

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

MARCH 2022

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Did You Know...

Na'ashoo'ii Dich'ízhii - Horned Toad is highly respected and is offered corn pollen with a splash of water to receive blessings in all aspects of life. He is picked up and rubbed across the chest in a sign of blessing from the respected ancestor. After completing the offering of the corn pollen and water, he is then placed back outside to be released. He is not to be kept as a pet.

Events:

March: Wóózhch'ííid - "Cry of Eaglets"

- March 4: Employee Appreciation Day
- March 13: Daylight Saving Time Starts
- March 17: Saint Patrick's Day
- March 20: Spring Equinox (Start of Spring)
- March 31: World Backup Day

April: T'ááchil - "Growth of Early Plant Life"

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 17: Easter Sunday
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 25: WorldPenguinDay

President Nez applauds New Mexico Governor's approval of \$14.8 million in Capital Outlay Funds for the Navajo Nation



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer applaud New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's approval of Senate Bill 212, which appropriates \$14.8 million in Capital Outlay Funds for Navajo chapters in the state of New Mexico. The funds were approved by the New Mexico State Senate and the House of Representatives in February.

"Our Navajo people thank Governor Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico State Legislature for supporting these much-needed projects for our communities in the state of New Mexico. During the state's legislative session, our Nation's leaders met with state legislators and the Governor to outline our priorities for capital outlay projects. We are very grateful that our voices were heard and that the Governor did not veto any of the funding for the Navajo Nation. I also thank the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and all of the Chapter officials for their advocacy

on behalf of the communities they represent," said President Nez.

On Feb. 4, President Nez met with Gov. Lujan Grisham, House Speaker Brian Egolf (D-Dist. 47), and several state legislators at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M., to advocate for legislative priorities on behalf of the Navajo Nation including capital outlay funds.

"Everyone who laid their hands to this great work should be proud and appreciative of the support of our state legislators and the Governor. When we work together and collaborate, these initiatives garner more and more support and ultimately help our Navajo people. We appreciate the support of many who devoted time, resources, and advocacy for Senate Bill 212," stated Vice President Lizer.

Below is the \$14.8 million project listing approved through Senate Bill 212.

March 2022

County: Bernalillo	AMOUNT FUNDED
2231 TO'HAJIILEE CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$200,000 To'hajiilee Chapter GF	\$200,000
2231 TO'HAJIILEE CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$150,000 To'hajiilee Chapter STB	\$150,000
County: Cibola	
1094 RAMAH CHP HOUSE REN \$350,000 STB	\$350,000
466 RAMAH CHP SENIOR CTR ACQ & CONSTRUCT \$150,000 STB	\$150,000
County: McKinley	
1139 BAAHAALI CHP HOUSE IMPROVE \$100,000 Baahaali Chapter STB	\$100,000
1143 BAAHAALI CHP TRANSFER STN IMPROVE \$100,000 Baahaali Chapter STB	\$100,000
904 BACA/PREWITT CHP WATER LINE PROJECT CONSTRUCT \$150,000 STB	\$150,000
440 BECENTI CHP EARTH TANKS/WINDMILLS IMPROVE \$150,000 STB	\$150,000
1972 CASAMERO LAKE CHP BATHROOM ADDITION REN \$50,000 Casamero Lake Chapter STB	\$50,000
1937 CASAMERO LAKE CHP CMTY CEMETERY SITE IMPROVE \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
276 CEDAR AVE & LONE PINE DR IMPROVE RED LAKE CHP \$100,000 Red Lake Chapter STB	\$100,000
1428 CHICHILTAH CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$150,000 Chichiltah Chapter STB	\$150,000
1430 CHICHILTAH CHP POWER LINE CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Chichiltah Chapter STB	\$100,000
1421 CHICHILTAH CHP WATER & WWATER SYS CONSTRUCT \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
1844 CHURCH ROCK CHP BTHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$75,000 Church Rock Chapter STB	\$75,000
1830 CHURCH ROCK CHP CHAPTER HSE CONSTRUCT \$75,000 Church Rock Chapter STB	\$75,000
1820 CHURCH ROCK CHP WRHSE DESIGN \$2,000,000 Church Rock Chapter Glove Factory	\$2,000,000
1820 CHURCH ROCK CHP WRHSE DESIGN \$100,000 Church Rock Chapter STB	\$100,000
1946 COYOTE CANYON CHP SENIOR CTR OUTDOOR PATIO/COOKIN	\$150,000
2322 CR5 IMPROVE MANUELITO CHP REPAIR \$150,000 STB	\$150,000
1661 CROWNPOINT CHP HVAC BLDG REN \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
1716 CROWNPOINT CHP RODEO GROUNDS REN \$100,000 Crownpoint STB	\$100,000
1645 FORT DEFIANCE CHP MULTIPURPOSE BLDG PLAN \$60,000 STB	\$60,000
2407 HUNTER'S POINT RD/CR4 REPAIR \$100,000 Manuelito Chapter STB	\$100,000
2031 HWY 491 LIGHTING CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Twin Lakes Chapter STB	\$100,000
2387 IYANBITO CHP ROADS IMPROVE \$200,000 STB	\$200,000
2377 MANUELITO CHP ADMIN BLDG REN \$75,000 Manuelito Chapter STB	\$75,000
2392 MANUELITO CHP VETERANS BUILDING UPGRADE \$250,000 STB	\$250,000

March 2022

County: McKinley (continued)	AMOUNT FUNDED
2567 MARIANO LAKE CHP HOUSE WIRING/RECERTIFICATION CONS \$80,000 GF	\$80,000
2412 MARIANO LAKE ROADS CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Mariano Lake Chapter STB	\$200,000
1092 NAHODISHGISH CHP BATHROOM ADDITIONS CONSTRUCT	\$125,000
1731 NAVAJO NATION CROWNPOINT COMMUNITY CEMETERY UPGR \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
867 OJO ENCINO CHP WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCT \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
1815 PINEDALE CHP CMTY CTR CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Pinedale Chapter STB	\$200,000
2570 PUEBLO PINTADO CHP BADGER SPRING POWER LINE EXTEND \$50,000 GF	\$50,000
2569 RED LAKE 18 CHP CMTY STREETS IMPROVE \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
2327 SMITH LAKE CHP BATHRM ADD & CONSTRUCT \$50,000 Smith Lake Chapter STB	\$50,000
1919 SMITH LAKE CHP VETERANS CTR REN \$150,000 Smith Lake Chapter STB	\$150,000
2563 THOREAU CHP HOUSE WIRING CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Thoreau Chapter GF	\$200,000
1962 THOREAU CHP VETERAN'S SERVICE CTR CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Thoreau Chapter STB	\$200,000
444 TOHATCHI CHP PUBLIC SAFETY CMLPX PLAN \$950,000 Tohatchi Chapter STB	\$950,000
442 TOHATCHI CHP WWATER SYS IMPROVE \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
1018 TSAYATOH CHP HOUSE CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Tsa-Ya-Toh Chapter STB	\$100,000
1020 TSAYATOH CHP RESIDENTIAL BATHROOM ADD IMPROVE	\$200,000
2367 TSE'II'AHII' CHP POWERLINE & WIRING SENIOR RESIDENCE IM \$150,000 STB	\$150,000
2329 TSE'II'AHII' CHP WATER LINE EXTENSION CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Crownpoint GF	\$200,000
1015 TSE'LICHII CHP MODULAR BUILDING CONSTRUCT \$200,000 STB	\$200,000
County: Multiple Co	
11 CRYSTAL CHP LAND USE MASTER PLAN \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
863 OJO ENCINO CHP WWATER SYS IMPROVE \$101,000 STB	\$101,000
County: San Juan	
2263 BECLABITO CHP HELIPAD CONSTRUCT \$107,000 Beclabito Chapter STB	\$107,000
1410 GADII'AHII/TO'KOI CHP ADMIN CMLPX CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Gadii'ahi Chapter STB	\$100,000
1422 GADII'AHII/TO'KOI CHP HOUSING TRACT PLAN \$75,000 Gadii'ahi Chapter STB	\$75,000
1426 GADII'AHII/TO'KOI CHP PRESSURIZED IRR SYS CONSTRUCT \$90,000 STB	\$90,000
1415 GADII'AHII/TO'KOI CHP SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER CONSTRUCT	\$100,000
206 LAKE VALLEY CHP STORAGE FCLTY CONSTRUCT \$50,000 Lake Valley Chapter STB	\$50,000
205 LAKE VALLEY CHP VEH & EQUIP PRCHS \$100,000 Lake Valley Chapter STB	\$100,000

March 2022

County: San Juan (continued)	AMOUNT FUNDED
2566 N571 RT GADII'AHI/TO'KOI CHP IMPROVE \$170,000 GF	\$170,000
1547 NAGEEZI CHP DOMESTIC WATER LINE DES \$150,000 Nageezi STB	\$150,000
1294 NASCHITTI CHP SCATTERED POWER LINE CONSTRUCT \$200,000 Sheep Springs GF	\$200,000
1294 NASCHITTI CHP SCATTERED POWER LINE CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Sheep Springs STB	\$100,000
2101 NAVAJO PREP SCHL BLDG 32 CONSTRUCT \$1,000,000 Farmington STB	\$1,000,000
2038 NAVAJO PREP SCHL BLDG/GRND CONSTRUCT \$225,000 Farmington STB	\$225,000
2037 NAVAJO PREP SCHL INFO TECH & SECURITY UPGRADE \$150,000 Farmington STB	\$150,000
175 NAVAJO RT 367 CONSTRUCT UPPER FRUITLAND CHP \$75,000 Upper Fruitland Chapte STB	\$75,000
881 NEWCOMB CHP CHAPTER HOUSE ROOF REPAIR \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
881 NEWCOMB CHP CHAPTER HOUSE ROOF REPAIR \$75,000 STB	\$75,000
878 NEWCOMB CHP SOLAR STREET LIGHTING CONSTRUCT \$75,000 STB	\$75,000
2173 SHIPROCK CHP INCIDENT COMMAND CTR CONSTRUCT \$100,000 Shiprock STB	\$100,000
1030 SHIPROCK CHP MLTPRPS VET CENTER CONSTRUCT \$50,000 Shiprock Chapter STB	\$50,000
2043 SHIPROCK CHP SENIOR CTR PARKING LOT REPAIR \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
2043 SHIPROCK CHP SENIOR CTR PARKING LOT REPAIR \$350,000 STB	\$350,000
2216 TEEC NOS POS BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
1130 TOOHALTSOOI CHP RURAL ROADS UPGRADE \$78,000 STB	\$78,000
1867 TSE'DAA'KAAN CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
1863 TSE'DAA'KAAN CHP SEPTIC SYS IMPROVE \$100,000 STB	\$100,000
2292 TWO GREY HILLS CHP VETERANS MEM PARK CONSTRUCT	\$75,000
177 UPPER FRUITLAND CHP WALTER COLLINS CTR	\$203,000
1823 WHITE ROCK CHP BATHRM ADD CONSTRUCT	\$50,000
1850 WHITE ROCK CHP CISTERN SYS CONSTRUCT	\$75,000
County: Socorro	
1675 ALAMO CHP SATELLITE INTERNET INFO TECH \$150,000 Alamo Chapter STB	\$150,000
2565 ALAMO CHP SCATTERED POWER & WATER LINE EXTEND \$200,000 GF	\$200,000
529 ALAMO SPRING CREEK ROAD CULV RPLC \$500,000 Alamo STB	\$500,000
PROJECT TOTALS	\$14,814,000

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3tTD62z>

March 2022

Heavy Equipment Updates

Heavy Equipment Policies and Procedures now available on nndcd.org website and you can click--> [HERE](#)

March Delivery

March 3rd - Many Farms - Dump Truck

March 16th - Cornfields - Back Hoe



Thank you project team!

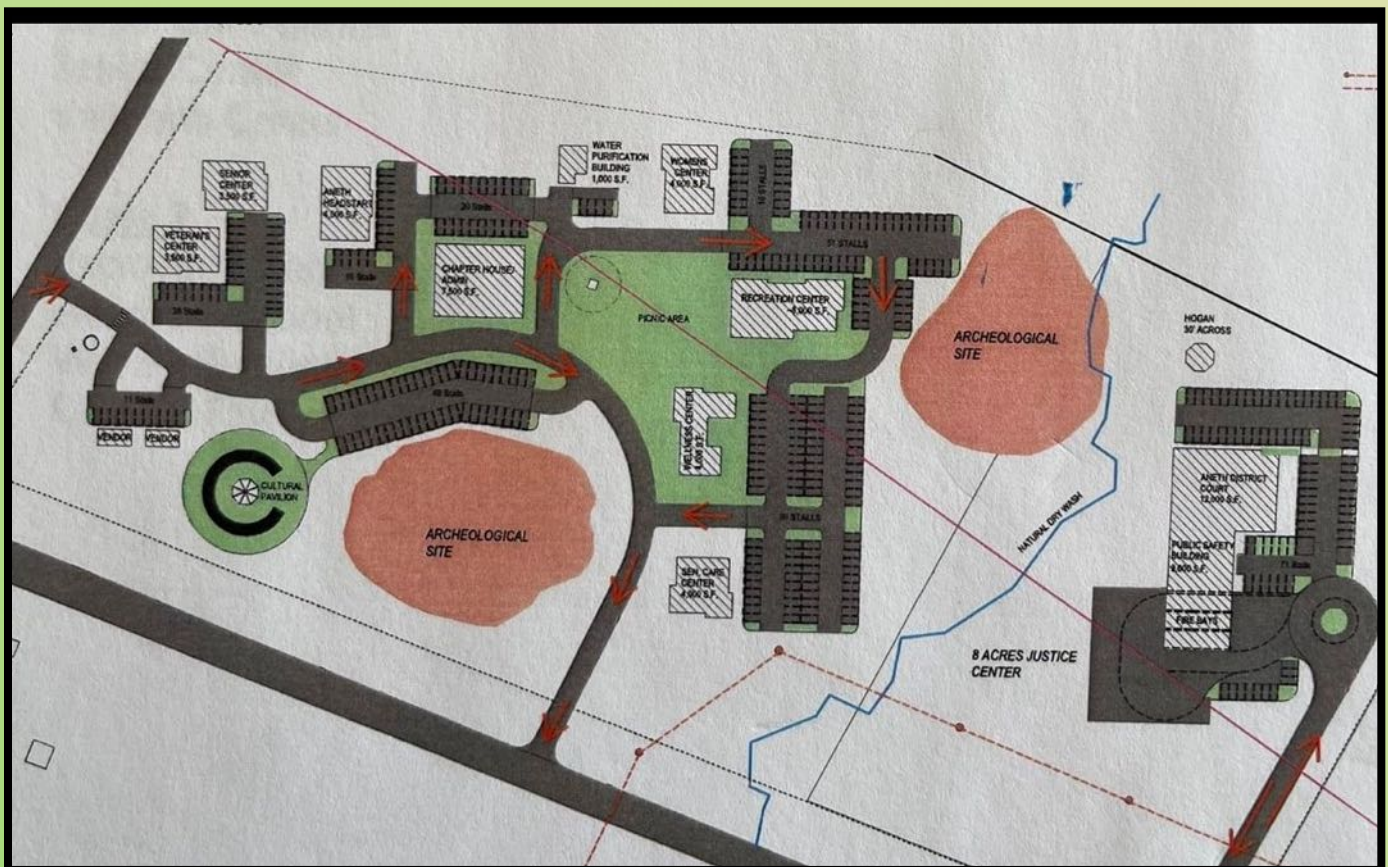
Aneth Chapter Community Land Use Plan Work Session

On March 24, 2022, the Aneth Chapter officials and staff met with the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development to review an update of their Community Land Use Plan and take a tour of the proposed 24-acre site development plan.

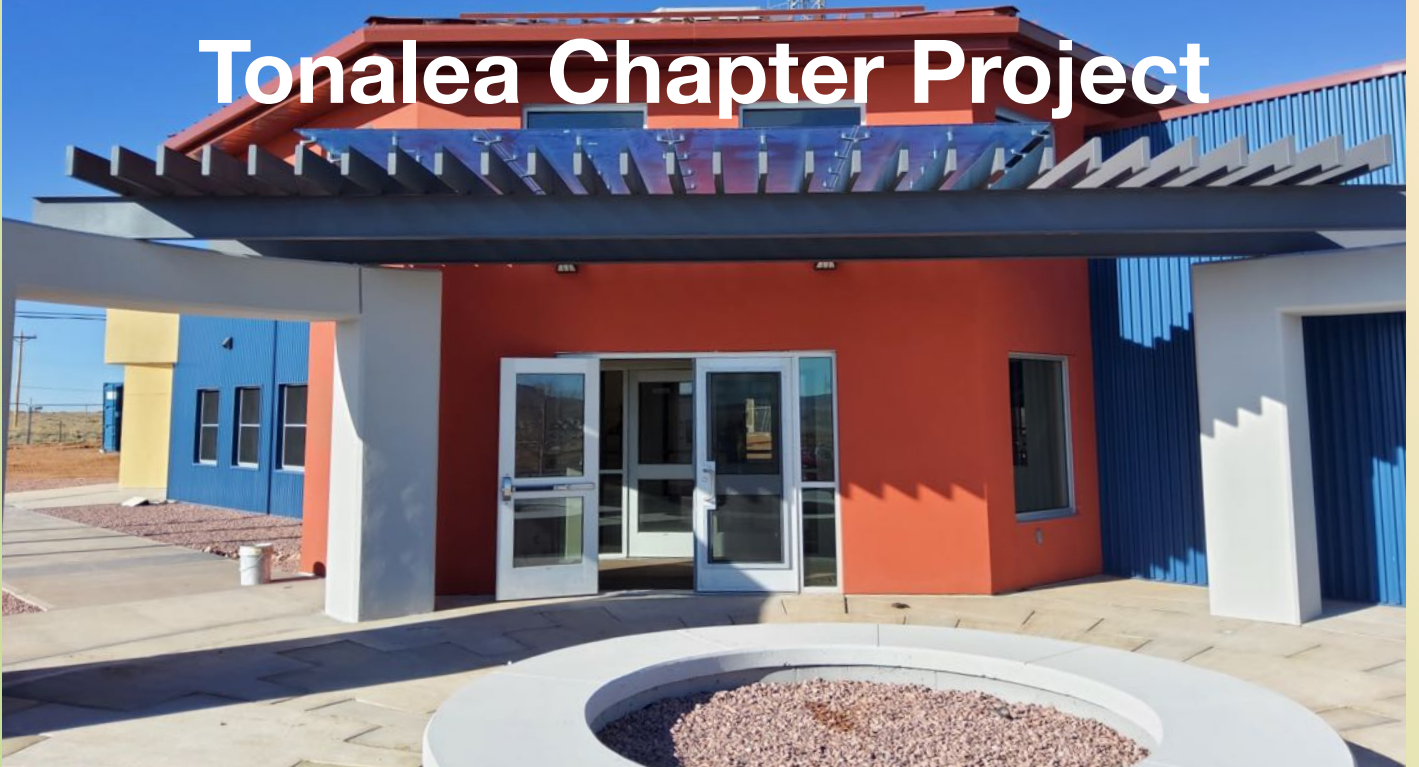
A schedule of upcoming community participation meetings for CLUP manual update is forthcoming. The master plan is an evolving document, but provides an insight of the Chapter's vision for the community of Aneth.



READ AT: <https://www.facebook.com/anethchapter/posts/292621316377194>



Tonalea Chapter Project



Project Description:

Tonalea Chapter: 6,844 S.F. Multi-Purpose Building;

Three divided able meeting areas, offices, storage, conference room, library/computer area and Restrooms..

Start Date: July 2016 began A/E designs completed January 2020; Construction began August 2020; Construction completed February 18, 2022.

Architect Firm: Dyon Murphy Architects, PC Albuquerque, NM

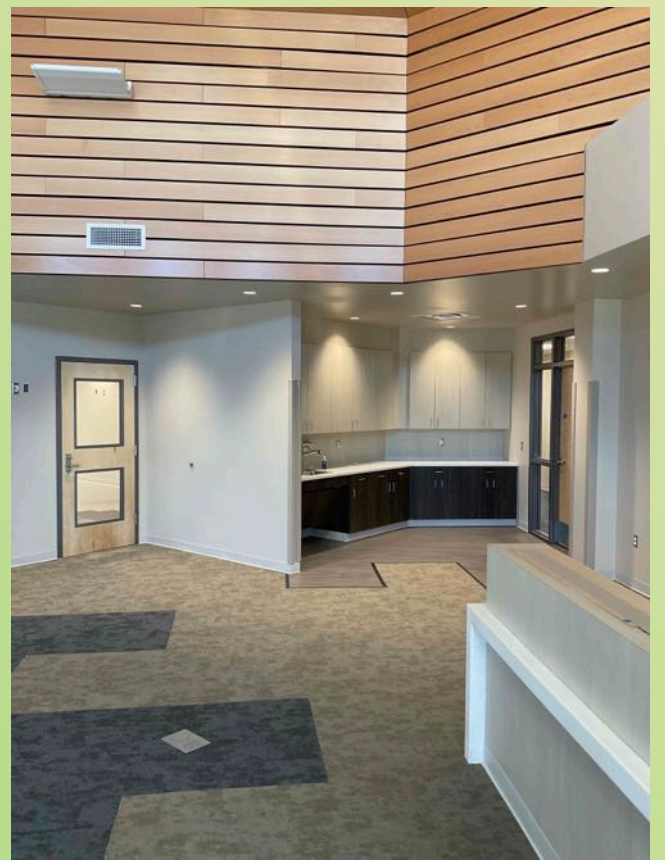
General Contractor Award: LAM Corporation, Gallup, NM

Funding Source: UUFB NN- \$330,549.25(DMA A/E Design)

Sihasin funds \$ 3,971,567.93 (Constr.-LAM Corp.)

Project Managers: Marcus Murphy & Ed Preston

Thanks to ALL CPMD staff & NNDOJ, NNOOC



Hosted by the Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance

*Open to Chapters, Farm Boards,
Grazing Committees, CLUPS & Dine' Citizens*

Dine' Food Policy Education Webinar Series

April 12th: *Dine' Food Policy Project & Restoring Traditional Foods: An Introduction*

April 14th: *Local Food Councils: Benefits for Growers & Communities*

April 19th: *Farm to School Policy: Local Food Education*

April 21st: *Tribal Food Safety Certification: Helping Farmers & Ranchers Access Markets*

April 26th: *Tribal Land Use Challenges and Possibilities: Farming, Ranching, & Grazing Permits*

12:00pm-1:00pm MST via Zoom

For more information, email Gloria Ann Begay: stargazer.begay@gmail.com

For Registration, email: cheryltwitchell06@gmail.com

As a reservation-wide, non-profit organization, the Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance's mission is to help restore the Dine' traditional and local foods and food system on Navajo. The national Native American Agriculture Fund provided a grant to DFSA to develop food policies and seek the approval of the Navajo Council.

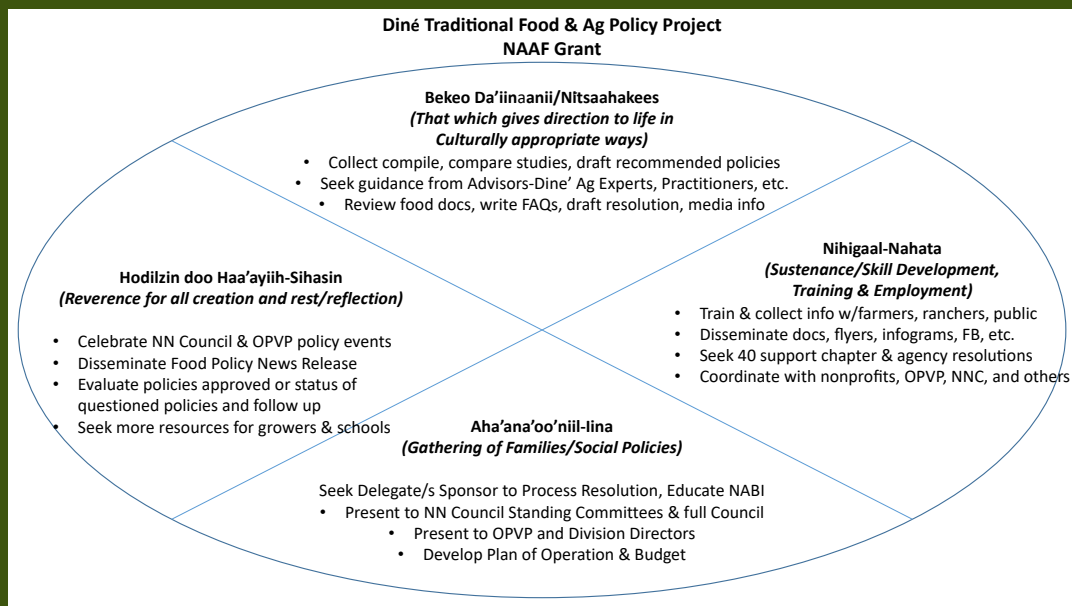
We studied and gathered reports to develop a food resolution template and were very pleased and appreciated the 48 Navajo chapters and five agency councils that approved their food policy resolutions in the past few months.

We did not have adequate time at the above chapter and agency council meeting to fully educate the public, farmers, and ranchers on the support resolution. Therefore, DFSA is respectfully requesting chapters, farm boards, grazing committees, CLUBS, and the public to participate in the "Dine' Food Policy Webinar Series" beginning April 12 through April 26th as ZOOM meetings.

The most important goal is to listen and collect questions, suggestions or stories for each topic that DFSA will share with the Navajo Council and the Navajo President. So please register and Cheryl will provide the link information to join the webinar.

DFSA invites everyone to join us for a five part webinar series that explores the status of Navajo food system, offers viable solutions to complicated food challenges, and lets move forward for a healthier and happier Navajo Nation.

For more information, contact Gloria A Begay at stargazer.begay@gmail.com



Bulletin Board

Navajo officials consider development of commercial alfalfa farm near Winslow



WINSLOW, Ariz. – A 484-acre site, located near the southwest portion of the Navajo Nation is under consideration for potential agricultural and economic development initiatives.

On March 1, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, and

Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office Director Robert K. Black were joined by members of the Resources and Development Committee, Navajo Land Department and Birdsprings Chapter officials during a site visit.

Under the guidance of the Division of Natural Resources, several departments have devoted their resources to assess the site.

One proposal being considered is the development of a commercial alfalfa farm near the city of Winslow, Arizona, within fee lands owned by the Navajo Nation.

"In comparison to lands that are held in trust by the federal government, fee lands have a lot of upside and potential for development, jobs, and revenue," Nez said.

According to Nez, the initiative would be beneficial to Navajo communities.

"Agricultural development, such as an alfalfa farm, can create new jobs and generate resources for livestock owners and ranchers that reside on the Navajo Nation. Currently, we have many livestock owners who rely on businesses off of our Nation to sustain their operations," he said.

Shebala also supports the development of an alfalfa farm to lessen the dependency on outside providers that charge high

prices for hay.

For the past several months, Assist International, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering humanitarian efforts, has provided its expertise and support for the project.

Department of Water Resources Branch Director Najam Tariq said the site could accommodate various water infrastructure to support opportunities for housing and other types of development. He estimates that the site could generate a similar water output as other nearby farms.

The Nez-Lizer administration will continue to work with the Resources and Development Committee, City of Winslow, Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, and other partners to establish the Navajo Nation's priorities for the fee lands area.

"We appreciate Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez, Vice Chair Thomas Walker, Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay and Elmer Begay, and former Council Delegate Walter Phelps for their involvement and support as we work together to make this a successful and sustainable initiative," Nez said.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2022/mar/08/navajo-officials-consider-development-commercial-a/>

Joe Biden nominates Indian Health Service director

The new director will oversee a budget of \$8.5 billion that provides healthcare for 2.6 million Indigenous people across the country

Kalle Benallie
Indian Country Today

Roselyn Tso is President Joe Biden's nominee for director of the Indian Health Service, after more than a year without an appointed leader.

If confirmed by the Senate, she will serve and manage the Indian Health Service's administration of health care programs and services, including its approximately \$7.4 billion budget and 15,000 employees. The agency provides healthcare to approximately 2.6 million Indigenous people across the country. Indian Health Service is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

It's unclear when a confirmation hearing will be held.

Tso, Navajo, brings nearly 40 years of service in the Indian health system, including most recently on the Navajo Nation.

She began her career with IHS in 1984 working a variety of jobs in the Portland, Oregon, area as the administrative officer for the Yakama Service Unit, the planning and statistical officer, the equal employment officer and the special assistant to the area director.

In 2005, she continued her work in Portland as the Office of Tribal and Service Unit Operations director and the acting director for the Office of Direct Services and Contracting Tribes in 2010 and 2016 to 2018. Since 2019, she has been the director of the Navajo Area of IHS.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies from Marylhurst University in Oregon and a master's in organizational management from the University of Phoenix in Portland.

The last IHS director to be confirmed was Rear Admiral Michael Weahkee, Zuni Pueblo, of New Mexico, in April 2020. He served as the principal deputy director from June 2017 until his confirmation. He resigned less than a year later on Jan. 20, 2021, the same day Biden was sworn in as president. He said he was



asked to leave by the new administration to appoint new leadership. Elizabeth A. Fowler, a citizen of the Comanche Nation with descendance from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, has acted as the deputy director since.

The Biden administration stated in the Biden-Harris Plan for Tribal Nations that it would strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship, provide "reliable, affordable, quality health care and address health disparities, restore tribal lands, address climate change, and safeguard natural and cultural resources."

In the fiscal year 2022 budget presented to Congress, Biden requested that an additional \$2.2 billion be allocated for Indian Health Service, pushing the budget to \$8.5 billion, and for advanced appropriation of \$9 billion for fiscal year 2023.

The "FY 2022 Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup Recommendations," released by the National Indian Health Board, stated that the Biden administration, at a minimum, should recommend a \$12.759-billion budget for Indian Health

Service. To be fully funded, the agency would need \$48 billion. While Biden's \$8.5 billion recommendation does increase the budget by 20 percent, it would need an additional \$40 billion to fulfill trust and treaty obligations made with Indigenous nations.

The advanced appropriation bill for Indian Health Service was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, a New Mexico Democrat, on Oct. 7 and a related bill was introduced in the house by U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, a Minnesota Democrat, on Oct. 12. There has yet to be any other action on the bills.

Another position that remains empty is the commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, according to the Washington Post's political appointee tracker. Hope MacDonald LoneTree, Navajo, is currently acting as the deputy commissioner and manages a nationwide discretionary grant program.

READ MORE AT: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/joe-biden-nominates-indian-health-service-director>

Bulletin Board

Road to success: GCU grad aids her Navajo Nation

By Lana Sweeten-Shults
GCU News Bureau

The name Cedar Avenue inspires idyllic images of a winding country road bordered by sprawling cedar trees.

But Cedar Avenue wasn't as idyllic as its name sounds.

The street – the only access road to Navajo Elementary School in the one-restaurant, one-gas station town of Navajo, New Mexico – was so full of potholes that drivers created their own special routes to avoid the missing pavement and cavernous dips. And it took school bus drivers 15 minutes just to navigate the almost half-mile stretch unscathed.

Stacy Etsitty, the school's bookkeeper, decided enough was enough. Cedar Avenue had been a disgrace to avenues for long enough, ever since she was a student herself at the school.

So even though it wasn't in her job description, she was determined to make it better. And she did, galvanizing the community and helping raise enough funds to get the road fixed.

That determination to get things done defines Etsitty, who is graduating Saturday from Grand Canyon University with her Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Management. She is among the largest class of graduates from GCU, with traditional on-ground students walking the stage in April and online learners graduating virtually this weekend.

She was determined, too, to go to college and, just as important, return to the Navajo Nation reservation to help her community – so many do not return and seek opportunity elsewhere.

"They get attached to the city life," said Etsitty.

Within the Navajo Nation, which occupies northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and southeastern Utah, 35.8% of households have incomes far below the federal poverty level, 35% do not have access to running water and 15,000 people do not have electricity, according to Prosperity Now in an article from May 2020.

It is why roads such as Cedar Avenue exist.

Etsitty was first inspired by her grandparents to pursue a college degree.

"My grandparents always told me that if you want something, go after it – whatever you want in life, whatever you want to do. To be honest, I didn't know what they meant by that," said Etsitty on her lunch break from Window Rock, Arizona, where she recently started a new job as an associate accountant with the Navajo Nation.

For Etsitty, that meant starting her career path at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, a public tribal land-grant community college in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

But always, in the back of her mind, she told herself, "In some way, when I leave here, I'm going to return to Navajo, New Mexico," where she went to school and where about 95% of the residents are Navajo.

With her associate degree in liberal arts in hand, she did return. But jobs were scarce.

"Getting a job on the reservation is very hard, even if you have a degree," she said.

Still, she was able to become a substitute teacher and, a week later, was hired as a bookkeeper for Navajo Elementary School, where not a lot had changed since she was a student there. Many of the people working there also were at the school when she was a student.

It bothered her that students lacked resources. So many items that students needed just weren't in the budget.

"The main office said, 'You can't order this.' I worked around those dilemmas and did get the students what they wanted," she said.

While she was at the elementary school, she heard about GCU from her cousin, who was enrolled at the University. She started asking him about the classes. He told her she would take a course to help her with time management. With a full-time job, she thought it would fit her schedule.

Not that it was easy.

She kept in contact with her Student Services counselor – a lot.

"She pushed me," said Etsitty, who always thought of her grandparents when she told herself, "I'm going to finish it. I'm going to finish it."

While Etsitty didn't know exactly what her grandparents meant when they told her to go after what she wanted in life, she knows what those words mean now.

Etsitty pushed herself, too, to expand her horizons beyond her hometown and landed her position in Window Rock, capital of the Navajo Nation, as an accountant.

Ironically, Etsitty said she never wanted anything to do with math. She said she failed every math class she had.

"Even with my associate's ... I had to be held back because of trigonometry. I said, 'I'm never going to get a job that has to do with math.'"

But when she returned to her hometown, there weren't a lot of jobs open. The bookkeeping job fell into her hands, she said.

"It was a job I didn't want to take, but at the same time, I had to. I hardly knew anything about math or accounting," she said, but she did take some accounting classes for her degree.

She struggled with it for a time but eventually fell in love with it. She especially loves when, in the end, the numbers add up and come out correctly.

When you ask Etsitty why she was so determined to return to the Navajo Nation, she said it was important to her to give back and help raise up and improve the community that raised her. Her late paternal grandmother would always tell her, "Respect people; help them if you can."

"I want to do more for my people. ... Look at this place," Etsitty said. "How can someone do their education and NOT come back to this place?"

Her brother, Lyle Etsitty, said, "My sister has witnessed so



Stacy Etsitty was determined to return to her hometown of Rabbit Brush, near Navajo, New Mexico, after receiving her associate degree. And now, with her bachelor's degree from GCU, she's still doing her part for the Navajo Nation, starting a job recently as an associate accountant at the Navajo capital of Window Rock, Arizona.

much struggle in our communities. She has also seen my mother's and father's determination to make ends meet. She has mentioned to me on various occasions, 'Lyle, I want something better. I want a higher degree from an associate's. She would go on to say, 'I want to be better.'"

Wanting to raise up her community is an idea she shares with the University, which is guided by its mission to bring transformational change to its own community of west Phoenix. The University sees it as its duty as a Christian institution to help its neighbors, much like Etsitty does.

GCU President Brian Mueller spoke earlier this week at a press conference in which the University and partner CityServe announced they would begin distributing school supplies, furniture, clothing, heaters and other essential goods to those in need. He said his hope is that students, once they leave here, whatever their major might be, will bring their light into the darkest places.

Because of her determination to pursue higher education, Etsitty says others around her have been inspired to do the same. A couple of her co-workers, after hearing about her getting her bachelor's, have since started their degree programs. One is in the associate degree program at the University of New Mexico in Gallup.

"Another individual I work with went to GCU after I told him," said Etsitty, who is in her master's program at GCU in Public Administration.

Her brother also decided to return to school to get his master's degree after he saw she was continuing her education.

"My sister's eagerness to pursue a grad degree was contagious. Her go-getter mentality is one of a kind," he said.

Etsitty plans to pursue her doctorate next.

And Cedar Avenue?

"It's smooth, all the way to the school," she said.

READ MORE: <https://news.gcu.edu/2021/05/road-to-success-gcu-grad-assists-her-navajo-nation/>

Bulletin Board

Former DCD Executive Director Passes On

DCD was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of former Division of Community Development Executive Director, Carl Smith. Mr. Smith served as Rock Springs Chapter President in 2012 and served as Executive Director of DCD from March 2015 to January 2019. According to the March 2, 2022 issue of the Gallup Independent, "Smith died Feb. 17, 2022, in Gallup. He was born June 29, 1963, in Gallup. He was born of the Mexican Clan, born for the Red Running into the Water Clan.

Survivors include son Christian K. Smith; daughters Ashley C. Sanders and Amanda R. Begay; mother Gladys E. Yazzie; brothers Richard Smith and Lorenzo Smith; sister Rena Miller; and 11 grandchildren.

Smith was preceded in death by his sons Calvin C. Smith and Kevin C. Smith; brother Julian Smith; and sister Loretta Smith."



SRP sending line workers to provide electricity to 300 homes in Navajo Nation

BY KTAR.COM

Mar 31, 2022, 4:15 AM

PHOENIX – Families living without home electricity on the Navajo Nation in Arizona will be able to flick a switch to power up soon.

One of Arizona's largest energy suppliers, Salt River Project, is sending four crews to Navajo Nation to provide electricity for families without power.

Line workers from nine other states will also be part of the joint initiative with the American Public Power Association and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, which is the public power utility serving the Navajo Nation.

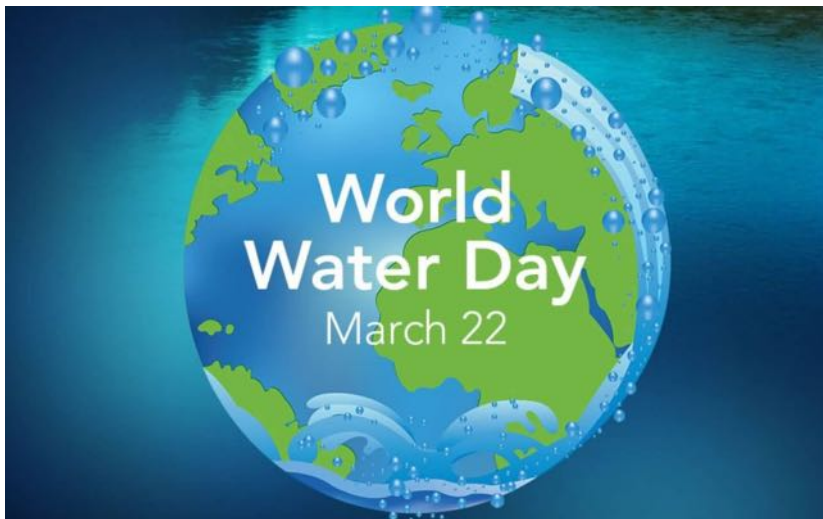
SRP's first crew will depart Tempe on Saturday and begin to set miles of wooden distribution poles and string conductor through Navajo Nation.

READ MORE AT: <https://ktar.com/story/4976405/srp-sending-line-workers-to-provide-electricity-to-300-homes-in-navajo-nation/>



Bulletin Board

World Water Day - March 22



World Water Day is an international United Nations holiday, observed every year on March 22. Clean and safe water is something that is still not accessible to many people around the globe, and even in some parts of the United States! World Water Day brings awareness to this issue and to how important it is to make freshwater accessible to everyone, for drinking and sanitation purposes. There are currently 2.2 billion people living with no access to clean and safe water, which means this is a global water crisis that we need to take action against.

History of World Water Day

A proposal for World Water Day to become an official observance was first introduced in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In December of the same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that declared March 22 as World Water Day, to be observed every year.

The first World Water Day was celebrated on March 22, 1993. The day is observed by all UN member states, as well as people and international organizations dedicated to the cause of making freshwater accessible for everyone.

The logo and main symbol for World Water Day is a water drop shape in the UN's color blue.

World Water Day Themes

As is usual with UN holidays, since 2002 there has been a different theme observed in each World Water Day. The themes highlight what issue is the main focus of World Water Day that year. Here are some past themes for World Water Day:

the first theme, in 2002, was "Water for Development".

in 2010 the theme was "Clean Water for a Healthy World".

2012's theme was "Water and Food Security: The World is Thirsty Because We are Hungry."

the theme for 2020 was "Water and Climate Change".

The World Water Theme for 2021 will be "Valuing Water", with a focus not just on the price of water, but on the social, cultural, and environmental value of water.

Why World Water Day is Important

Many of us take water for granted. We have access to clean water from our taps, or can easily buy it in supermarkets. This is not the reality of billions of people, in cities and rural areas, in third world countries and developed countries.

World Water Day brings awareness to this inequality when it comes to access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, which should be a human right for everyone. It does so by educating people on water pollution, water scarcity, and the lack of water supply and sanitation.

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

World Backup Day - March 31



Has your computer ever crashed when you were working on something important, causing you to lose all of your important documents? Has your phone ever stopped working, leaving you without all your precious photos and videos? Well, World Backup Day on March 31st is here to remind you how important it is to regularly back up all of your files and documents in order to keep them safe. Even though technology has become more reliable, phones, computers, and hard-drives are still not foolproof, and in a few seconds, you can lose all your data beyond recovery. On March 31st, stop procrastinating and sit down with all your devices to backup your files and photos. It is now easier and quicker to do than ever!

History of World Backup Day

World Backup Day was started in 2011, by digital consultant Ismail Jadun. Jadun saw a post on Reddit, where a user wrote about losing their hard drive and wishing someone had reminded them about how important it is to backup your data.

Jadun thought it would be a good idea to have a global day to remind everyone to sit down and back up all the files and documents they don't want to lose. He chose March 31st as the date to observe World Backup Day because it is the day before April Fool's, and only a fool would forget to backup their data. At the same time, April Fool's is a day of pranks, and losing all of your files can sometimes feel like the universe is playing a prank on you. So, you can avoid that by backing up all your devices on World Backup Day!

The day quickly spread amongst internet users and many social media platforms, as Jadun encourages all participants to take a pledge on March 31st and share it with their followers every year. The pledge goes "I solemnly swear to backup my important documents and precious memories on World Backup Day, March 31st." Backing up your data is extremely important for safety reasons too. Data that is not backed up and protected is more at risk of being hacked or stolen by viruses.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3lVI1nV>

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

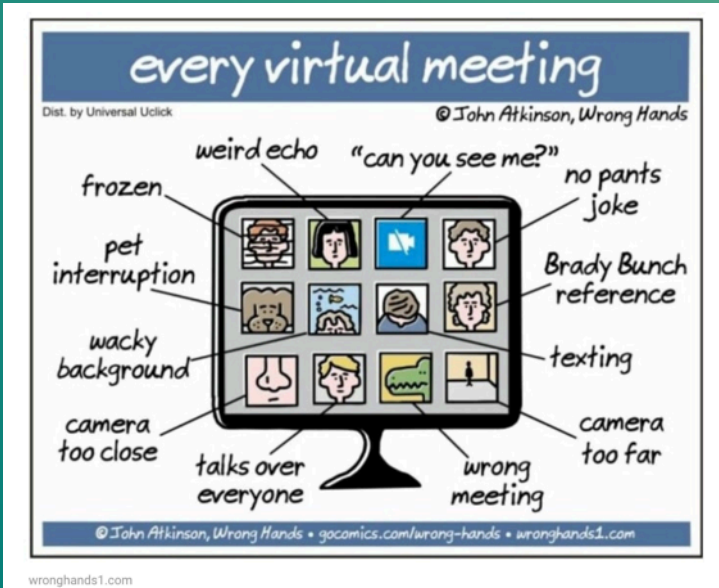
POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Teecnospos, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Whitecone, AZ	38,836.80	03/31/2022
Administrative Service Officer (S)	Baca, NM	45,226.08	03/28/2022
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Huerfano, NM	27,519.84	04/13/2022
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nahodishgish, NM	27,519.84	04/20/2022
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Jeddito, AZ	38,836.80	04/14/2022
Capital Projects Management Department			
Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
Contract Compliance Officer(S)	Window Rock, AZ	45,226.08	03/31/2022
Programs and Project Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	41,488.56	04/08/2022
Community Housing & Infrastructure Department			
Eligibility Technician (S)	Chinle, AZ	27,519.84	04/07/2022
Eligibility Technician (S)	Crownpoint, NM	27,519.84	04/07/2022

(OUF) Open Until Filled
 (S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

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

Comic of the Month

Quote of the Month



DCD PERSONNEL CHANGES

Newly Added Team Members:

Capital Projects Management - Delvin Wauneka, Construction Supervisor
Capital Projects Management - Henry Yazzie Jr., Project Manager
Community Housing Infrastructure - Rita Begay, Housing Improvement Manager

Departing Employees:

CHID - Carol Davis, Tuba City HIP Eligibility Technician,
Ms. Davis will be retiring after 34 years with the Housing Improvement Program.
Congratulations and thank you for all your years of service, Carol!

ASC - Shanna Williams, Temporary Office Assistant
Ms. Williams served on the DCD Safety Team while she was employed at DCD.
She has moved on to a permanent position within Navajo Nation

Administrative Service Centers

Congratulations to Guarena Adeky who was selected for the SPPS position for the Gallup-Baca ASC Office. She was promoted in January 2022 to the SPPS position. In February, the Gallup-Baca ASC staff was joined by Tisheena Loley as the new Office Specialist (OS). The Gallup-Baca team is currently advertising for the Administrative Services Officer (ASO) position in addition to moving to a new location soon and they will be located next to the Red Rock Chapter in Red Rock, New Mexico.

Congratulations to Tia Yazzie, who was also promoted to Administrative Assistant at the Window Rock ASC Central office. Ms. Yazzie was formerly the OS at the Chinle ASC office.

We would also like to welcome the new ASO to the Dilkon ASC Office, Ms. Toni Mina. Ms. Mina formerly worked with Jeddito chapter and now has been assisting the Dilkon service office as the ASO since January 2022. Toni is a Navy Veteran and we thank her for her service. Toni brings her knowledge and leadership to the Dilkon ASC team at their new facility located next to the Whitecone Chapter in Whitecone, Arizona.

The ASC Department has several vacancies and are seeking qualified individuals to join the team. The ASC staff provide administrative support, technical assistance and training to all 110 Navajo Chapters and each ASC Office is assigned about 12 to 14 chapters in each service area. Applicants that have an interest in working with Navajo Nation chapter local governments are encouraged to apply. College transcripts are required for all applications and unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

Gallup-Baca ASC - Administrative Services Officer - Vacant
Chinle ASC - Office Specialist - Vacant
Fort Defiance ASC - Office Specialist - Vacant
Kayenta ASC - Office Specialist - Vacant

Department of Personnel Application Process

All applications MUST be submitted to the Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management (NNDPM) on or BEFORE 5:00 p.m. on the position's specified closing date. Applications are accepted via email (apply@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov), mail (PO Box 7080 Window Rock, AZ 86515), fax (928) 871-6976, and also hand-delivered to our office. DPM does not make copies. When emailing, please print, sign and scan your application as an actual signature is required.

Required to be submitted with your Navajo Nation Employment Application (09.16.2016 Revised)

- Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood (CNIB) to receive Navajo Preference.
- Copy of HS Diploma / GED Certificate
- Copies of transcripts and degree(s) to receive credit for education.
- Certifications (i.e. First Aid, CPR, etc.)
- Copy of Valid State Driver License/ID.
- A (Non-Navajo Spouse) is eligible to receive Navajo preference under the NPEA (Navajo Preference in Employment Act). To receive Non-Navajo Spouse Preference, the following supporting documents are required to accompany the Navajo Nation employment application: Proof of marriage by a marriage license, proof of residency and spouse's Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood (CNIB).

Optional

- Resumé
- Letter of Interest
- Letters of Reference



National Single Parent Day: March 21, 2022

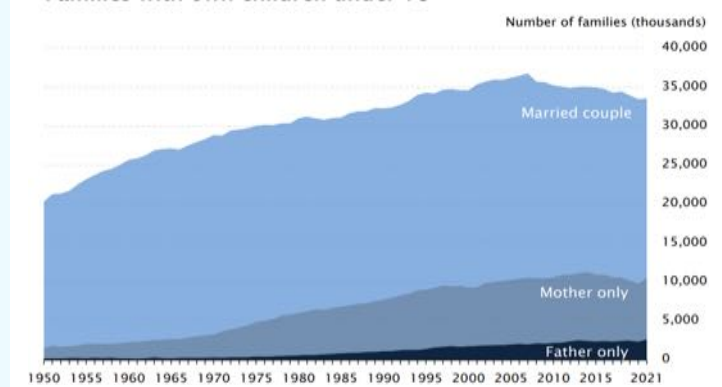
From Pew Research Center, FACT TANK: U.S. has world's highest rate of children living in single-parent households:

"For decades, the share of U.S. children living with a single parent has been rising, accompanied by a decline in marriage rates and a rise in births outside of marriage. A new Pew Research Center study [released Dec. 12, 2019] of 130 countries and territories shows that the U.S. has the world's highest rate of children living in single-parent households.

"Almost a quarter of U.S. children under the age of 18 live with one parent and no other adults (23%), more than three times the share of children around the world who do so (7%) ...

"In comparison, 3% of children in China, 4% of children in Nigeria and 5% of children in India live in single-parent households. In neighboring Canada, the share is 15%."

Figure FM-1
Families with own children under 18



[Click here for more information.](#)

The 2022 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.

[Click here to view upcoming courses and previous recordings.](#)

Census Bureau Networks Tip Sheet

March 21, 2022

Recent Release

2019 Wealth and Asset Ownership State Level Data Tables

March 1 — The U.S. Census Bureau released Wealth, Asset Ownership and Debt of Households state-level data tables from the 2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). These data highlight household net worth estimates at the state level broken down by selected asset and debt categories. These measures include information on home equity and retirement accounts, as well as vehicle debt and credit card debt.

Census Bureau Releases Estimates of Undercount and Overcount in the 2020 Census

March 10 — The U.S. Census Bureau released results today from two analyses about the quality of the 2020 Census counts. While both showed the strength of the count for the total U.S. population, each analysis revealed that the 2020 Census overcounted or undercounted various demographic groups. "Today's results show statistical evidence that the quality of the 2020 Census *total population count* is consistent with that of recent censuses. This is notable, given the unprecedented challenges of 2020," said Director Robert L. Santos. "But the results also include some limitations — the 2020 Census undercounted many of the same population groups we have historically undercounted, and it overcounted others." [Spanish](#)

Upcoming Releases

2022 Capital Spending Report: U.S. Capital Spending Patterns 2011 – 2022

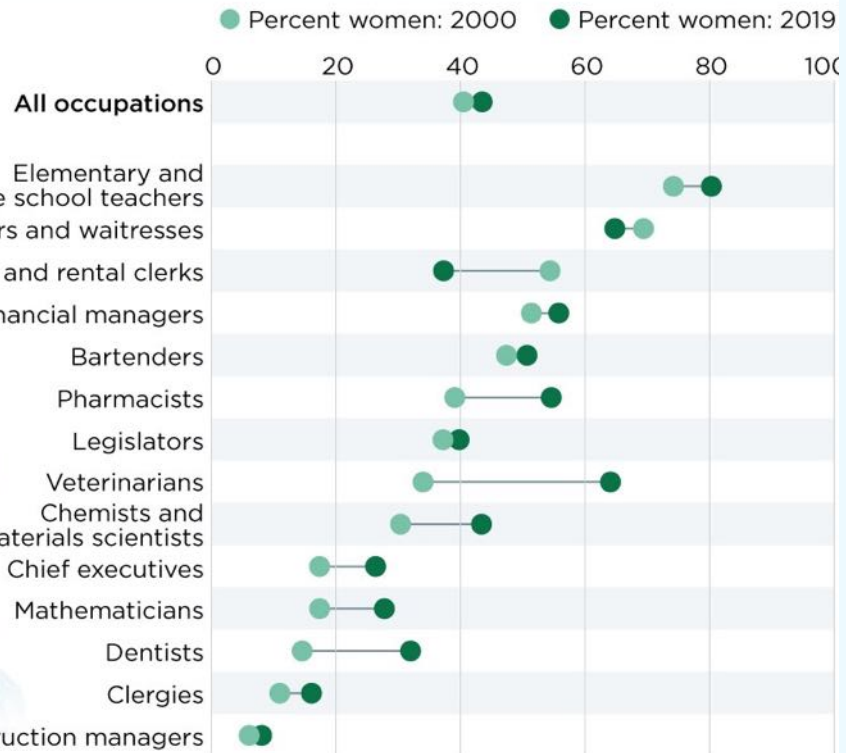
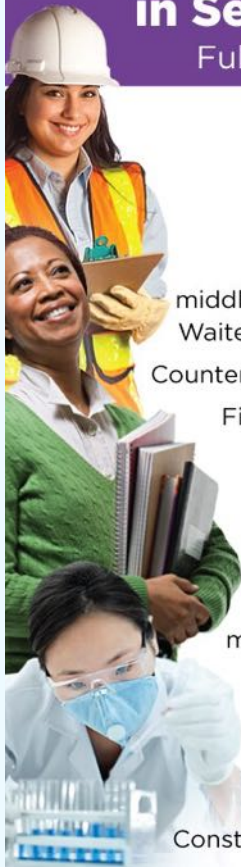
Data in this report are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-2022 Annual Capital Expenditures Survey, which collects information on expenditures for new and used structures and equipment by all U.S. nonfarm businesses. In addition, it examines investment shares over time. The Capital Spending Report series covers spending by two-digit [North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\)](#) industry sector in a 10-year moving window ending with the most recent Annual Capital Expenditures Survey reference year — 2019 in the current report. (Scheduled for release April 6.)

2022 Product and Event Calendar

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2022. These products are listed in the Census Bureau's online product calendar, which is updated as needed throughout the year.

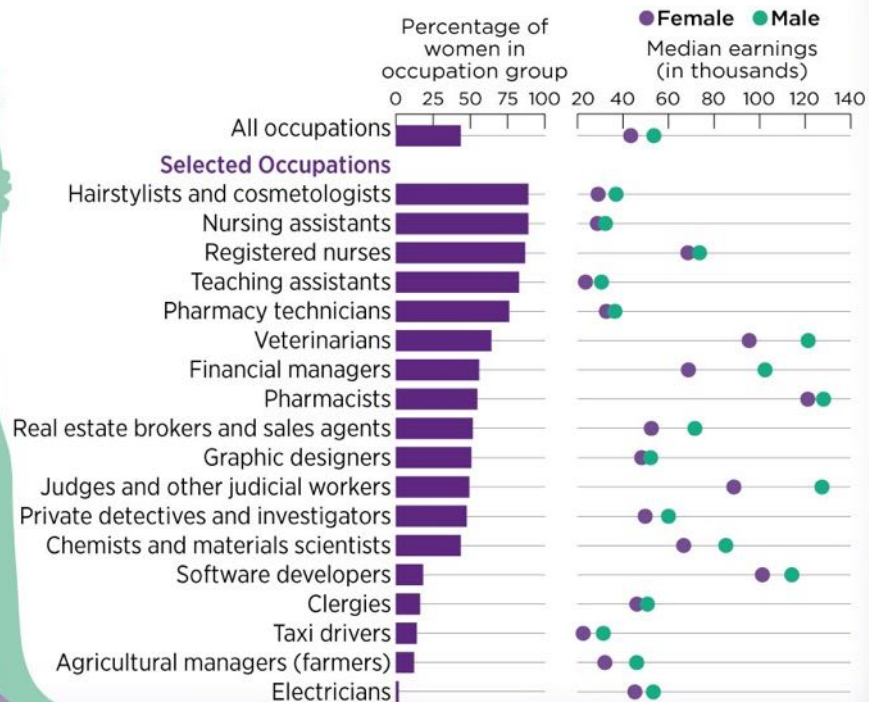
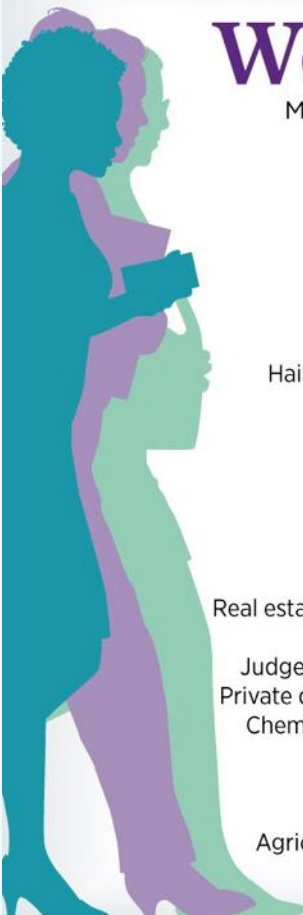
Change in Women's Participation in Selected Occupations Since 2000

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



March 2022



NAVAJO & HOPI FAMILIES COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

DEAR NAVAJO & HOPI COMMUNITIES,

Due to low COVID-19 case numbers we are seeing a significant decline in requests for Isolation Assistance. Therefore we have closed this phase of our Direct Relief Program and will no longer be providing Isolation Assistance.


Continue taking precautions and encourage your friends and family to do the same as we remain in a global pandemic and new variants continue to emerge. The most important thing you can do is keep up-to-date on your vaccines and boosters. Continue wearing a well-fitted, multi-layer mask; social distance; and wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

Ahéhee', Askwali, & Kwa Kway,

THE NAVAJO & HOPI FAMILIES COVID-19 RELIEF FUND TEAM



Internal Revenue Service Tax Information



File a tax return to get the remainder of the Child Tax Credit your family is eligible to receive.

irs.gov/childtaxcredit

The Child and Dependent Care Credit was expanded for tax year 2021. See if you qualify.



irs.gov/pub503

Recent changes can boost refunds for many families. Make sure you file a tax return this year.



irs.gov/pub5585

File a 2021 tax return, even if you don't normally need to, to take advantage of key tax benefits included in recent legislation.



irs.gov

Wishing for a lucky break? With IRS Free File, most taxpayers can prepare and file their taxes using free tax software.



irs.gov/freefile

We're big fans of the VITA program: If you made \$58K or less in 2021, volunteers stand ready to prepare and e-file your tax return for free.



irs.gov/vita

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) made significant but temporary changes to the 2021 Child Tax Credit, including:

- Increasing the credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for children ages 6 through 17 at the end of 2021
- Increasing the credit to \$3,600 for children ages 5 and under at the end of 2021
- Eliminating the \$2,500 minimum earned income requirement to claim the credit (now, even zero income families with qualifying children can claim the full credit), and
- Making the credit fully refundable even when there is zero tax liability (eliminates the \$1,400 maximum on the refundable portion).

The IRS strongly encourages individuals who are not required to file a tax return to file one this season to claim potentially thousands of dollars in tax credits. By filing a tax return, individuals could claim:

- The Recovery Rebate Credit to receive any remaining 2021 stimulus payments that they might not have received (for example, if they added a new child or other dependent in 2021);
- The remaining Child Tax Credit for which they are eligible, including any monthly payments that they might not have received (for example, if they added a new qualifying child in 2021); and
- The Earned Income Tax Credit, the federal government's largest refundable tax credit for low- to moderate-income families (the amount of which has been nearly tripled for filers without children).

IRS: Expanded credits for families highlight tax changes for 2021; many people who don't normally file should file this year

FS-2022-10, February 2022

Expanded tax credits for families, a deduction for non-itemizers who give to charity and a higher limit for itemizers who give to charity are among the American Rescue Plan changes that taxpayers will see on their 2021 federal income tax return.

This is a year when many people who don't normally need to file a return should consider filing so they can take advantage of such expanded benefits as the Recovery Rebate Credit, Child Tax Credit, Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses and Earned Income Tax Credit. Because these expanded benefits will mean larger refunds for many people, be sure to file an accurate return electronically and choose direct deposit to avoid processing delays and speed delivery of a refund.

Special alert for parents of children born in 2021 and for families who added a new dependent in 2021: Parents of a child born in 2021 who claim the child as a dependent on their 2021 income tax return may be eligible to receive a 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit of up to \$1,400 for this child. All eligible parents of qualifying children born or welcomed through adoption or foster care in 2021 are also encouraged to claim the Child Tax Credit – worth up to \$3,600 per child born in 2021 – on their 2021 income tax return. Families who added a dependent – such as a parent, a nephew or niece, or a grandchild – on their 2021 income tax return who was not listed as a dependent on their 2020 income tax return may be eligible to receive a 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit of up to \$1,400 for this dependent.

Here is a rundown of some of the key changes.

Missed out on stimulus payment? Claim Recovery Rebate Credit

Eligible people who didn't receive the third round of Economic Impact Payments, also known as stimulus payments, or who didn't receive the full amount, may claim the Recovery Rebate Credit (RRC) when they file.

The law included a third round of Economic Impact Payments (EIP3) that went out to eligible Americans, throughout 2021. These payments were generally equal to \$1,400 per person. In most cases, that means a family of four received a total payment of \$5,600.

Many people whose initial payment was less than the full amount also received a "plus-up" payment. Typically, this happened where they filed a 2020 return and information on that return indicated that they qualified for a larger payment than the amount originally estimated by the IRS.

Any third Economic Impact Payments issued will reduce the amount of the credit for which a person is eligible. Individuals will need the total amount of their third Economic Impact Payment and any plus-up payments to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit and avoid a processing delay that can slow a tax refund.

Individuals can use IRS Online Account to see the total amount of their third Economic Impact Payment under the related tax year tab. Now through March, the IRS is also sending Letter 6475 to each person who received the initial EIP3, a plus-up payment, or both. Married spouses who received joint payments will need to log into their own Online Account or review their own letter for their portion of the total payment. Recipients must use the information to

figure their RRC.

Filing electronically and tax preparation software will help individuals figure their Recovery Rebate Credit. The Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet in the 2021 Form 1040 and Form 1040-SR instructions can also help determine if they're eligible for the credit.

For more information, visit [IRS.gov/rrc](https://www.irs.gov/rrc).

Expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021

The American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), made it available for 17-year-old dependents, made it fully refundable for most families and made it possible for families to receive up to half of it, in advance, in monthly payments during the last half of 2021. Moreover, families can get the credit, even if they have little or no income from a job, business or other source.

To get the CTC, eligible families must file a return, even if they received monthly payments. In addition, everyone must attach Schedule 8812 to their return.

Before 2021, the credit was worth up to \$2,000 per eligible child. The law increased it to as much as \$3,000 per child for dependents ages 6 through 17, and \$3,600 for dependents ages 5 and under.

The maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income (AGI) of:

- \$75,000 or less for singles,
- \$112,500 or less for heads of household and
- \$150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers.

Above these income thresholds, the extra amount above the original \$2,000 credit — either \$1,000 or \$1,600 per child — is reduced by \$50 for every \$1,000 in modified AGI.

For families living in the United States, the credit is fully refundable and is called the Refundable Child Tax Credit (RCTC). This means that an eligible family can get it, even if they owe no federal income tax. To get the RCTC, the taxpayer's main home must be in the U.S. for more than half of 2021. Members of the military meet this requirement, even if they are stationed abroad.

Before 2021, the refundable portion, known as the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC), was limited to \$1,400 per child. In 2021, the \$1,400 ACTC limit generally continues to apply to Americans abroad — that is, taxpayers who did not have a main home in the U.S.

In addition, by law, the IRS must wait until after Feb. 15 to issue refunds to early filers claiming the ACTC or the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Repaying advance payments

People who didn't qualify for the CTC in 2021 but received advance payments may have to repay part or all of them. But low- and moderate-income taxpayers are generally protected from this repayment requirement. Repayment protection is limited to \$2,000 per child.

No repayment is required for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is at or below:

- Married filing jointly and qualified widows and widowers: \$60,000;
- Head of household: \$50,000;
- Everyone else: \$40,000.

Because, by law, repayment protection is phased out above these income levels, for those with higher incomes full or partial repayment is required. Full repayment is required for taxpayers whose modified AGI is at or above:

- Married filing jointly and qualified widows and widowers: \$120,000;
- Head of household: \$100,000;
- Everyone else: \$80,000.

Use Schedule 8812 to report the repayment or determine whether the repayment protection applies. This is also the form to use to claim the CTC and report any advance payments of the CTC. To help ensure that this form is filled out correctly, anyone who received advance payments of the credit during 2021 should be sure to have at hand a copy of Letter 6419 they received from the IRS.

Child and dependent care credit increased for 2021

The American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the credit and eligible expenses for child and dependent care, modified the phase-out of the credit for higher earners and made it refundable.

For 2021, the top credit percentage of qualifying expenses increased from 35% to 50%.

In addition, eligible taxpayers can claim qualifying child and dependent care expenses of up to:

- \$8,000 for one qualifying child or dependent, up from \$3,000 in prior years, or
- \$16,000 for two or more qualifying dependents, up from \$6,000 before 2021.

This means that the maximum credit in 2021 of 50% for one dependent's qualifying expenses is \$4,000, or \$8,000 for two or more dependents.

When figuring the credit, employer-provided dependent care benefits, such as those provided through a flexible spending arrangement (FSA), must be subtracted from total eligible expenses.

As before, the more a taxpayer earns, the lower the credit percentage. But under the new law, more people will qualify for the new maximum 50% credit rate. That's because the adjusted gross income level at which the credit percentage is reduced is raised substantially from

IRS.gov/ChildTaxCredit

Claiming the 2021 Child Tax Credit When You Don't Normally File a Tax Return

If you don't normally file a tax return, but you're eligible for the Child Tax Credit, you can still claim the Child Tax Credit on a 2021 tax return — even if you had no income in 2021. Advance payments sent in 2021 were not the full amount of the credit.

The 2021 Child Tax Credit is \$3,600 for each qualifying child under age 6 and \$3,000 for each child age 6 to 17.

Learn more at 2021 Child Tax Credit Frequently Asked Questions.

IRS Free File is a great electronic option for people who are only filing a tax return to claim the Child Tax Credit.

The most secure and fastest way to get a tax refund, which would include your Child Tax Credit, is to combine electronic filing with direct deposit.

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

Publication 5534-H (2-2022) Catalog Number 927595 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

IRS.gov/rrc

Claiming the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit When You Don't Normally File a Tax Return

Most eligible people already received their stimulus payments and are not eligible to claim a credit.

If you're eligible and didn't receive the full third Economic Impact Payments, you may be eligible to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit. To claim it, you must file a 2021 tax return even if you otherwise are not required to file a tax return. Your 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit will be included in your tax refund.

To file accurately and avoid processing delays, you'll need the total amount of any third Economic Impact Payments you received. You can find this information on your individual Online Account or in Letter 6415, titled Your Third Economic Impact Payment, which the IRS is sending to confirm your total amount of payments for tax year 2021.

IRS Free File is a great option for people who are only filing a tax return to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit.

The most secure and fastest way to get a tax refund, which would include your Recovery Rebate Credit, is to combine electronic filing with direct deposit.

See the special section on IRS.gov about claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit if you aren't required to file a tax return.

Publication 5486-A (Rev. 1-2022) Catalog Number 735541 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

IRS

CHILD-RELATED 2021 TAX CREDITS

► You might receive a tax refund even if you're not required to file

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT	CHILD TAX CREDIT	CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When claiming three or more qualifying children, you can receive up to \$6,728• Your household must have earned income of less than \$27,414• You and your spouse must have valid Social Security numbers• Qualifying child must be younger than you• Qualifying child must be under age 19, or a full-time student under age 24, at end of tax year• Qualifying child can be any age if permanently and totally disabled• You may be able to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit without a qualifying child if your earned income is less than \$21,430 (\$27,380 if Married Filing Jointly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You may receive up to \$3,000 for each child age 6 and under, \$3,600 for each child age 6 through 17 at the end of 2021• No income is required to claim this credit for 2021• Qualifying child must have an SSN• Qualifying child must be claimed as a dependent on your return• Qualifying children may include foster children or extended family if they meet other criteria• Dependents who can't be claimed for the Child Tax Credit may qualify for the Credit for Other Dependents, which is up to \$500 per dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can receive a credit of up to \$4,000 for care expenses for one qualifying person and up to \$8,000 for two or more qualifying persons• You must have qualifying expenses for child or dependent care while you worked or looked for work• Qualifying person can have a Social Security number, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number• Qualifying person must have lived with you for more than half the tax year• Qualifying person must be under age 13 for the days the care was provided during the tax year, or be physically or mentally incapable of self-care• You must have earned income

More information on tax credits
Please visit www.irs.gov using the QR codes below to check out the interactive Advance Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant and learn more about the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Free Tax Preparation
You may also qualify for no-cost tax preparation and filing assistance at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Visit www.irs.gov/VITA, use the QR code below or call 1-800-908-9887 to find a site near you.

Use the EITC Assistant | Advance Child Tax Credit Eligibility | Find a Location to File Your Tax Return

Publication 5585 (12-2021) Catalog Number 705852 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

\$15,000 to \$125,000. AGI is the amount shown on Forms 1040 and 1040-SR, Line 11.

Above \$125,000, the 50% credit percentage is reduced as income rises, plateauing at a 20% rate for taxpayers with an AGI above \$183,000. The credit percentage level remains at 20% until reaching \$400,000 and is then phased out above that level. It is completely unavailable for any taxpayer with AGI at or above \$438,000.

In 2021, for the first time, the credit is fully refundable. The credit is claimed on Form 2441. Also, see Publication 503 for details.

Childless EITC expanded for 2021

For 2021 only, more childless workers and couples can qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a fully refundable tax benefit that helps many low- and moderate-income workers and working families. That's because the maximum credit is nearly tripled for these taxpayers and is, for the first time, made available to both younger workers and senior citizens.

In 2021, the maximum EITC for those with no dependents is \$1,502, up from \$538 in 2020. Available to filers with an AGI below \$27,380 in 2021, it can be claimed by eligible workers who are at least 19 years of age. Homeless youth and former foster youth may qualify if they are at least age 18.

On the other hand, students under age 24 usually don't qualify. In the past, the EITC for those with no dependents was only available to people ages 25 to 64.

Another change is available to both childless workers and families with dependents. For 2021, it allows them to choose to figure the EITC using their 2019 income, as long as it was higher than their 2021 income. In some instances, this option will give them a larger credit.

EITC changes for both 2021 and future years

Changes expanding the EITC for 2021 and future years include:

- Singles and couples who have Social Security numbers can claim the credit, even if their children don't have SSNs. In this instance, they would get the smaller credit available to childless workers. In the past, these filers didn't qualify for the credit.
- More workers and working families who also have investment income can get the credit. Starting in 2021, the limit on investment income is increased to \$10,000. After 2021, the \$10,000 limit is indexed for inflation, with the 2022 limit rising to \$10,300. Before 2021, the limit was \$3,650.
- Married but Separated spouses can choose to be treated as not married for EITC purposes. To qualify, the spouse claiming the credit cannot file jointly with the other spouse, cannot have the same principal residence as the other spouse for the last six months of the year and must have a qualifying child living with them for more than half the year.

For more information about the EITC, visit [IRS.gov/eitc](https://www.irs.gov/eitc) or see Publication 596, Earned Income Credit.

Charity deduction for people who take the standard deduction

A temporary law change allows more taxpayers to easily deduct up to \$600 in cash donations to qualifying charities on their 2021 federal income tax return.

Cash contributions include those made by check, credit card or debit card as well as amounts incurred by an individual for unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their volunteer services to a qualifying charitable organization. Cash contributions don't include the value of volunteer services, securities, household items or other property.

Ordinarily, people who choose to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. Nearly nine in 10 taxpayers now take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing their deductions.

Individual tax filers, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married couples filing a joint return. The deduction is claimed on Forms 1040 and 1040-SR, Line 12b.

Though cash contributions to most charitable organizations qualify, contributions made either to supporting organizations or to establish or maintain a donor advised fund do not. Contributions carried forward

from prior years do not qualify, nor do contributions to most private foundations and most cash contributions to charitable remainder trusts.

In general, a donor-advised fund is a fund or account maintained by a charity in which a donor can, because of being a donor, advise the fund on how to distribute or invest amounts contributed by the donor and held in the fund. A supporting organization is a charity that carries out its exempt purposes by supporting other exempt organizations, usually other public charities.

Special recordkeeping rules apply to any taxpayer claiming a charitable contribution deduction. Usually, this includes obtaining an acknowledgment letter from the charity before filing a return and retaining a cancelled check or credit card receipt for contributions of cash.

For details on the recordkeeping rules for gifts to charity, see Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, available on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Itemizers can choose 100% limit on eligible cash contributions

Taxpayers who itemize their deductions and made large cash contributions during 2021 may be able to deduct those contributions, up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. The usual limit is 60% of AGI. The guidelines for qualifying contributions are similar to those for the charitable contribution deduction for people who take the standard deduction. Special rules apply to choosing and calculating this higher limit. For details, including worksheets and examples, see Publication 526.

Other tax changes

Other changes for 2021 include:

- Unemployment compensation is taxable in 2021. Report on Schedule 1 Line 7. In tax year 2020 only, the first \$10,200 of these benefits was not taxable for most households. This tax exclusion is no longer available.
- The deduction for tuition and fees is no longer available. Instead, the income limit for the Lifetime Learning Credit was increased. For 2021, the credit is phased out for married couples filing a joint return whose modified AGI is between \$160,000 and \$180,000, or between \$80,000 and \$90,000 for everyone else. See Form 8863 and its instructions for details.
- Self-employed individuals may be able to claim tax credits for Coronavirus-related sick or family leave taken during 2021. See the instructions to Form 1040 and Form 7202 for details.
- Taxpayers with print disabilities can now choose to receive IRS notices and other written communications in an accessible medium, such as Braille, large print, electronic or audio format. To make this choice, file Form 9000. See the form for details.

For more information about these and other tax changes, see the instructions to Form 1040 and Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax. The best way to keep up with tax law developments is by regularly checking [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

The IRS also urges community groups, non-profits, associations, education groups and anyone else with connections to people with children to share information about the Child Tax Credit, EITC and other important benefits. The IRS is providing additional materials and information that can be easily shared by social media, email and other methods.

FS-2022-23, March 2022

This Fact Sheet issues final FAQs for Payments by Indian Tribal Governments and Alaska Native Corporations to Individuals under COVID- Relief Legislation, which reflect updates to the Draft FAQs based on input from tribal government and Alaska Native Corporations leaders. For purposes of these FAQs, references to tribal members include other eligible recipients of COVID relief payments, such as a tribal member's dependents.

These FAQs are being issued to provide general information to taxpayers and tax professionals as expeditiously as possible. Accordingly, these FAQs may not address any particular taxpayer's specific facts and circumstances, and they may be updated or modified upon further review.

[FAQs for Payments by Indian Tribal Governments and Alaska Native Corporations to Individuals Under COVID-Relief Legislation](#) | Internal Revenue Service ([irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov))

Give Your COVID-19 Vaccination Protection a Boost

Booster shots are now available for everyone 12+ and vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines continue to work very well at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. A booster shot is an extra dose that helps keep up your protection.

When to get your booster

Stay safer this winter. Get a booster as soon as you're eligible.

- **Pfizer-BioNTech**
(5 months after your 2nd dose)
- **Moderna**
(5 months after your 2nd dose)
- **Johnson & Johnson's Janssen**
(2 months after your single dose)

Find free vaccines near you

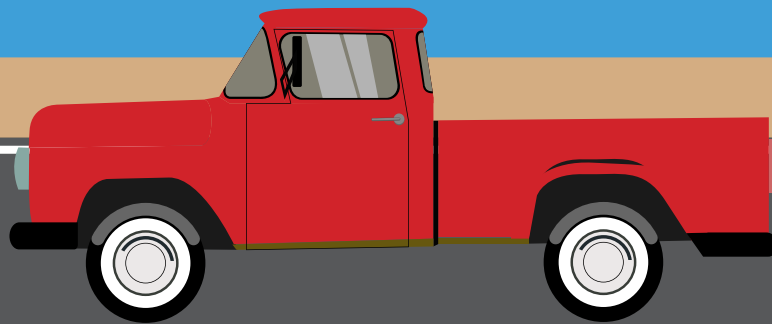
- Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233
- Scan the QR code



Turning the Corner on COVID-19: What Community Members Need To Know

With COVID-19 cases declining to low levels across Indian Country, it can feel like the pandemic is now behind us. However, COVID-19 is still spreading in our communities and new variants are still emerging that could spread more quickly or cause more severe illness.

Pandemics often end when diseases become “endemic.” Endemic diseases continue to make people sick, but in a predictable fashion, like the seasonal flu.



Is the pandemic over?

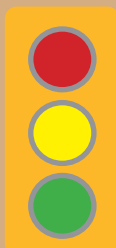
No. COVID-19 is still considered a pandemic by health experts. A pandemic is a disease that spreads globally and can cause an uncontrollable rise in cases. COVID-19 is still spreading in our communities and can still produce new, dangerous variants in the future.

That's why it's still important to get vaccinated and follow local guidance for wearing a mask to stay safe.



Will COVID-19 ever go away?

Probably not. While the pandemic will end, COVID-19 will likely stick around as an “endemic” disease, meaning it will continue to infect people, but not cause the disruptive spikes in cases we've seen over the last 2 years. Think of the spread of COVID-19 as a stoplight. Currently, we are stopped at a red light as COVID-19 spreads and new variants develop. But as COVID-19 becomes more manageable, the light will turn yellow and we can start to move again, but with caution.



Will COVID-19 be less dangerous after it becomes endemic?

No. “Endemic” does not mean “less dangerous.” HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria are all considered endemic and they remain some of the deadliest diseases globally.

Though it may not spread as quickly, COVID-19 will likely still cause similar symptoms in the future. Fortunately, we have many tools to keep hospitalizations low, like vaccines and antiviral medications. However, it is important to remember that COVID-19 will remain very dangerous for children and adults who cannot receive the vaccine or have weakened immune systems.



How can I continue to stay safe?

COVID-19 will likely be a part of our lives for a long time and new, dangerous variants may still emerge. That's why it's important to continue to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine and continue to follow local guidance on wearing a mask.



March 2022



By Brian Tarr

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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