Board, CEO Sally Pete, and the Dilkon Chapter are doing a great job in advancing the completion of the new health care center. Housing for employees is a key component to the overall success of this major initiative. The new land lease will help with the overall goal of expanding health care for thousands of Navajo people that reside in the southwest portion of the Navajo Nation. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the health care deficiencies and services on the Navajo Nation. With the completion of the Dilkon Medical Center later this year, we will have more medical personnel and more resources to help close the gap on existing health care disparities. I appreciate the support of the board, Dilkon Chapter, Council Delegate Elmer Begay, the Resources and Development Committee, and many others,” said President Nez.

In May 2019, President Nez also signed a letter to Indian Health Service authorizing Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. to complete the design and construction of the new Dilkon Medical Center, under a Title V construction project agreement with IHS. Construction of the new facility began in June 2019 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2021, according to a letter from Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. CEO Sally Pete.

“The exemplary collaboration demonstrates what can be accomplished when we work together. I commend Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. for always being forthcoming with updates and for always looking to develop partnerships to benefit our Navajo people. During this COVID-19 pandemic, Winslow Indian Health Care Center, Inc. is also going out into the communities they serve to provide our people with the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We thank all of the entities involved in this effort,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

Construction of 64 staff quarter units began in October 2020 on the main site of the health care facility. The new 20-year lease will allow for the construction of 45 additional units on 32-acres of land on an adjacent site located north of the health care facility.

Council Delegate Elmer Begay sponsored the legislation for the land lease, which was passed by the 24th Navajo Nation Council’s Resources and Development Committee on Feb. 10, 2021.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3cyR5B0>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Capital Projects Management			
Registered Architech (S)	Window Rock, AZ	56,584.80	04/23/2021
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Rock Springs, NM	37,709.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	37,709.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	26,726.40	OUF

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

Closing Dates may change due temporary reduction in non-essential Navajo Nation government services

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

**On this sheep-scale,
how do you feel today?**



Inspirational Quote of the Month



Many American Households Use Stimulus Payments to Pay Down Debt

March 24, 2021

Daniel J. Perez-Lopez and Lindsay M. Monte

Americans are poised to receive a third round of stimulus checks through the new American Rescue Plan Act and data from the Census Bureau's experimental Household Pulse Survey show past stimulus payments helped ease financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first round of COVID stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child began reaching households in April and May 2020.

By late summer, 76.5 million adults reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to pay their usual expenses. That number rose to 89.7 million adults in December.

According to the survey, around a quarter of adults in those households were still using those payments to pay for usual expenses as of the first half of June 2020.

But Household Pulse data also suggest many households may have accumulated debt to make ends meet. Roughly 30% of adults reported using credit cards, taking out loans or borrowing from family and friends between June and December to pay for usual expenses such as food, housing and gas.

Mounting Debt

Credit card use is common but recent research has found the pandemic changed Americans' credit card habits and reduced discretionary spending. However, Household Pulse data show that as the pandemic lingered the number of people who reported using borrowed money and not regular income to pay their weekly expenses increased.

In June 2020, 33.7 million adults were using debt but not income to pay their expenses. By late December, that number had jumped to 43.7 million adults, including 34.0 million living in households that suffered a loss of employment income since the start of the pandemic.

Financial Hardships as Pandemic Drags On

Household Pulse Survey data include other markers of increasing hardship over the course of the pandemic.

By late summer, 76.5 million adults reported that it was somewhat or very difficult to pay their usual expenses. That number rose to 89.7 million adults in December.

However, the arrival of the second round of stimulus payments in January – \$600 for most adults and children – appears to have reduced stress over households' ability to pay bills. As of early January, the number of all adults in households struggling to cover usual costs had dropped to 80.5 million.

Americans also appear to be using the second stimulus check to pay down debt.

Only 15.7% of stimulus recipients reported using their first check to reduce debt but about half of all recipient adults used their second one to do that.

About 60% of adults in households that experienced a loss in employment income during the pandemic used their second stimulus check to pay down debt.

The new coronavirus relief package will provide much larger benefits – as much as \$1,400 per person – in coming weeks. Pulse survey data show that households are struggling financially, with roughly 13 million adults reporting no confidence in their ability to pay their next month's rent or mortgage. In this context, the data also show that stimulus checks are being widely used to pay basic expenses and to cut debt.

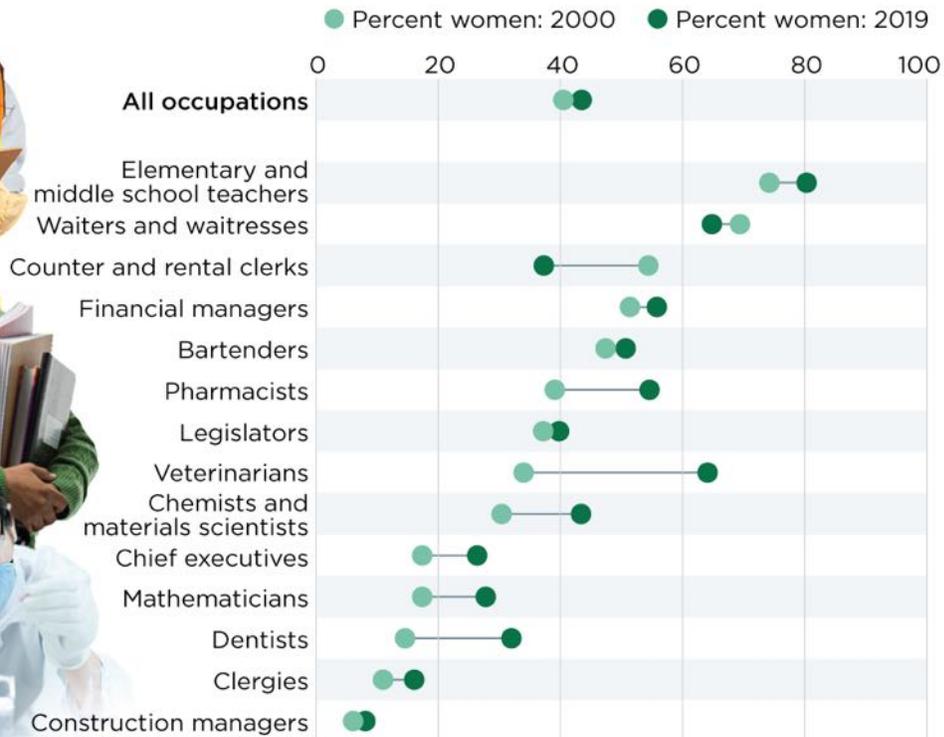
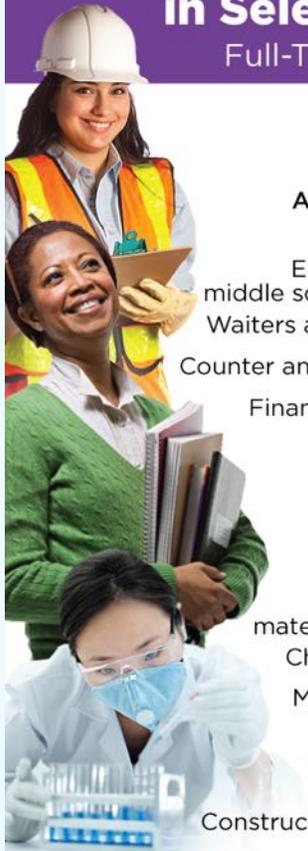
The Household Pulse Survey is an ongoing survey providing near real-time data about the well-being of American households during the pandemic. Future analyses of these data will provide important insights into the impact of the newest round of stimulus payments.

Daniel J. Perez-Lopez and Lindsay M. Monte are statisticians in the Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/03/many-american-households-use-stimulus-payments-to-pay-down-debt.html>

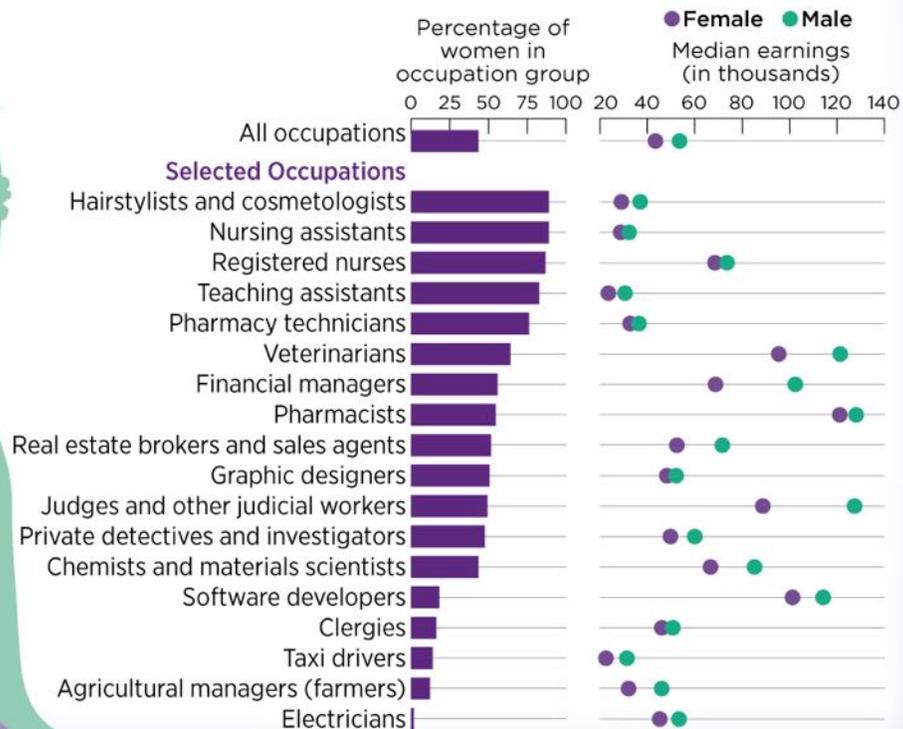
Change in Women's Participation in Selected Occupations Since 2000

Full-Time, Year-Round Workers 2000 and 2019



Women's Earnings

Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers in the Past 12 Months by Sex and Occupation





Navajo Nation Dikos Ntsaaígíí-19 (COVID-19)



Last Updated: March 28, 2021

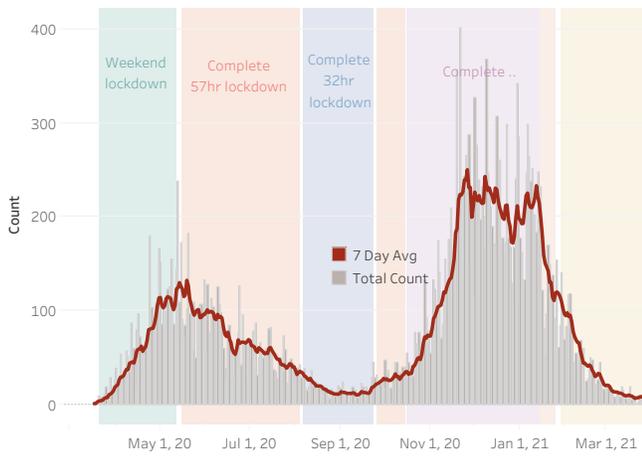
Navajo Nation Residents

Total Confirmed Cases¹ 30,059 New Cases from Last Update: 7	Total Recovered 16,348	Total Confirmed Deaths 1,246 New Death(s) Reported: 0
Total Tests Completed² 253,357	Total Positive Tests³ 38,374	Total Negative Tests 204,036

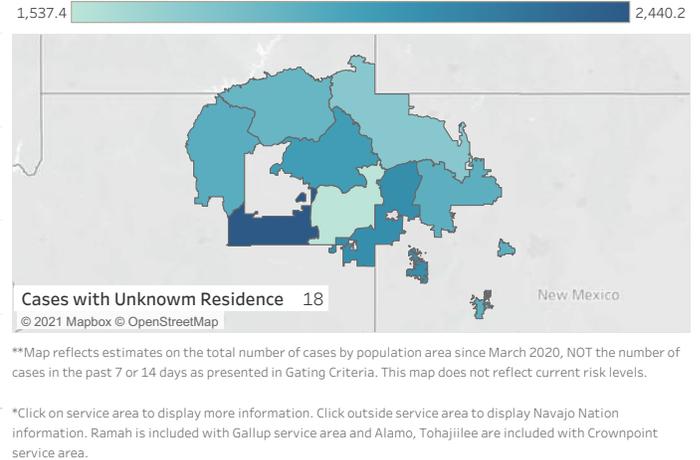
Service Area Confirmed Cases

Bordertown 8,355	Chinle 5,522	Crownpoint 2,870	Fort Defiance 3,585	Gallup 4,753	Kayenta 2,656	Shiprock 5,041	Tuba City 3,646	Winslow 1,968
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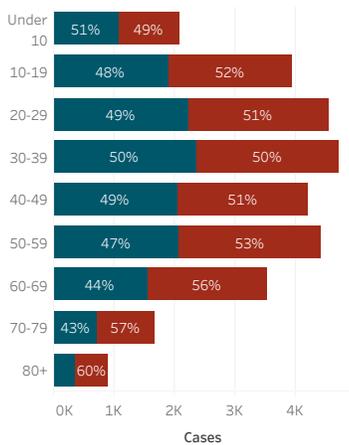
Daily Confirmed Cases on Navajo Nation in All



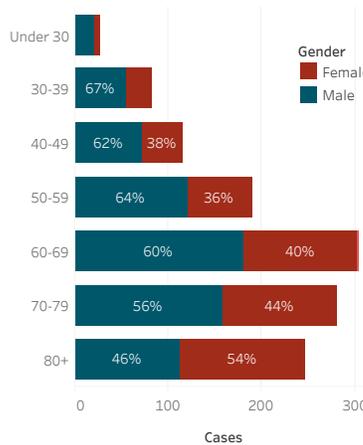
Navajo Nation Service Area Rates per 10,000 population



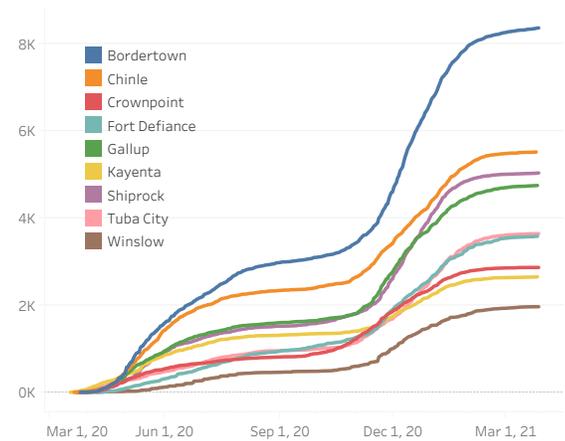
COVID-19 by Age Groups



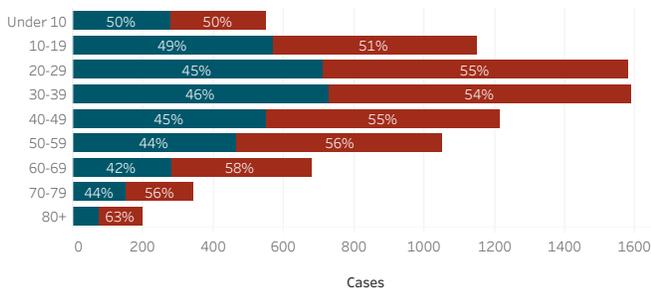
COVID-19 Deaths by Age Groups



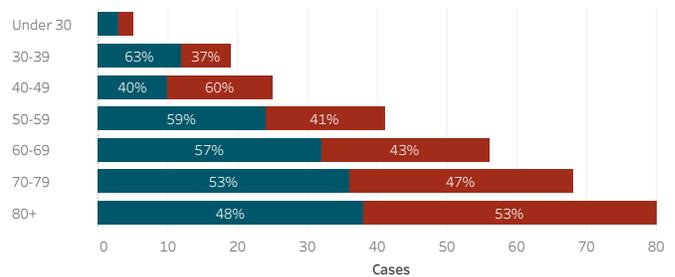
Total Count of Cases since March



Bordertown COVID-19 by Age Groups



Bordertown COVID-19 Deaths by Ages Groups



HOW TO SAFELY USE COMMUNITY LAUNDROMATS DURING COVID-19



**PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING BY DOING
LAUNDRY WITH LESS PEOPLE AROUND**



Wear disposable gloves if washing clothing of someone who has or suspected to have COVID-19.



Use disinfectant wipes or spray to clean the outside of the machine and laundry cart.



Avoid shaking dirty laundry to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Use the warmest water setting possible to help eliminate traces of COVID-19.



Use a dryer or hang clothing on a line in direct sunlight to dry thoroughly.



Avoid placing clothing on commonly touched surfaces, or clean them before use.



Use disinfectant wipes or spray to clean laundry baskets and other surfaces.



Wash hands before handling clean clothing to prevent cross contamination.



Navajo Health Command Operation Center
Phone: 928.871.7014
Info Email: coronavirus.info@nndoh.org
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19



@navajodephealth
#DineDabidziil

WHY A FACEMASK?

FOR PREVENTING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency
Order 2020-007 (Effective April 17, 2020)

Requiring all individuals (2 years old and older) on the Navajo Nation to wear protective masks in public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Mask is a covering designed to filter one's breathing through both the nose and mouth. A mask must snugly cover the face and around the nose and mouth to prevent the wearer from breathing unfiltered air. Mask can be commercially-made or a homemade cloth face covering.

- Remember to stay 6 feet apart from others in public.
- Public means any area outside your home.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds/or sanitize your hands.
- Avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public.
- Wear gloves/use tissue/use t-shirt sleeves to cover your hands or fingers if you touch something.
- Clean and disinfect purchased food and household items.
- Clean and disinfect your home and vehicles to remove germs.
- Only one person in the household should make a trip for food/household necessities.



Very High



High



Low



Very Low



STAY HOME



Navajo Health Command Operation Center
Phone: 928.871.7014
Info Email: coronavirus.info@nndoh.org

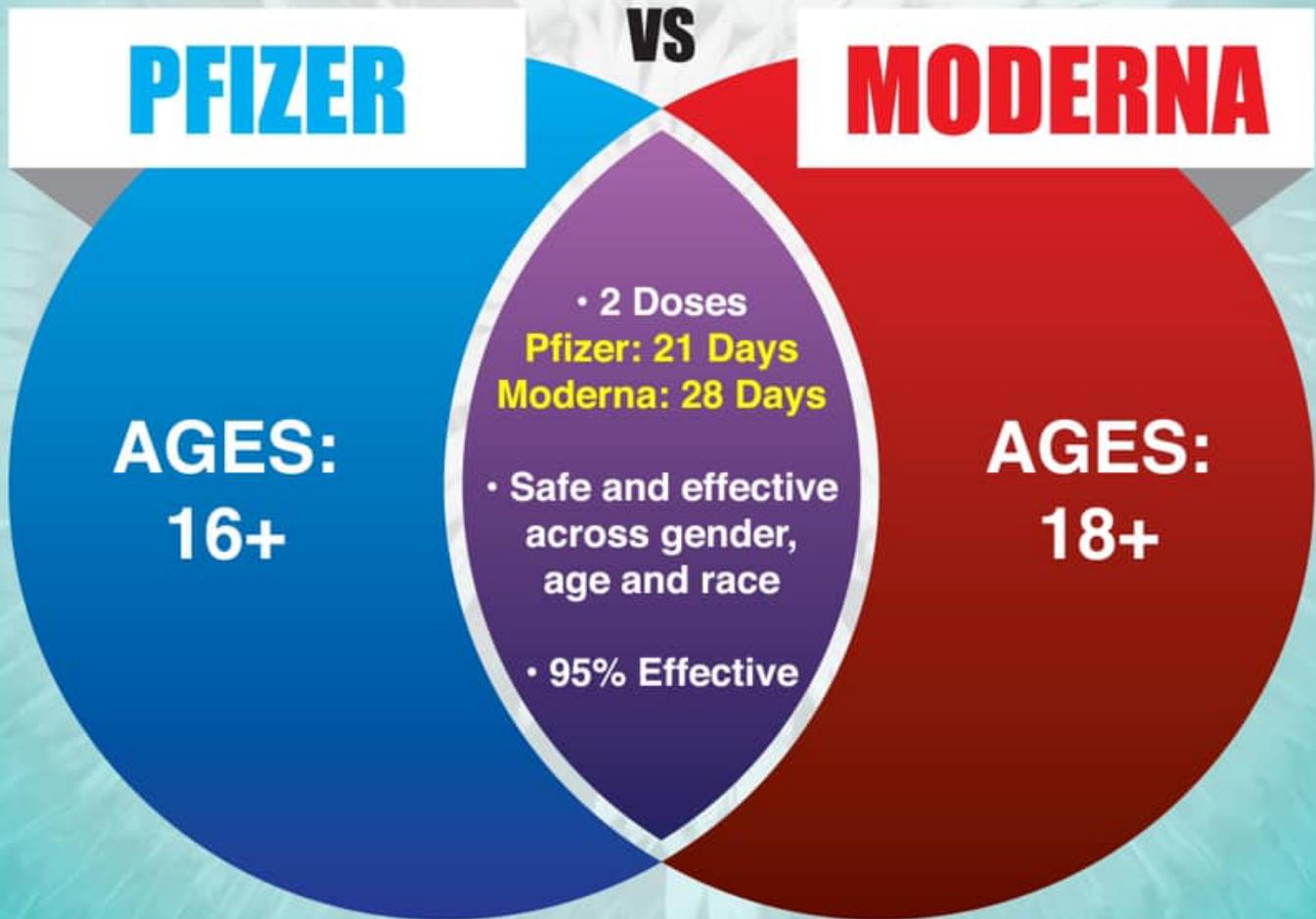
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19

#DineDabidziil

COVID-19 VACCINE

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

The Navajo Nation will only use COVID-19 vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under the Emergency Use Authorization, these include the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.



NAVAJO HEALTH COMMAND OPERATIONS CENTER
 (P) 928.871.7014
 (E) coronavirus.info@navajo-nsn.gov
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19



Protect Yourself and Others in the WORKPLACE

If you are returning to work, continue to stay alert and protect yourself by practicing everyday preventative actions.

- Stay home when you are sick
- Monitor your health
- Wear a cloth face covering
- Practice social distance in shared spaces
- Wash your hands with soap & water often
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Avoid sharing objects and equipment
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Keep a hand sanitizer on hand with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid having visitors at the workplace

March 2021

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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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