

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022

In this Issue

- **FY2023 Comprehensive Budget includes increases for missing persons unit, public safety, earthen dam and windmill repairs, senior centers, and more**
- **Heavy Equipment Updates**
- **DCD Updates Council Delegate Districts on ARPA Projects**
- **Administrative Service Centers Transitions 22 Chapters to New ASC Service Areas**
- **Division Activities**
- **DCD Year-end Strategic Session and Staff Appreciation Luncheon**
- **Bulletin Board**
- **Personnel News**
- **Navajo Nation Census Information Center News**
- **Schedule Now! Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings**
- **COVID-19 Safe Practices: Fair Event Guideline**

Did You Know...

Rainbow Bridge National Monument is one of the largest natural bridges in the world standing 290 feet high and spanning 275 feet across. The top of the arch is 42 feet wide and 33 feet thick. To put its monumental size into perspective, the U.S. Capitol building would fit under the bridge with ease. The majestic monument was carved out during the glacial period and has been standing tall ever since. <https://bit.ly/3E7z6AV>

Events:

September: Bini'anit'áátsoh - "Big Harvest"

September 22: Autumnal Equinox

September 27: National Voter Registration Day

October: Gha'aji' - "Dividing of the Seasons"

October 1-31: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 10: Native Americans' Day

October 31: Halloween

FY2023 Comprehensive Budget includes increases for missing persons unit, public safety, earthen dam and windmill repairs, senior centers, and more

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed into law the Navajo Nation's Fiscal Year 2023 Comprehensive Budget through Resolution CS-42-22 on Sept. 24, which includes increases in funding to support a missing persons unit, the Proactive Criminal Enforcement Program (PACE), earthen dam and windmill repairs, senior centers,



capital projects, an energy office, general wage adjustment for Navajo Nation employees, animal control efforts, and more. The comprehensive budget was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council on Sept. 8, by a vote of 22-0. With the signing of the budget resolution, the FY2023 fiscal year will take effect on Oct. 1.

"The budget for the upcoming fiscal year supports many critical services and needs for the Navajo people and our communities and builds on the progress being made. It also makes additional investments in public safety, services for elders, to help find missing persons, and establishing an energy office that can support more renewable energy initiatives to support energy needs and fight climate change. I thank the Navajo Nation Council for supporting our Nation's employees with the general wage adjustment to help offset cost-of-living expenses that impact everyone across the country. As the Navajo Division of Transportation continues to repair roads due to recent heavy rainfall, this budget also delivers more funding to fix many of the damaged earthen dams and windmills in our communities," said President Nez.

The budget provides an additional \$500,000 for the Proactive Criminal Enforcement Program, which is comprised of K-9 units, the Drug Enforcement Unit, and commissioned police personnel that conduct field operations to uncover and stop or disrupt crimes related to drug use/sales, bootlegging activities, and violent crimes. Last year, President Nez also authorized an additional \$500,000 to the Navajo Police Department to support the drug enforcement efforts and other public safety operations, which have led to multiple seizures of large quantities of drugs, alcohol, and illegal firearms and the arrests of violent offenders.

During the State of the Navajo Nation Address in July, President Nez assured the Navajo people that the Office of the President and Vice President would prioritize funding to cover an anticipated shortfall for benefits and services for Navajo veterans. Based on that commitment, the comprehensive budget includes \$2.7 million to cover the shortfall in support of veterans.

"We made a commitment to our Navajo veterans and we have followed through on that commitment with the support of the Council. There will be no funding shortfall for veterans' services and benefits in the upcoming fiscal year," stated President Nez.

The budget resolution also set-aside \$20 million for FY2023 under the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to help address future unmet needs. The budget resolution was approved in its entirety with the exception of line-item vetoes applied to four Conditions of Appropriations that did not meet the statutory requirements to be placed on the appropriation or expenditure.

"As we move forward in the new fiscal year, we extend our appreciation to all of the hardworking Navajo Nation employees who labored many days, weeks, and months to develop the comprehensive budget. We also thank each of the divisions, programs, OMB, Office of the Controller, DOJ, oversight committees, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for working together and getting this budget across the finish line for the Navajo people," said Vice President Lizer.

[source: <https://www.facebook.com/NezLizer2018>]

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



September 24, 2022

Hon. Seth Damon
Office of the Speaker
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: CS-42-22, *An Act Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee, the Naabik'iyadi' Committee, and to the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2023; Waiving Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CF-07-11 and 12 N.N.C. § 820 (F), § 820 (I), § 840 (B), and § 860*

Dear Speaker Damon,

Thank you members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for all the time and effort put into the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Comprehensive Budget. An additional thank you goes out to the Legislative staff, Office of Management and Budget and all who contributed to the completion of the comprehensive budget.

The FY23 budget had to accommodate many changes that came about from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We appreciate the Council's consideration and approval of the General Wage Adjustment for our Navajo Nation employees. The cost of oil and gas went up, which was good for revenue purposes, however, it created a hardship for our citizens whom already travel long distances for work, school, essential shopping and medical care. The cost for all goods and services has increased which has impacted our Nation and United States.

The fixed cost appropriation for Chapter Official Stipends is a much needed addition to the Comprehensive Budget for stability of our Chapter governments. The approved carryover of savings will fund our programs that provide direct services to our citizens. We are fortunate to have these funds available and must utilize these dollars for the benefit of the Navajo People. We are aware that the carryover amounts are not exact and will not be finalized until the financial closeout later this calendar year. Nonetheless, we are grateful for the additional funds to support our program operations. We are also fortunate to have adequate Permanent Fund Excess to replenish our Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the needs of our Navajo communities.

Conditions of Appropriation can be an effective means to require programs to carry out important tasks, however, there are requirements such as consultation with the director of the program, Office of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget of the program, and feasibility of the Condition of Appropriation, such as time limitations.

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

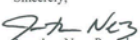


Pursuant to the authority granted by the Navajo People, I am exercising my line item veto power, in CS-42-22, for the following Conditions of Appropriation (COA) that do not meet the statutory requirements to be placed on the appropriation or expenditure:

- Department of Health, Administration. The administration responded to their oversight committee regarding fixed cost research they have accomplished with the Department of Justice in FY22.
- Division of Social Services, Administration. This COA directs the program to with the Department of Justice to draft legislation for stop-gap funding to cover lapses in direct services for grant funding programs, including domestic violence shelters. The program reports that the cost to implement this COA would require almost \$3 million in additional funding and that the program is currently pursuing alternative strategies such as cost sharing grant funding, hosting a job fair in coordination with the Division of Human Resources, which will not require additional funding to carry out.
- Division of Economic Development, Administration. The Division of Economic Development reports that the timeline to accomplish this study/report is not feasible as it would require a longer timeframe to procure a contractor to collect data and present a report. Additionally, the division's newly hired economist is currently developing a set of studies related to reviews and projections of the Navajo economy that will be completed by Spring of 2023.
- Division of Economic Development, Tourism Department. The Tourism Department is currently developing studies of visitor destinations on the Nation and applying for grants for development. The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) program is assigned to the division's Support Services Department and the SSBCI's final application and legislation is pending. Additionally, the timeframe for completion of this COA, by the end of the first quarter of FY23 is not feasible.

We will continue to work with the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch in meeting our fiscal responsibility in the best interest of the Navajo People. Thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

September 2022

Heavy Equipment Updates

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

September Deliveries:

9/01 Mexican Water Chapter - H D Truck & Trailer

9/10 LeChee Chapter - Water Truck



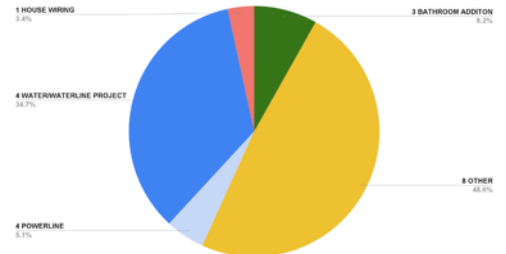
NABIJN-18-22 was passed. It amends CJA-01-21 and NABIS-36-21 to extend the Sihasin Heavy Equipment Purchase funds until 12/2023

DCD Updates Council Delegate Districts on ARPA Projects



Delegate James Henrio Chapter ARPA Proposals

NO.	Chapter/ Organization	Project Title	Total Amount Requested from ARPA Funds
		Lease Fill In	\$0.00
		Three New Water Wells	\$3,000,000.00
		Five Hill Schools' Electrical System Replacement	\$3,500,000.00
		NSB Water Project	\$20,000,000.00
		Construction Bathroom Additions-All Units	\$4,000,000.00
		Construction Powerline Extensions-All Units	\$664,557.00
		Amah Chapter House- New	\$3,000,000.00
		Amah Chapter New Solid Waste Transfer Station	\$1,750,000.00
		Roadband Infrastructure Project	\$2,000,000.00
		Weststock Training Facility (Interior)	\$2,000,000.00
		Amah Chapter New Community Cemetery Plan	\$400,000.00
		Amah Chapter BIA Route 125 MP 12.8-24.6	\$28,686,000.00
		Wahjilee Domestic Waterline	\$4,875,000.00
		Water Powerline Extension	\$705,000.00
		House Wiring Project	\$3,276,000.00
		Bathroom Additions	\$310,000.00
		Septic Tank and Drain Fields	\$3,500,000.00
		Renovation of Senior Center and Veterans building	\$950,000.00
		Scattered Homes Project	\$7,787,500.00
		Community Service Coordinator	\$5,382,000.00



3 BATHROOM ADDITON	\$7,810,000.00
8 OTHER	\$46,573,500.00
4 POWERLINE	\$4,869,557.00
0 RURAL ADDRESSING	\$0.00
2 WAREHOUSE	\$0.00
4 WATER/WATERLINE PROJECT	\$33,237,000.00
0 SOLAR	\$0.00
1 HOUSE WIRING	\$3,276,000.00
Total:	\$95,766,057.00



DCD Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman and ARPA Planner/ Estimator Shayla Draper have been meeting with Chapter leadership within each of the 24 Council Delegate legislative districts for several weeks now to go over the most important parts of the recently enacted ARPA funding legislation and to provide detailed explanations of the individual chapter projects for each region. Dr. Yellowman and Ms. Draper are continuing to meet with the delegate districts for followup meetings and providing additional support as requested.

Additional information on the DCD ARPA projects and schedule of activities can be found on the DCD website at <https://www.nndcd.org>.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS

Transitions 22 Chapters to New ASC Service Areas

The ASC Department is undergoing internal management and administrative changes to support and promote overall effective program operations by realigning with Agency and Council Delegate District service areas. Transition planning has begun for 22 Navajo Chapters with our ASC Staff for their new chapter assignments which will be effective October 1, 2022.

ASC staff have been preparing for these new service areas since July 2021 and began preparations in October 2021 to prepare for the transition. ASC staff have had over a year to communicate and coordinate with staff and Chapters and transition planning meetings have been in progress for only 22 Chapters. During the month of September, ASC staff have been having transition meetings in person and through hybrid virtual meetings with new assigned chapters. The Chapters that are ready to transition on October 1st will immediately transfer to the newly assigned ASC Office service area.

The Chapters that are not ready and need more time will still transfer to the newly assigned ASC Office service area with continued involvement and assistance from the old SPPS/ASC Office. "With teamwork and coordination from our ASC Offices, we expect that both ASC Office staff will provide assistance and support to these chapters into the new year," states Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager. Most of the chapters are ready to transfer with only a few chapters that need additional time. The 22 Chapters will transfer completely to the new assigned ASC Office service area on January 1, 2023.

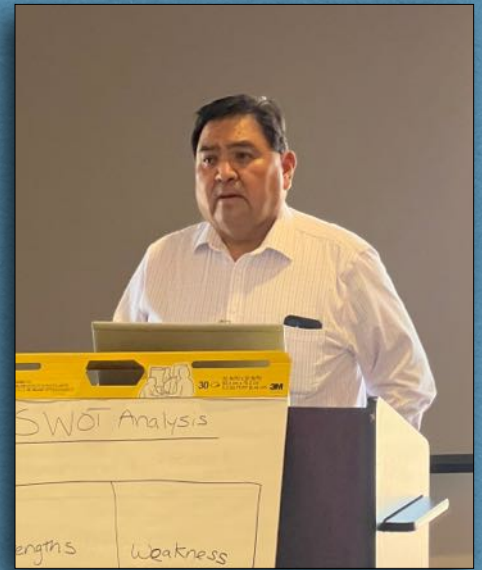
"We have learned so much from the COVID pandemic within these last two years, these administrative changes will improve coordinated services and communication with the Agency Councils and with Council Delegates," state Dr. Pearl Yellowman, DCD Executive Director. The ASC Offices with have an equitable number of chapters to respond to and the new chapter assignments will balance the service area workload for the ASC staff. The internal changes will help to expedite partnerships with ARPA Projects and support emergency management efforts for future disasters or outbreaks.

The Senior Programs & Projects Specialists (SPPS) for each ASC Office is taking initiative to help all involved in the transitional activities. The ASC Department will be available to support Chapter staff and leaders with transition facilitation and technical assistance.

	Council Delegate District	From	To
Eastern Agency	1. Manuelito Chapter 2. Rock Springs Chapter 3. Tsayatoh Chapter	Ft. Defiance ASC	Gallup ASC
	4. Baca-Prewitt Chapter 5. Casamero Lake Chapter	Gallup ASC	Crownpoint ASC
Ft. Defiance Agency	6. Cornfields Chapter 7. Ganado Chapter 8. Kinlichee Chapter 9. Steamboat Chapter	Ft. Defiance ASC	Dilkon ASC
	10. Coyote Canyon Chapter 11. Mexican Springs Chapter 12. Tohatchi Chapter 13. Twin Lakes Chapter 14. Naschitti Chapter	Crownpoint ASC Shiprock ASC"	Ft. Defiance ASC
Chinle Agency	No new assignments		
Northern Agency	15. Aneth Chapter 16. Red Mesa Chapter 17. Mexican Water Chapter 18. Sweetwater Chapter 19. Tecnospos Chapter	Shiprock ASC	Kayenta ASC
	20. Birdspring Chapter 21. Leupp Chapter 22. Tolani Lake Chapter	Dilkon ASC	Tuba City ASC

Division Activities

- Capital Projects Management Department Strategic Session,
Fire Rock Casino
September 1, 2022



Acting CPMD Manager, James Adakai



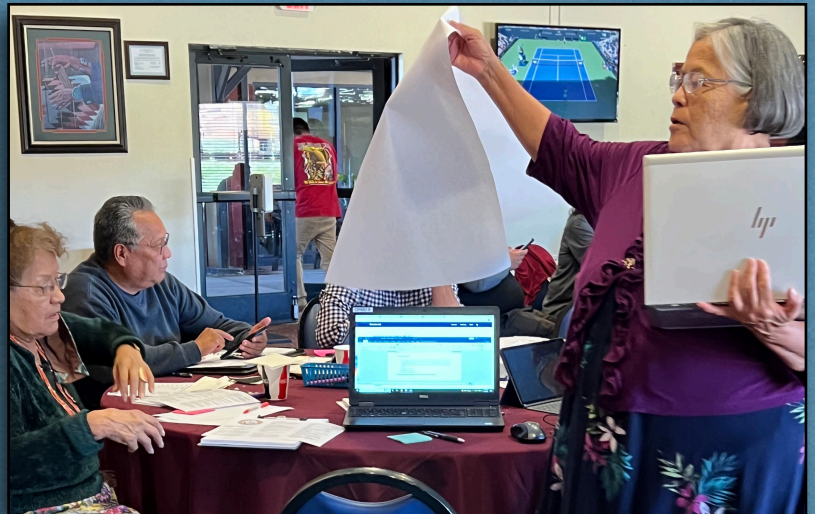
Margaret Begay, Accountant, Lisa Jim, Office Specialist, Kent Grantson, Eng. Technician, Judith Willoughby, Eng. Tech. Marvin Allison, Admin. Services Officer



Art Moore, Planner/Estimator, Marlene Hoskie, Project Manager (Tuba City/ Chinle) Irma Julian, Project Manager (Fort Defiance), Rory Jacques, Project Manager (Shiprock), Sony Franklin, Sr. Engineering Tech.



Delvin Wauneka, Construction Supervisor, Henry Yazzie, Jr. Program & Projects Specialist



DCD Year-end Strategic Session and Staff Appreciation Luncheon



On Thursday, September 8, DCD held a small strategic session, and staff appreciation luncheon to recognize the DCD staff for their hard work and to regroup and talk about some strategic directions for the division. Several Council Delegates and OPVP staff were also in attendance. Dr. Yellowman and other DCD managers



gave opening remarks. Afterwards, the Council Delegates and other dignitaries in attendance were provided an opportunity to speak. The event also featured some great food and fun activities including a team rock-paper-scissors competition.



Thanks to everyone who helped put this event together!



Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation-owned community receives electricity for first time

KNAU News Talk - Arizona Public Radio
Published September 2, 2022



A Navajo Nation-owned community in southeastern Utah, has been connected to the electric grid for the first time.

Navajo families in 19 homes in the Westwater subdivision near Blanding, Utah received electricity and 27 more will also be connected later this month.

The tribe bought the land more than three decades ago and residents have lived there without basic infrastructure since.

Navajo leaders say the next step is to deliver water to the community.

The tribe approved \$2.5 million dollars for the project last month and also used \$3 million

from the American Rescue Plan.

The state of Utah also budgeted funds for the improvements.

Meanwhile, the Navajo Nation also connected 18 homes to the grid in the Tonalea community.

Many of the residents in an area called Preston Mesa have live their entire lives without electricity.

Since 2020, more than 1,000 homes on the reservation have received power for the first time.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3BY9LGZ>

Nazlini elders celebrate groundbreaking of new senior center

NAZLINI, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Nazlini Chapter President Lee Vincent Bigwater, Secretary/Treasurer JoAnn Dedman, Nazlini Senior Center Supervisor Fannie Mann, and community members on Thursday during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Nazlini Senior Center in Nazlini, Ariz.

In August, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer approved resolution CJY-30-22, which included \$2 million in supplemental funding from the Síhasin Fund for the construction of the Nazlini Senior Center. The project experienced unforeseen circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase of material, labor, and constructor costs.

"The groundbreaking ceremony brings renewed hope and vision for the Nazlini community and most importantly, for our precious elders. Today, we celebrate a milestone for the community of Nazlini. The new senior center will not only provide essential services, but it will also be a place of healing, restoration, and unity. Our grandparents and elders hold our cultural and traditional teachings, and our language, and we must care and protect them so our Nation can be healthier and stronger for future generations. I congratulate the community of Nazlini for working together to develop improvements for their elders. This initiative took many years of hard work and we celebrate their achievement today," said President Nez.

The former senior center was ordered to close due to structural deficiencies and not meeting safety and capacity standards. The new 3,915 square ft. senior center will provide a cafeteria, kitchen, office space for staff, wellness/fitness room, and a paved parking lot with ADA handicapped accessibility.

The project was previously funded through the Síhasin Fund at a cost of approximately \$1.9 million. An additional \$75,000 was contributed by Nazlini Chapter for the project. The senior center will continue to provide congregate and home delivered meals, recreation, socialization, transportation, and other supportive services to Nazlini and other surrounding community elders.

"We thank the leaders of the Office of the President and Vice President and the 24th



Navajo Nation Council for their continuous support for our community's growth and development. This project took many years but persistence and faith pushed us through the finish line," said Chapter President Bigwater.

"Not only does this project symbolize hope, but it exemplifies the resiliency of our Navajo people. During a worldwide pandemic and public health emergency, we have local leaders who continue to move our communities forward and inspire hope for future generations. Thank you to the past leaders for their support and approval of the project in 2018. We look forward to many more projects in Nazlini and together we are making progress," added President Nez.

Also in attendance was Nazlini Chapter Manager Melissa S. Winney, Nazlini Chapter Project Manager Gabriel Freeland, former Miss Navajo Nation Crystalne Curley, and others.

On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we commend the collaboration among all the key partners, including Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development.

READ AT: <https://bit.ly/3y2Gjyo>

Bulletin Board

President Nez signs agreement to fund \$3.6 million for the upgrade and replacement of the electrical system of Pine Hill School

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Ramah Navajo School Board members and Pine Hill Schools administration, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jamie Henio, and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, in Window Rock, Ariz., as he signed a subrecipient agreement between the Navajo Nation and Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. to appropriate \$3.6 million from the Navajo Nation's Sihasin Fund to upgrade and replace the Pine Hill School's high-voltage electrical system, located in the community of Ramah, N.M.

The funding will resolve the school's reoccurring power outages and electrical problems caused by the current electrical system, which was installed in the early 1970's. The outages also affected other nearby facilities including the community's health center. In May, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution No. CAP-22-22 into law to appropriate the project. Council Delegate Henio introduced the legislation, which was unanimously approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council in April.

"In August, we visited the school and saw the electrical issues firsthand. The deficiency has been a longstanding issue for the students, teachers, and administrators for many years. Today, we are proud to sign this agreement to provide the funding that is needed to replace the electrical system and resolve the problem. Our children and staff deserve a safe and adequate learning environment. The Ramah Navajo School Board and Council Delegate Henio did a great job for improving the well-being of all students, teachers, and staff. Also, this project contributes to overall growth and progress of the community," said President Nez.

The Navajo Nation will also continue to seek reimbursement from the federal government for the electrical system, which is under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development has worked closely with the BIA and BIE to have the system replaced using federal resources, but the need for replacement required immediate action to avoid greater problems for the school's operations.



"I am fully confident that the Ramah Navajo School Board will successfully complete the project for the students and teachers because they have a proven record with the CARES Act projects and others. The Pine Hill Schools continues to advocate for innovations and upgrades through the collaboration of the school board and Ramah Chapter. We thank the Office of the President and Vice President for putting this project as a priority," said Delegate Henio.

President Nez added that the Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. will be the first Navajo Nation school board to receive funding through the Navajo Nation's Sihasin Fund. The Pine Hill Schools serves approximately 375 students between the grades of kindergarten to high school.

"We congratulate the students, board, staff, and administration of Pine Hill Schools and we will continue to support academic initiatives through this historic partnership. The students are the ultimate beneficiaries of the collaborative effort. We also thank the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their support and the community of Ramah for working effortlessly for their students and families," Vice President Myron Lizer.

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

Social Security Administration Establishing National Native American Office

New Office to Advocate for Tribes

Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi announced today that the Social Security Administration (SSA) is establishing an Office of Native American Partnerships within the Office of the Commissioner. This office will elevate and centralize efforts to administer comprehensive programs and policies related to American Indians and Alaska Natives. It will enhance the agency's relationship with Tribes and serve as the primary point of contact on Tribal affairs for all stakeholders.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to reducing barriers to ensure people who are eligible for our benefits receive them," Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi said. "Establishing our new Office of Native American Partnerships strengthens that commitment by providing Tribal communities more representation and a strong advocate, messenger, and facilitator within Social Security's Office of the Commissioner."

The Office of Native American Partnerships will be responsible for many functions to assist Tribal communities throughout the

country. It will seek to improve services to communities by engaging in meaningful national and regional policy consultations, roundtable discussions, and seminars with Tribal and Federal experts. It will also coordinate internal agency Native American efforts, increase external program awareness to the Tribal community, help to recruit a diverse candidate pool for hiring at all levels of Social Security, and serve as the primary point of contact for Tribal Government Offices to foster transparency and collaboration. Additionally, the office will conduct ongoing data collection and analysis to improve outreach to Tribal communities.

Establishing the Office of Native American Partnerships supports President Biden's 2021 Executive Order (EO) 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, as well as other Federal guidance on coordination and collaboration with Tribal Governments.

To learn more, please visit American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) | SSA (<https://www.ssa.gov/people/aian/>).

Bulletin Board

Chinle Unified School District receives first electric school bus



CHINLE, Ariz. – Chinle Unified School District has received its first electric school bus.

Blue Bird Corporation, a producer of electric and low-emission school buses, has delivered the first of three electric school buses to Chinle Unified School District (CUSD).

CUSD is the largest school district in the Navajo Nation. The district expects to expand its diesel-powered bus fleet with zero-emission vehicles.

Blue Bird said customers report an average 14 cents per mile in energy costs for electric buses, compared to approx. 49 cents per mile for their diesel buses.

The zero emission buses also provide better air quality for students.

"Students from low-income areas are disproportionately impacted by diesel pollution from school buses, since the majority of students from related areas ride the bus to school," said Britton Smith, senior vice president of electrification and chief strategy officer of Blue Bird Corporation. "Zero-emission transportation means cleaner air to breathe and healthier students"

Blue Bird will provide its most advanced zero-emission school buses to the district, including two Blue Bird Vision and one Blue Bird All American electric school bus.

These first-rate electric vehicles carry between 72 and 84 students for up to 120 miles on a single charge, the company said.

Depending on the charging infrastructure, the buses take between three and eight hours to recharge fully.

CUSD is the largest school district on the Navajo Nation in both student count and geographic area. It serves 3,300 students in eight schools, including the largest reservation high school in the United States.

School buses travel more than 6,000 miles on routes characterized by mostly unimproved roads each day, as they pick up and safely transport students to and from schools.

"Beyond the potential that the electric school buses offer for cost efficiency and reducing our fleet's greenhouse gas emissions, the impact that these EV's have on student learning and access to world experience is notable," said Quincy Natay, superintendent of Chinle Unified School District. "Many of our students live in high poverty households and may not have even ridden in electric vehicles. Now, they get to ride to school on a state of the art EV school bus. Our students are very curious, and our drivers have already begun explaining how the buses function differently than the previous diesel buses. Especially for children in remote communities, this is a great way to provide firsthand exposure to science, STEAM careers, environmental issues, and cutting edge technology."

The school district received a Transportation Modernization Grant through A for Arizona to upgrade its school bus fleet with three electric vehicles. A for Arizona is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing student achievement in the state, especially in low-income communities.

"We have served Chinle USD for more than 30 years," Smith said. "We could not be more pleased to help the school district transition to electric buses and clean student transportation."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3y3XP5h>

US awards \$73M contract for Navajo-Gallup water project

GALLUP, N.M. (AP) – The federal government has awarded a \$73 million contract to construct pumping plants as part of an ongoing project to bring drinking water to parts of the Navajo Nation and to residents in northwestern New Mexico.

The Bureau of Reclamation announced Friday that an Arizona company earned the contract to build two pumping plants on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. The plants will be situated near the Navajo community of Sanostee in San Juan County.

They will be part of a network of pipelines and pumping stations that will deliver treated water from the San Juan River.

Biden administration officials touted the contract as a "significant milestone" that is a result of the \$1 trillion infrastructure deal passed by Congress last year.

The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project will use about 280 miles (450 kilometers) of pipeline, pumping stations, storage tanks and two treatment plants to deliver water to chapters on the Navajo Nation and the city of Gallup. It's expected to be completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in 2027.

The project is a major component of the nation's water rights settlement agreement on the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico, where officials said over a third of households still haul drinking water to their homes.

Construction was authorized in a federal measure passed by Congress and signed into law by then-President Barack Obama in 2009.

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



(IMAGE COURTESY U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION)

Bulletin Board

Roselyn Tso becomes the first Diné member to serve as the head of the Indian Health Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez had the honor of joining Roselyn Tso, as she took the oath of office to become the first Navajo person to serve as the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). Director Tso was also joined by her family as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra administered the oath during the ceremony held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C. As the new head of IHS,

Director Tso will oversee the delivery of health care services to 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives, the management of \$7.4 billion in federal health care funds, and 15,000 IHS employees across the country.

"This is monumental to have the very first Navajo woman serve at the highest position within the Indian Health Service. Health care was promised to the Navajo people through our Treaty of 1868 with the federal government, which continues to guide our relationship with the United States to this day. Navajo women played a vital role in finalizing that treaty, but they do not often get the recognition for that. Now, we have an exceptionally qualified Diné woman who will help deliver that health care to all tribal nations across the country. Thank you to President Biden, our congressional delegation, and our Navajo people for their support. We are very proud of Director Tso and we congratulate her, her family, and all of her colleagues," said President Nez. Tso is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from LeChee, Ariz.

She is Deeschii'nii (Start of the Red Streak People) and born for Hashk'aa hadzohi (Yucca Fruit Strung Out). Her maternal grandfather is T'ogí Dine'e' (Zia Pueblo People) and her paternal grandfather is T'í'ízí lání (Many Goats).

"It is my honor and privilege to serve as the next leader of the Indian Health Service. Throughout the confirmation process, I took time to reflect on the many challenges the agency has faced, including the ongoing challenge to combat the COVID-19

pandemic, which has plagued Indian Country over the past couple of years. While the IHS has made great strides to improve health care services, there are areas we must review and improve on. I am committed to working with our tribal and urban Indian organization partners, and our partners across the federal government, to continue raising the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level," said Director Tso following her confirmation by the Senate. She also thanked outgoing IHS Acting Director Elizabeth Fowler.

On April 12, 2021, President Nez delivered a letter to U.S. President Joe Biden requesting his support and nomination of Tso to lead the IHS, based on her experience and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2022, President Biden officially nominated her for the position. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent on Sept. 21.

President Nez also testified in support of Tso's nomination during a U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing in May. During that hearing, Tso highlighted the priorities that she would undertake as the IHS Director including strengthening and streamlining health care services, improving tribal consultation, and improving accountability within IHS operations.

In addition, President Nez credits Director Tso's commitment to working together with



the Navajo Nation and its health care professionals to help lower the number of COVID-19 infections and for helping the Navajo Nation to become one of the highest vaccinated populations in the world.

"This is a testament to the dedication and commitment that Director Tso has exemplified throughout her career, and particularly during her time with the Navajo Area IHS. Her collective efforts working side by side with our health care professionals laid the groundwork that catapulted her to this next level within IHS. On behalf of my wife, Second Lady Dottie Lizer and our family, we congratulate Director Tso and wish her many more blessings in her new role," said Vice President Lizer.

As the head of the Navajo Area IHS since 2019, Tso provided exemplary leadership in the administration of a comprehensive health care system. She began her career with the IHS in 1984.

She previously served in various roles in the Portland Area, both at the service unit level as the Administrative Officer for the Yakama Service Unit and at the Area level as the Planning and Statistical Officer, Equal Employment Officer and Special Assistant to the Area Director.

In 2005, Tso assumed the role of Director with the Office of Tribal and Service Unit Operations for the Portland Area. In this position, she was responsible for the implementation of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act and worked directly with tribal nations. Tso also worked with the three urban programs in the Portland Area that provide services ranging from community health to comprehensive primary health care services. In addition, she previously served as Acting Director of the ODSCT in 2010 and 2016-

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

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	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)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tecnospos, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Church Rock, NM	27,519.84	10/24/2022
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Torreón, NM	38,836.80	10/11/2022
Community Services Coordinator (S)	St. Michaels, AZ	38,836.80	10/21/2022
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	38,836.80	10/21/2022

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
--------------------------	-----------------	-----------	-----

Community Development Block Grant

Senior Office Specialist (S)	Window Rock, AZ	32,635.44	10/13/2022
------------------------------	-----------------	-----------	------------

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

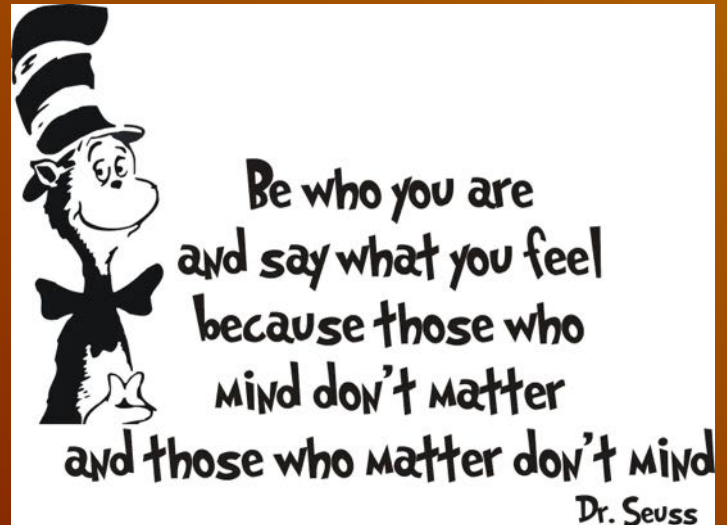
Closing Dates may change due to temporary reduction in non-essential Navajo Nation government services

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



Quote of the Month



The Challenge of Mapping Disaster Areas During a National Emergency

Every State Declared Federal Disaster Areas During COVID-19 but Other Natural Disasters Are Happening

Written by: Earlene K.P. Dowell

For the first time in history, all 50 states were declared federal disaster areas due to COVID-19. At the same time, hurricanes, floods, wildfires and winter storms continued to hit communities already dealing with the pandemic.

Communities were overwhelmed and so was the U.S. Census Bureau's award-winning OnTheMap for Emergency Management data tool.

As each state becomes a disaster or emergency declaration area, real-time data on hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and winter storms were updated but drowned out by the nationwide swath of COVID-19 disaster areas.

In order to show national weather events, we had to redesign the OnTheMap for Emergency Management tool.

We organized and grouped each natural disaster by individual threat and clearly displayed them on the map to help users identify and focus on specific events other than COVID-19.

The bright orange shading identifying Disaster Declarations transitioned into an opaque orange providing a starker backdrop for all emergency events. Now, users can choose events they are interested in by using the legend and map controls to the right of the map. (See below.)

"Everything has changed," said George "Chip" Walker, specialist assistant and co-chair of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Team. "Response teams have had to anticipate challenges due to the pandemic and adapt recovery operations."

Helping Guide Emergency Management

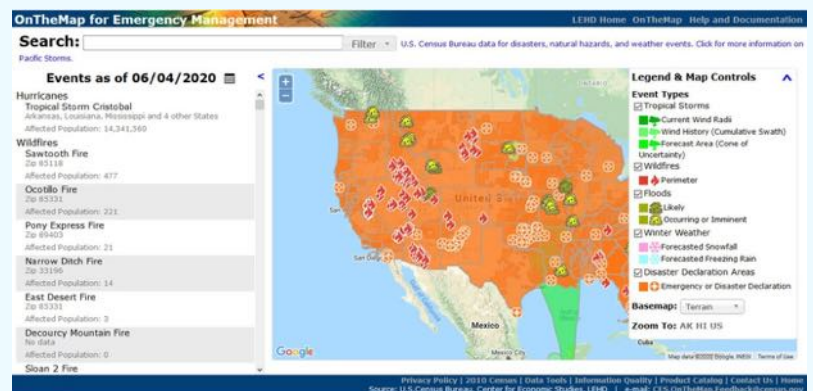
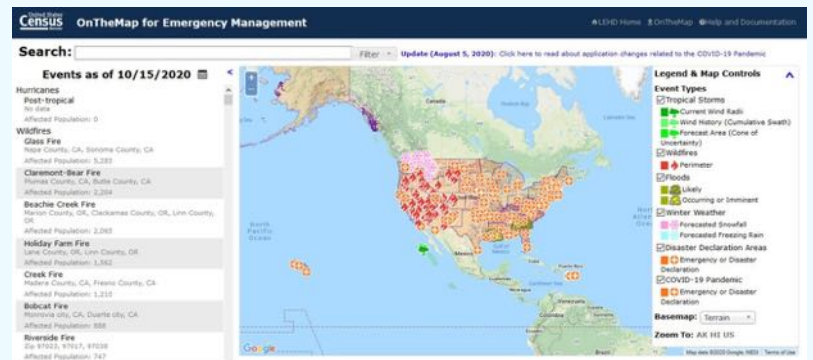
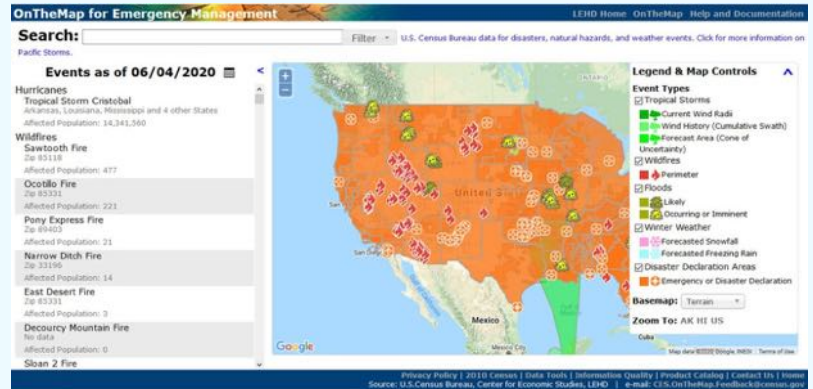
When crises and emergencies happen, OnTheMap for Emergency Management helps decision makers plan, respond and launch recovery activities by providing timely access to detailed information about affected workforces and populations.

The information comes a mix of data from the Census Bureau and other federal agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Disaster declaration areas defined by FEMA include states, territories and tribal areas eligible for public and individual assistance.

OnTheMap for Emergency Management can help users identify areas affected by a disaster and identify social, physical and economic vulnerabilities. Users can pinpoint affected populations, and housing, and the impact on the workforce and industries.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/01/challenge-of-mapping-disaster-areas-during-national-emergency.html>





NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Schedule Now!

Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

Topics

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

CONTACT US

Baca- Gallup, ASC

Guarena Adeky, SPPS
gadeky@nndcd.org

Ft. Defiance, ASC

Patricia Begay, SPPS
pdbegay@nndcd.org

Chinle, ASC

Edgerton Gene, SPPS
egene@nndcd.org

Keyenta, ASC

Calvin Tsosie, SPPS
cetsoisie@nndcd.org

Crownpoint, ASC

Casey Begay, SPPS
casey_begay@nndcd.org

Shiprock, ASC

Elizabeth Washburn, SPPS
eliza-beth@nndcd.org

Dilkon, ASC

Eunice Begay, SPPS
ejbegay@nndcd.org

Tuba City, ASC

Milford Maloney, SPPS
mmaloney@nndcd.org

Executive Staff

Latasha James, Senior Planner
ljames@nndcd.org

Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Dept. Manager II
sjim-martin@nndcd.org

Chapter Unit Attorney

Rodgerick Begay, Attorney
rbegay@nndoj.org

COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES: Fair Event Guideline



This guideline is intended for Fair administrators such as agency fairs on the Navajo Nation. The guideline is set for community fair and similar events in the Navajo Nation. This guideline is intended for use by event planners, local officials, participating vendors, entertainers, and other personnel working with the planning and execution of these events. The guideline is to support ensuring safe community activities at fair events.

May 12, 2022

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Setting: Community fair events and similar events
 - Rodeos (All rodeo associated events, roping, wrestling, riding, etc.)
 - Cultural/competitive dances (Pow-wow, song and dance)
 - Entertainment/fundraising dances (Country/western dances, community, youth dances, concerts)
 - Other events (Carnivals, parades, BBQ, expositions, mud bogging, frybread contests, agriculture, 4-H)
 - Camping at any of these events
 - Non-food vendors such as arts & crafts, expositions and similar events
 - Food vendors must also follow the COVID-19 Safe Practices Guidelines Temporary Food Section.
- Community fair event administrators and the fair boards shall be responsible for ensuring that these guidelines are followed.
- All event staff, volunteers, contractors, including touring competitor, artists, performers, tech crews, and support staff shall adhere to guidelines for containing the COVID-19 pandemic set forth in this guidance.
- Indoor and outdoor occupancy must adhere to the most recent Public Health Emergency Order.

1. COVID VACCINE VERIFICATION

- The fair event organizers are encouraged to conduct COVID vaccine verification.

2. WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Staff should clearly communicate steps to be taken before, during, and after the event to ensure that all attendees are aware of safety protocols.
- It is strongly recommended that those who attend:
 - If eligible, have been fully vaccinated and up-to-date, or
 - Are not currently required to isolate or quarantine due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, and
 - Are not currently sick, and/or experiencing COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, etc.)
 - People at increased risk of severe illness might need to take extra precautions.
- Those recently tested for COVID and still waiting on results should not attend until those results are final and "negative".

3. FOLLOWING BASIC COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES

• Practice the three W's

- **Wear a Mask:** Wear masks in accordance with current public health emergency orders. Masks do not have to be worn when eating and drinking. Disposable masks must be made available for all.
- **Wash Hands:** Use hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol or hand washing stations that are convenient, and accessible for all. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your mask
 - After changing a diaper
 - After caring for someone sick
 - After touching animals or pets
- **Watch Distance:** Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet.
 - Get your updated flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.
 - Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.
 - Stay home when sick with COVID symptoms.

To ensure potential exposures are reported and mitigated appropriately, implement the following:

- Create a plan of action when a staff member (including family) is sick. The plan should include:
 - Temporarily close operations if any staff member shows symptoms common to COVID-19 or involved as a potential close contact until areas of contact by staff are cleaned and disinfected.
- Report all COVID-19 cases to local health care facility, and to the HCOC COVID-19 Report Exposure Portal.
For questions about reporting cases, call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

4. PROMOTING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Ensure there are enough hygiene supplies to disinfect effectively, such as hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, hand wipes.
- Post signage:
 - Prohibiting anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms from entering the space.
 - 3 W's (wearing a mask, watching physical distance, and washing hands)
- Require volunteers, contestants, staff, and contractors to conduct self-screening for COVID-19, and if available, rapid antigen testing.
- Provide safety training and education on COVID-19 for volunteers, staff, and contractors.
- Communicate to volunteers, staff, vendors, and contractors are subject to Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency orders.
- Ensure that all water systems like drinking fountains, decorative fountains, and other religious fountains are safe to use after a prolonged facility shut down to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other waterborne diseases.

5. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Adhere to the maximum occupancy limits per the most recent Public Health Emergency Order.
- Attendees must maintain 6-feet or more.
- Adjust seating to maintain physical distance between members of different households.
- Ensure at least a 6-foot distance between each booth (vendors), including equipment and storage areas.
- Gatherings and activities are strongly recommended to be held outdoors if weather permits.
- If using a canopy, use physical guides to maintain 6 feet physical distancing inside of the canopy.

A. Crowd Control

- If space allows; establish physical barriers & pedestrian traffic- "EGRESS" wider aisles or even a one-way traffic control.
- Indoor or outdoor venues, space organizers should consider separate entrances and exits to the venue to allow one-way flow of attendees.

B. General Public Spectators and Non-competition Attendees

- Adjust seating capacity and stage setting to meet occupancy guidelines.
- Separate attendees from technical personnel, performers, and competition participants at all times.

C. Competition Participants (contestants, performers etc.)

- Avoid large groups and divide participants into smaller groups along with staggered start and end times.

- For example, in races, groups are divided into 'numbered corrals' with different time intervals. Corral 1 starts race at 9am, corral 2 starts race at 9:15am.
- Where lines form, use signage and floor decals to maintain 6 feet physical distancing.

6. FOOD AND/OR DRINKS

- While eating food indoors, ensure proper ventilation while maintaining physical distancing, including pavilions, tents, and canopies.
- Use single-use disposable plates, cups, utensils, and prepackaged condiments.
- Limit crowding where the food is served and/or ordered.
- Food vendors must follow the Nation Food Handler Training and Food Service Permit Protocols by the Navajo Environmental Health & Protection Program.

7. CLEANING

- Disposable disinfectant wipes can be made available for attendees to utilize for cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and any areas after the event, such as seats, doorknobs, tables, restrooms, microphones, electronic devices, etc.
- If someone is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Intensify cleaning with detergent or soap and water then disinfection through implementation of daily protocols and document completion on a cleaning log.

8. VENTILATION

- Increase the circulation of indoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
- Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate correctly, are well maintained, and all ventilation system filters have been serviced and replaced.
- Avoid crowded areas, especially when indoors that do not have fresh air from the outdoors if you are at increased risk of getting sick from COVID-19.

9. TENT AND CANOPY USAGE

Tent and canopies are used in many outdoor activities, while in use, the following are recommended:

- Tent skirt should be partially installed to provide adequate ventilation.
 - ½ of the skirt can partially be installed to protect public address (PA) system and other electronic pieces of equipment.
- All other items within this guideline pertain to tent revivals.
 - Hand washing station and/or hand sanitizer(s) will be in or outside the tent.
 - Provide masks for attendees.
- Management entities overseeing or managing the tent revival shall be responsible for ensuring that these guidelines are followed.

10. NAVAJO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND NAVAJO OHSА AUTHORITY

NNOSHA recommendations CFR 1926 and 1910 STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS protocols and enforcement:

- Inspections of all the Navajo Nation fairs, punch list are:
 - Americans with Disabilities access and compliance.
 - Egress one-way traffic control.
 - 6 feet physical distancing.
 - Restroom facilities: ensure the safe, and monitored, handwashing/sanitizing stations, limit the number of people who can occupy the restroom at one time.
 - Ensure that all water systems like drinking fountains, decorative fountains, and other shared fountains are safe to use after a prolonged facility shut down to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other waterborne diseases.
 - Waterlines must be flushed weeks leading up to the event.

11. DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19

All organizations planning, managing, and organizing events for community exhibitions must develop COVID-19 policies and procedures.

The policies and procedures must follow the items below:

- General Requirements
- Who Can Attend?
- Following Basic COVID-19 Safe Practices
- Promoting a Safe Environment
- Physical Distancing
- Food and/or Drinks
- Cleaning
- Ventilation
- Compliance with Navajo Environmental Health and Navajo OHSА (NOSHA)

All organizers will be required to submit a COVID-19 Fair Safety Plan to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development before opening of fair.

- Email reopening plans to: navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov
- Subject line: Navajo Nation COVID-19 Fair Safety Plan

For questions, please contact the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014
Additional information can be found at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>

September 2022



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

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Norbert Nez, Editor

Denise Copeland, Assistant Editor

Sylvia Jordan, Contributing Writer



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