

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

June 2023

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Did You Know...

Defensive Sites of Dinetah The small, aboveground masonry structures of northwestern New Mexico called "pueblitos" The pueblitos were observed by Spanish travelers in the early to mid-1700s, who remarked that they were places of defense against the Utes and Comanches. [Read More](#)

Events:-

June: Ya'iishjaashchili - "Planting of Early Crops"

June 1: Navajo Memorial Day /

Treaty Day

June 18: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 21: Summer Solstice

July: Ya'iishjaashtsoh - "Planting of Late Crops"

SEVEN NEW MEXICO CHAPTERS SECURE \$17,400,086 FOR NINE PROJECTS FROM TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (TIF)

June 7-8, 2023—The New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund board has awarded over \$67.5 million in funding across 14 tribes for 21 communities in New Mexico. The funds were approved by the Tribal Infrastructure Act of 2005, which recognizes that many of New Mexico's tribal communities lack basic infrastructure, resulting in poor health, social and economic conditions.



The TIF board thoroughly evaluates and scores each project proposal from tribal communities to ensure that critical needs for the projects are established. The chapters submitted their proposal via the New Mexico TIF web portal in March 2023. Then, projects were reviewed and ranked by the TIF board. This year the TIF board selected top 34 project proposals to present their projects to the TIF board meeting on June 7 and 8, 2023 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The presenters included the Isleta Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Laguna Pueblo, Mescalero Apache, Nambe Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Sandia Pueblo, Upper Fruitland Chapter, Ramah Chapter, Tohajiilee Chapter, White Rock Chapter, Bencenti Chapter, Naschitti Chapter, Tse liah (Standing Rock) Chapter, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Zuni Pueblo.

July 2023

After the presentations, the TIF board voted to approve the 2023 TIF projects and funding amounts. Award letters have been sent to the chapters. The following Navajo Navajo projects were funded this year: Tohajiilee Chapter will receive \$800,000 for a design grant for the Tohajiilee Navajo Chapter Water System Improvements Phase II. White Rock Chapter will receive \$1,370,000 for a design grant for Regional Beacon Bisti N9 Lateral Water Supply Project, White Rock – Lake Valley Extension. The Becenti Chapter will received \$6,750,000 construction grant for the Beacon Bisti N9 Lateral Regional Water Supply Project, Reach 10.1. The Naschitti Chapter will receive \$2,366,086 for a construction grant for the Naschitti Chapter Regional San Juan Lateral Water Project. Ramah Chapter will receive funding for three projects: Ramah Rocky Ridge Water System Well construction grant for \$3,000,000, Ramah Pinehill Mainline Replacement design grant for \$750,000 and Ramah Unit 5 Water Well planning grant for \$160,000. Upper Fruitland chapter will receive \$1,005,000 for a planning grant for the Upper Fruitland Chapter N367 and N562 Road Improvement. The Tse' li'ahi' (Standing Rock) Chapter will receive a construction grant for the Tse'li'ahi' Chapter Equipment Storage Warehouse Project.

Thirty-four projects were submitted to the NM Indian Affairs Department for funding consideration and all 34 projects were awarded funding. Each project presentation highlighted the following: Critical Need of the project, Project Readiness, Capacity, Leveraging, Budget, and Anticipated Outcomes of the project.



July 2023

CPMD/DALTCS Senior Center Improvements

Baca Senior Center Parking Lot



A project was undertaken to develop a parking lot for the Baca Senior Center with 15 parking spaces, including a connecting sidewalk at the Baca/Prewitt Chapter, New Mexico. Special attention was given to accessibility by incorporating designated



ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) parking spaces, ensuring that individuals with disabilities have convenient and safe access. The project received funding from the New Mexico General Obligation Bond, amounting to \$400,000. Mr. Leonard Hardy from CPMD served as the Project Manager for this project working with DALTCS. The project was completed in May, 2023.

Photos provided by Leonard Hardy.

Forest Lake Senior Center Renovation

The Forest Lake Senior Center renovation included various additions and renovations to improve the facilities in Forest Lake, Arizona. These include:



- New stove, refrigerator, and freezer: Upgrades were made to the kitchen appliances, providing improved functionality and efficiency.

- Wood stove and fire extinguisher equipment: A wood stove was installed, accompanied by necessary fire safety equipment to ensure a safe environment.

- Table and chairs, and sofa: The seating area was enhanced with the addition of tables, chairs, and a sofa to create a comfortable and inviting space.
- Office equipment: Essential office items such as a computer, desk, projector, and screen were provided to facilitate work and presentations.
- Restroom renovation: The restroom was renovated, improving its appearance and functionality, including the flooring.
- Laundry facility: A laundry area was established with a new washer/dryer, allowing for convenient washing and drying of clothes.
- Dry store and pantry: A dry storage area and pantry were added, providing space for storing food and supplies.



These additions and renovations aim to enhance the overall functionality and comfort of the Forest Lake Senior Center. The project was funded by Sihasin Funds in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Leonard Hardy from CPMD served as the Project Manager for this project and worked with DALTCS.

Photos provided by Leonard Hardy.

Iyanbito Chapter Senior Center - Code Improvements

The Iyanbito Senior Center receive a major code improvements to correct due to hard water issues. The renovation included a new Water Heater, a new water softener, replacement of plumbing water valve, replacement of toilet and water tanks in the restroom, upgrade to the plumbing system, replacement of the kitchen's three compartment sink faucet and drainage pipe, and shower valve and handheld slider. Non-plumbing issues included the replacement of mechanical room floor, replacement of the kitchen floor and the replacement of two broken windows which were custom cut for the Iyanbito Senior Center.

Funding for the project from the New Mexico General Obligation Bond, amounting to

\$159,745. Mr. Leonard Hardy from CPMD served as the Project Manager for this project and worked with DALTCS. The project was completed in May, 2023.

Photo provided by JBegay001 (Local Guide).



July 2023

SIHASIN FUNDED POWERLINE FINAL INSPECTIONS

Lupton, Arizona - The Lupton Scattered Powerline Extension project in Arizona was successfully completed. Here are the key details:

- The project was funded by CAP-35-18, Sihasin Years 1 and 2 funds.
- The total cost of the project amounted to \$95,110.49.
- The Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) conducted a final inspection site visit on May 31, 2023.
- Mr. William, an NTUA ESPS, and Ms. Judith Willoughby, CPMD Program & Project Specialist, were present during the field visit.
- The powerline has been constructed, and meters have been installed.
- The electric service was turned on by NTUA.
- As a result of the project, a total of 10 homes are now served by the powerline extension. These efforts have improved access to electricity for the residents of the Tse Si Ani (Lupton) Chapter.



Pictures Provided by
Judith Willoughby.



Inscription House, Arizona - The Ts'ah Bii Kin Electrification Powerline Project in Inscription House, Arizona, was successfully completed. Here are the key details:

- The project was funded by CAP-35-18, Sihasin Year 3 funds.
- The total cost of the project amounted to \$661,666.68.
- The Capital Projects Department conducted a final inspection site visit on June 8, 2023.
- The powerline has been constructed, and meters have been installed.
- The electric service was turned on by NTUA in December 2022.
- As a result of the project, a total of 19 homes are now served by the powerline.
- The final inspection visit was conducted by ESPS Sherrell White from NTUA Headquarters, Darlene Begay from the NTUA Kayenta District Office, and Ms. Judith Willoughby, CPMD Program & Project Specialist.

This endeavor has significantly improved access to electricity for the residents of the Ts'ah Bii Kin (Inscription House) Chapter.



July 2023

Celebrating the Grand Opening of Crownpoint Wellness Center: A Hub for Community Well-being

Chaco Blvd, Crownpoint, NM - We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of the Crownpoint Wellness Center, a transformative facility dedicated to empowering our community members on their journey towards self-balance and improved health. On June 27, 2023, the Crownpoint Wellness Center officially opened its doors, marking a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of well-being.

Situated on Chaco Blvd, near the Crownpoint Flea Market and Boys and Girls Club, the state-of-the-art T'iis Ts'ozí Wellness Center stands as a beacon of hope and a symbol of unity. This remarkable project, spearheaded by numerous dedicated entities, has come to fruition through the collaborative efforts of the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program, serving as one of seven wellness centers across the Navajo Nation.



The Crownpoint Wellness Center is designed to offer a comprehensive range of services that will assist and guide our community members in achieving self-balance and improved health. With a focus on education, the center will provide valuable resources and monitored support to help individuals monitor their progress and prevent potential health risks. By targeting high-risk factors and promoting preventive measures, we aim to create a healthier and more resilient community.



The grand opening ceremony was a momentous occasion, graced by the presence of contributors, dedicated staff members, and community members who have eagerly awaited the center's completion. The event served as a testament to the unwavering dedication and perseverance of those involved in the Crownpoint T'iis Ts'ozí Wellness Project.



Together, we have overcome numerous challenges to establish a facility that will uplift the entire Crownpoint region.

July 2023

Leonard Perry, in his insightful narrative titled "[A Narrative of a Community Project](#)," expressed his gratitude for the collaborative efforts that led to the successful completion of the T'iis Ts'ozí Wellness Center. He emphasized the invaluable support received from the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program and extended heartfelt thanks to all the individuals who played a crucial role in the project. This includes community members who participated in the voting process, the Navajo Nation Council for passing legislations, the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President's Office for their approval, and the New Mexico State Legislatures Office for their support.

With the Crownpoint Wellness Center now open, we are excited to welcome community members to experience the range of services and programs it offers. This center symbolizes our commitment to fostering a healthier and more vibrant community, empowering individuals to take charge of their well-being.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved in making the Crownpoint Wellness Center a reality. Together, we can achieve remarkable transformations and create a brighter future for our beloved community.

For more information and updates, please visit our Facebook page: [T'iis Ts'ozí \(Crownpoint\) Wellness Center](#)

Together, let us embark on a journey of wellness and empowerment!

(All Photos provided by Art Moore, Project Manager) [pictured below: (L to R) Art Moore, Randall Comb, Sylvia Billie, Loren Miller, Rita Capitan, John Largo, Lawrence John, Elmer Johnson.]

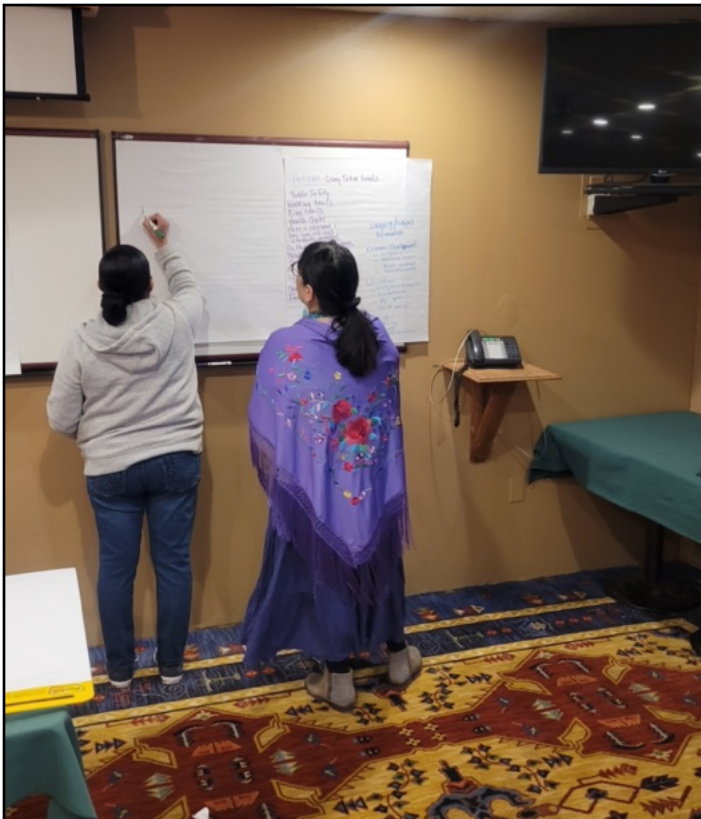


Community Land Use Planning Updates



DCD's Senior Planner, Latasha James, and SPPS staff have orientated 69 chapters out of 110. Under the Navajo Law, the Local Governance Act authorizes each chapter to establish a community land use plan that is updated every five years. These plans detail the community's needs and want, and are a guide for the chapters.

Since January, the Round Rock community land use planning committee (CLUP) has been spearheading the land use planning manual. A few months ago, they held a two-day work session at the Holiday Inn in Chinle Arizona where they worked on creating a vision and mission statement for the CLUPC manual. Soon after, the group started working on the demographics and community needs assessment. The developed survey questions to utilize as a tool to collect data. They are currently hiring a planner to assist with the recertification process of the land use planning manual.



In addition, the Round Rock CLUP committee recently presented at the 2023 Dine Studies Conference held at Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico. They showcased their progress in the land use planning manual. The presentation shared experiences of the Round Rock CLUPC and included other partners and stakeholders.

Please contact your assigned SPPS for your area or contact Ms. James if you have any questions or would like more information on the Community Land Use Planning orientation.

July 2023

Community Housing Infrastructure Department Housing Improvement Program Updates

June 2023

Community Housing Infrastructure Department Housing Improvement Program Updates

Rita Begay, HIP Program Manager Fort Defiance, AZ - The June 2023 update from the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), our housing project at Coppermine AZ location is now 100% complete. According to William Nelson, Construction Supervisor for HIP, "the project took longer than expected due to holidays, adverse weather conditions, limited manpower and especially the distance from FtDef AZ." "It is a 3hr 30min travel time from Ft Defiance." The HIP personnel made the weekly trek to the location and without complaints resided at the Tuba City HIP Office/ Warehouse during the week, which is less than luxurious.



Furthermore, Mr. Nelson stated "the client Rose Denetso was very delighted with the way the home turned out." The client stated, "The HIP construction personnel did an excellent job of building the house".

Our project in Indian Wells AZ has reached 52% completion in which the 2nd Phase of the project will be underway shortly.

We are also making significant progress with our two ARPA projects, which involve the delivery of modular homes to HIP clients in Cornfields and Kinlichee AZ locations. Currently, the Cornfields project stands at 70% completion, while the Kinlichee project is at 80%. The skirting work has been completed, and only the concrete ramps/ steps remain to be concluded.



July 2023

NNDCD FRF ARP

Albuquerque Worksession
June 30th, 2023



The Division of Community Development (DCD) and Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) Office staff facilitated Work Sessions for approved ARPA projects. The agenda covered the administrative requirements, project coordination and implementation process, i.e., reporting, monitoring, compliance, etc. for specific projects that are listed of the 14 Council Delegate Regions.

NAVAJO NATION FISCAL RECOVERY FUND OFFICE

The NNFRF Office shall be a clearinghouse that will, at a minimum, educate the public on NNFRF matters; coordinates, facilitates and implements NNFRF responsibilities assigned to OPVP or the Executive Branch; ensure expeditious review of NNFRF eligibility determinations and other NNFRF matters by Executive Branch programs and offices; ensure Navajo Nation compliance with Fiscal Recovery Funds provisions of ARPA and Navajo Nation laws and regulations by all entities receiving NNFRF funds; facilitates and expedites the expenditure of all NNFRF funds; ensures the completion and implementation of NNFRF authorized projects and services; and assists/supports Office of the Controller in monitoring the expenditure of NNFRF funds and submitting timely and accurate ARPA reports to the federal government.

Source: Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJY-41-21



July 2023 - Presentation of the DCD – FRF ARPA

08:30 A.M. through 03:30 P.M.

- July 06, 2023 Fort Defiance Chapter House (Fort Defiance Agency)
Twin Lakes (Bahastlah), Cornfields, Coyote Canyon, Crystal, Dilkon, Fort Defiance, Ganado, Greasewood Springs, Houck, Indian Wells, Jeddito, Kin Dah Lichii, Klagetoh, Low Mountain, Mexican Springs, Nahata Dziil, Naschitti, Oak Springs, Red Lake, Sawmill, St. Michaels, Steamboat, Teesto, Tohatchi, Lupton, White Cone, Wide Ruins
- July 07, 2023 Church Rock Chapter House (Eastern Agency) – 1st Section
Smith Lake, Mariano Lake, Thoreau, Bread Springs, Chilchiltah, Red Rock (Tse’ Lichii), Manuelito, Tsayatoh, Rock Springs, Becenti, Casamero Lake, Dalton Pass (Nahodishgish), Little Water, Baca-Prewitt, Iyanbito, Church Rock, Pinedale
- July 11, 2023 Many Farms Chapter House (Chinle Agency)
Black Mesa, Blue Gap, Chinle, Forest Lake, Hard Rock, Lukachukai, Many Farms, Nazlini, Pinon, Round Rock, Tsaille/ Wheatfields, Rough Rock, Tselani/Cottonwood, Whippoorwill
- July 12, 2023 Ts’ ah Bii Kin Chapter House (Western Agency)
Bodaway-Gap, Cameron, Chilchinbeto, Coalmine Canyon, Coppermine, Dennehosto, Kai’ Bii To, Kayenta, LeChee, Leupp, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Shonto, To’ Nanees’ Dizi’, Tolani Lake, Red Lake, Ts’ ah Bii Kin, Birdsprings
- July 19, 2023 Hispano Chamber of Commerce (Eastern Agency) - 3rd Section
Alamo, Tohajiilee, Ramah
- July 25, 2023 Crownpoint Chapter House (Eastern Agency) - 2nd Section
Torreon, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, White Horse Lake, Counselor, Nageezi, Huerfano, White Rock, Lake Valley, Crownpoint, Standing Rock (Tse’ ii Ani)
- July 28, 2023 Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter House (Northern Agency)
Aneth, Beclabito, Cove, Gadii’ Ahi, Mexican Water, Nenahnezad, Newcomb, Red Mesa, Red Valley, Rock Point, Shiprock, Teec Nos Pos, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Toadlena/ Two Grey Hills, Sweetwater, Sheep Springs, Sanostee, Hogback, Upper Fruitland, San Juan

*Questions, please contact me via email at ebegay@nndcd.org or cellular number 505.870.6252
Ahe’ Hee’ Edwin “Ed” J Begay, ASO, DCD FRF ARPA, Window Rock, AZ*

July 2023

Tech Tips

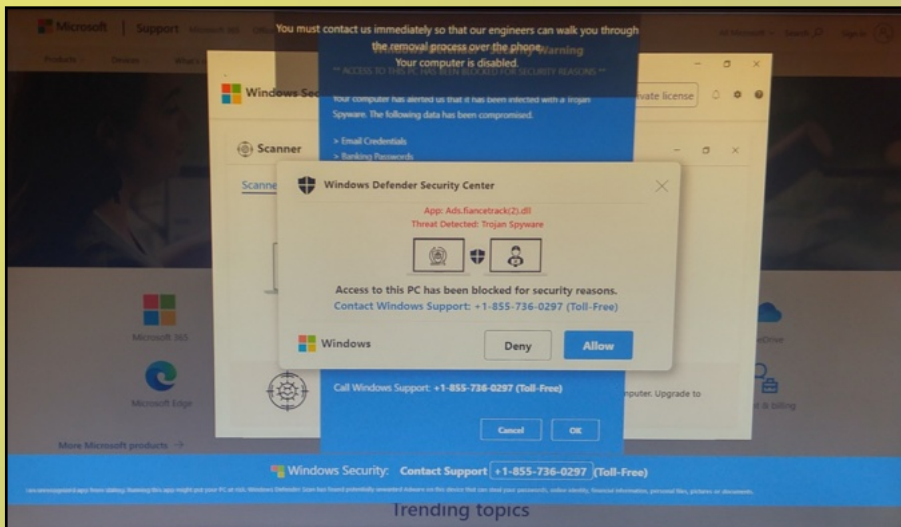


Beware of Malware

"Malware, short for malicious software, is software that is deliberately created to harm computers, servers, or networks. It can cause disruptions, steal private information, gain unauthorized access to systems, block access to data, or interfere with computer security and privacy. Malware comes in different forms, such as viruses, worms, Trojan horses, ransomware, spyware, adware, rogue software, wipers, and keyloggers.

Malware poses serious threats to individuals and businesses online. In 2017, there were 669,947,865 different malware variants, which was twice as many as the previous year. Cybercrime, including malware attacks and other computer-based crimes, was predicted to cost the global economy \$6 trillion USD in 2021 and continues to grow by 15% each year. Since 2021, malware has been specifically targeting critical infrastructure like the electricity distribution network.

Defending against malware requires different strategies depending on the type, but most can be countered by using antivirus software, firewalls, regular software updates to prevent zero-day attacks, securing networks from unauthorized access, maintaining backups, and isolating infected systems. It's worth noting that malware is now being designed to avoid detection by antivirus software."



!WARNINGS!

- **Look closely at the window - does it fill the screen with no way to click out of it?**
- **Does it have a phone number for you to call?**
- **Does it have text with words, threat, blocked or security on the window?**
- **Does the window have lots of logos or icons that you associate with Microsoft?**

Here are the recommended steps to effectively mitigate the threat:

1. Remain calm and avoid panicking.
2. Do not call any phone numbers on the screen.
3. Access the desktop by using the keyboard shortcut: Press the Windows key. Alternatively, press the Ctrl + Alt + Del keys together.
4. Close the browser you were using by either:
 - Closing the browser window from the taskbar if possible.
 - If you used the Ctrl + Alt + Del keys, open the task manager, select each browser (Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox), and choose the "End Task" option.
5. If nothing else is available or nothing is working shut down the computer by holding the power button until it turns off. Restart and open browser. If message persists contact Tech Support in Window Rock sjordan@nndcd.org, nnez@nndcd.org.



Administrative Service Centers

Department Updates:

December 29, 2022 - ASC Department Plan of Operation with the Division of Community Development. RDCD-43-22 Resolution was passed unanimously by the 24th Navajo Nation Council Resources & Development Committee (RDC)

[Click Here](#)

March 29, 2022 - Training on Personnel for Chapter was facilitated by the Administrative Services Centers Department under the leadership of Sonlatsa Jim with presenters from the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Chapter Unit and Litigation Unit. For the event website

[Click Here](#)

April 07, 2023 - Sonlatsa Jim, ASC former Department Manager departs from DCD.

April 10, 2023 - Mr. James Adakai (Deputy Division Director) is delegated the Administrative Services Center's Department Manager while the position remains vacant. To view DCD's Delegation Memo

[Click Here](#)

May 23, 2023 - ASC Department under delegated Department Manager, James Adakai, prioritizes addressing outstanding Employee Performance Appraisals to bring all department staff & non-certified chapter administration staff current on Employee Performance Appraisals.



Sonlatsa Jim
Former ASC Department Manager



James Adakai
Deputy Division Director
Delegated ASC Dept. Manager

July 2023

Administrative Service Centers

ASC STAFF UPDATES

Myrtis Begay, Acting Senior Programs & Projects Specialist Crownpoint ASC Office

This July 2023 Myrtis Begay begins his assignment as the Crownpoint ASC Office's acting Senior Programs & Projects Specialist. Myrtis Begay has been with the ASC Department since October 2018 as an Administrative Services Officer, working with the 16 Chapters assigned to the Crownpoint ASC Service Area. He has been a valuable asset to the Administrative Services Center department since coming on board, providing technical assistance to the Chapters with the finances and providing his assistance in many other areas pertaining to the chapter operations and the Navajo Nation's Policies and Procedures.

The department believes he is equal to the tasks that come with this new assignment.



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Elaine Benally, Office Specialist Kayenta ASC Office

From: Kayenta, AZ

Since May 2023 Elaine has been with the Kayenta ASC sub office. Elaine comes to the ASC department with a background in Business Administration and Banking, after having received her B.S. in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University.

Tara Dennison, Office Specialist Shiprock ASC Office

From: Crownpoint, NM

Tara joined the Shiprock ASC team in April 2023. She comes to ASC with a background in Electrical Engineering. She received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico and recently returned to the Navajo Nation in hopes of utilizing her skills for her community.



Administrative Service Centers

Chapter Official Training & Direct Local Supervision Updates:

On March 29, 2023 the Administrative Services Centers Department conducted a full day session at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino. This training was provided to the Chapter Officials from the 65 Non-LGA certified chapters.

The training on personnel management was provided for recent amendments to the ASC Department Plan of Operation with the Division of Community Development. RDCD-43-22 Resolution was passed unanimously by the 24th Navajo Nation Council Resources & Development Committee (RDC) in December 2022. In the amendments, a Chapter Official who has received training on personnel may be delegated to supervise the Chapter Community Services Coordinator (CSC). One selected Chapter Official, who has received a certificate of completion of the training from the ASC Department, will be authorized to supervise the CSC staff at their local chapter.

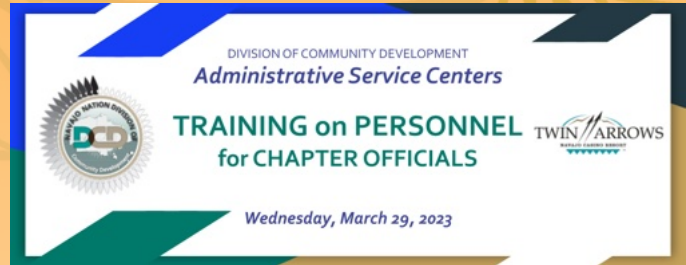
A total of 134 Chapter Officials from 62 Chapters attended this training to learn about supervisory responsibilities. On completion of this training, participants were awarded certificates and left with instructions for the next steps for Direct Local Supervision at their Chapters.

[Click Here](#) to view the March 29th Event Training Website - Handouts Page and the Presentation with "Training for Chapter Officials" with Next Steps provided.

Chapters are encouraged to update their Delegation of Supervision memorandums whenever necessary (i.e. with the onboarding of new CSC staff, officials, etc.), utilizing the template provided by ASC after the March 29th Training. The memo template for delegation of supervision is located on the Event Training Website (link above).

James Adakai, Deputy Division Director, stated "The ASC Dept. is planning on conducting training for the chapters regarding procurement, contracts, personnel and travel policy and procedures, DCD plan of operation and Title 26 – chapter officials roles and responsibilities."

Notice of upcoming Trainings will be provided to Chapters as soon as the information becomes available.



19/65 (29%)

Non-Certified Chapters

have submitted their memos identifying a direct local supervisor for their CSC Staff.

Since the March 29th training, the ASC department received nineteen (19) memorandums from Non-Certified Chapters designating one (1) of their Chapter Officials to supervise their CSC staff.

March 29th Training Attendance Breakdown	
Chapter Official Attendance	Total
Presidents	43
Vice-Presidents	44
Secretary/Treasurers	46
GRAND TOTAL	134

July 2023

CDC Tips for Healthy Summer

1

Move More, Sit Less!

Get at least 150 minutes of aerobic physical activity every week.



Tip: Physical activity has immediate benefits for your health: better sleep and

2

Wear Sunscreen



Use shade, wide-brimmed hats, clothing that covers, and broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 for sun protection.

3

Keep Cool in Extreme Heat

Extreme heat can be dangerous for everyone, but it may be especially dangerous for people with chronic medical conditions.



Stay Cool.



Stay Hydrated.



Stay Informed.

4

Eat Healthy Food

Delicious fruits and veggies make any summer meal healthier.

Tip: Healthy eating supports muscles, strengthens bones, and boosts immunity.



5

Choose Your Drinks Wisely

Drink water (fluoridated tap or unsweetened bottled or sparkling) instead of sugary or alcoholic drinks to reduce calories and stay safe.

Tip: Add slices of fruit to water for a refreshing, low-calorie drink.



NOTICE TO CHAPTERS:

Get your Chapter Events posted to the DCD website!

It's easy! Just invite Tia Yazzie, ASC's Administrative Assistant, to your meetings! Tia's Email is: tia.yazzie@nndcd.org. Tia will post your events to DCD's Calendar.

Chapter Administration and Chapter President will need to coordinate info. Your event will have more public awareness on the DCD Website.

DCD WEBSITE: NNDCD.ORG

OUR MISSION
Provide opportunities for the Navajo communities to be self-governing and self-sufficient.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 27
5:00pm - Iyamblo Chapter - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 28
10:00am - Chapter Meetings
10:00am - Technical Assistance Office Hours
2:00pm - Agency Council Meetings
Wednesday, February 29
10:00am - Pinedale Chapter - Planning Meeting
Thursday, February 30
9:00am - White Rock Chapter - Planning Meeting
6:00pm - San Juan Chapter - Planning Meeting
Monday, March 6
9:00am - Pinedale Chapter - Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
9:00am - Baahaał Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am - Baahaał Chapter - Planning Meeting
10:00am - T'ish Bi Kin Chapter - Planning Meeting
Tuesday, March 7
9:00am - Churchrock Chapter - Planning Meeting

EXPLORE DCD DATA

- CHAPTER LAND USE PLANS
- 2010 CENSUS CHAPTER PROFILES
- CHAPTER AND DCD BUDGETS
- NAVAJO PROFILE
- SECTION 164 REVIEW TRACKER
- CHAPTER BALANCE

About DCD Data

Navajo Nation to Receive \$20M Grant for Road Infrastructure

Navajo Nation Washington Office
Media Contact: info@nnwo.org

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – The Navajo Nation is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$20 million grant under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program by the United States Department of Transportation. This transformative grant will be used to reconstruct and improve approximately seven miles of Navajo Route 15, stretching from Sunrise Springs, Ariz., to Cornfields, Ariz.



The RAISE program aims to invest in transportation projects that enhance the country's infrastructure and promote sustainability, equity, and safety. The Nation's successful grant application highlights the essential need to improve Navajo Route 15, a critical transportation artery for the community, which has faced challenges due to limited funding and resources.

"The bipartisan infrastructure law is supporting long-overdue infrastructure investments for the Navajo Nation and tribal communities across Arizona. Navajo Route 15 is a vital transportation corridor on the Navajo Nation, and this investment will both improve connectivity and spur economic development. I'll continue working alongside President Nygren and Navajo Nation leaders to ensure these investments provide lasting impacts for the Navajo people," said Senator Mark Kelly.

The project will include widening the roadway, widening the existing shoulders, elevating the roadway to improve safety, enhancing drainage structures to better manage stormwater, and installing livestock underpasses to mitigate vehicle-animal collisions. These improvements will significantly enhance the safety and reliability of the route, providing a smoother and more efficient travel experience for residents and visitors alike.

"We would like to thank our partners in Congress and the US Department of Transportation for recognizing the importance of Navajo Route 15 and for its commitment to supporting infrastructure improvements in tribal communities," said President Buu Nygren. "This grant will not only boost the Navajo Nation's transportation system but will also create jobs, improve access to essential services, and promote economic development throughout the region."

The reconstruction and improvement of Navajo Route 15 will help address some of the unique transportation challenges faced by the Navajo people, fostering a more connected and resilient community. This project is a testament to the power of collaboration between the Navajo Nation and the US Department of Transportation, and we look forward to the positive changes it will bring to our people.

Bulletin Board

Navajo Nation Council members push for safer roadway between Navajo Mountain and Oljato communities



OREM, UT – On Friday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council hosted a meeting with Utah State legislators, San Juan County Commissioners and officials, the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, and Navajo Nation chapter officials during the 17th Annual Governor's Native American Summit in Orem, UT, to advance ongoing efforts to identify and secure resources to pave a roadway between the communities of Navajo Mountain and Oljato.

The two communities are located in the western portion of the Navajo Nation approximately 30 miles apart. The only paved route to get from one community to the other requires residents and other commuters to travel over 100 miles through rough terrain that often requires the use of four-wheel drive. Speaker Crystalne Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) was joined by Council Delegates Herman M. Daniels (Tсах Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato), Shaandiin Parrish (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock), and Shawna Ann Claw (Chinle) for the meeting, which focused on two possible routes that would improve transportation efficiency, drive economic growth and tourism opportunities, improve emergency response time and access to services, and significantly improve the quality of life for many local residents.

Delegate Daniels, who represents both communities, stated that the project has been in the works for many years and that the initial step is to secure funding for a development plan and to complete an environmental impact study for the project. Due to increasing costs of construction materials, the estimated cost of the project has increased over the years and depends on which route is most

feasible.

"Many residents, including elders, commute through these rough roads for long hours each day for basic services and necessities, hauling water for their families and livestock, and going to school and work. If we pave a roadway, it would also increase tourism in the area and create jobs and revenue for the Navajo Nation, the counties, and the entire state of Utah. This project will require significant investments, but it will create additional benefits in the long-term," said Delegate Daniels.

Delegate Charles-Newton, who chairs the Law and Order Committee, stated that the emergency response time for the impacted region is anywhere from two hours to three days depending on weather and road conditions. She added that the committee continues to gather data, which includes emergency response times during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic to help demonstrate the needs and to identify how many lives were lost during the pandemic due to slow emergency response times caused by the roadways.

Navajo Division of Transportation Roads Manager Joe Peterman was in attendance for the meeting and stated that the Navajo Nation receives approximately \$52 million annually from federal highway funding and that only \$36 million of that amount is for road construction for the entire Navajo Nation, which spans over 127,000 square miles.

According to the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, depending which route is selected the project would cost approximately \$161 million or \$186 million. The Navajo Nation and other stakeholders are focusing efforts on drawing funds from several sources, which will require support and advocacy from local, county, state, and federal officials.

"The Navajo Nation Council will continue working closely with the stakeholders to secure funds and other resources. To move the project forward, it will be challenging and will require support and input from many of our county, state, and federal partners. We are very grateful to all of the state legislators, county commissioners, chapter officials, and others who were in attendance at the meeting. I commend Delegate Daniels and others who have pushed this initiative for many years," stated Speaker Curley.

The Navajo Nation Council will meet with the stakeholders and state legislators in the region of the proposed roadway in August to continue assessing the development plan and next steps.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/434gP0c>

Naiomi Glasses helps secure donation from Hibbett, Nike for Kayenta Skatepark



KAYENTA, Ariz. – Kayenta Skate Park received a boost June 21, when Hibbett and Nike collaborated with a \$25,000 donation.

The contribution, dedicated to celebrating Nike N7, was presented by Naiomi Glasses, a Navajo designer, model and skateboarder June 21 at the Kayenta Skate Park during "Go Skate(boarding) Day."

"The Kayenta Township is excited and honored," said Kayenta Town Manager Olivia Jones. "We will honor Naiomi's wishes for the funds to be used for lighting at the skate park. She is such an inspiration to the community and we are so thrilled with her accomplishments. She is a pillar and role model for our

young generation; we wish continued success and wonderful blessings."

The partnership between Hibbett and Nike aims to highlight Naiomi Glasses' efforts in constructing skate parks near Navajo reservations.

"Hibbett is proud to partner with Nike and highlight Naiomi Glasses' work to build skateparks throughout Navajo Nation," said Sarah Sharp-Wangaard, VP Marketing, Hibbett. "As we commemorate Nike N7, we hope that this donation will allow the youth of Navajo Nation to actively enjoy the Kayenta Skatepark for years to come."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3r7JHfw>

Bulletin Board

Empowering innovators: ChangeLabs opens entrepreneurship hub in Tuba City



TUBA CITY, Ariz. — There was a lot of excitement in Tuba City June 16 as Change Labs entrepreneurship hub opened its doors to the public following a ribbon cutting ceremony with guests that included Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and several Tuba City leaders.

The 1,400-square-foot event space, meeting area and community center is the first building of its kind for business owners, creatives and the entrepreneurial-curious on the Navajo Nation.

“This space is a place where we can meet each other. It’s a space where ideas will be born. It’s a space for partnerships,” said Heather Fleming, Change Labs’ co-founder and executive director. “We believe it’s a space where businesses will be realized. And above all, is a space where we can start building community.”

The entrepreneurship hub is intended to serve as a permanent establishment for Change Labs, offering a range of business workshops, coaching sessions and incubation services. Additionally, it functions as a convenient drop-in office for both current and aspiring entrepreneurs, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and assistance in establishing and operating businesses within the reservation.

“The opening of our first entrepreneurship hub has been a long time in the

making and fills a deep and urgent need on the reservation. Finally, entrepreneurs, creatives, and makers have a space to gather, work, learn, meet their peers and find support in making their ideas and visions a reality,” Fleming said.

The hub provides various amenities, including complimentary work desks, internet access, a copy and scanning center, an event space, as well as a meeting room that can be reserved for team collaborations, client interactions and vendor engagements.

Fleming told the crowd that getting the entrepreneurship hub built in Tuba City was a long process.

“The reason that we’re all here today is we’ve achieved something that everyone told us was impossible,” she said. “We constructed a building the Navajo Nation’s first hub for small businesses, and many of you who call Navajo or Hopi home, know that this was no small feat. When I lived in California, I started my first business in 2009. It was easy. I registered my business in a day in an office in downtown San Francisco. When I needed office space, I toured a few buildings that were available for rent, and I moved in within 30 days.”

But that’s not how it works on the reservation, Fleming said.

“That’s why this work is so important. Entrepreneurship and commerce are vital to our prosperity,” she said. “And this is something that our ancestors understood, as the speakers have said before me. Yet the fact that it took as many years as it did to get here is a testament to the difficult road that our entrepreneurs and artists face each day.”

Meeting a community need

Change Labs was created to promote and assist Native-owned small businesses on the Navajo and Hopi reservations to take steps toward economic self-sustainability.

Navajo small businesses grow at half the rate as the rest of the U.S., according to the organization.

They found the lack of infrastructure, limited small business financing, lack of support networks and mentors, and a history of exclusion from national and global economies impact Native startups.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3XE7Ce8>

Navajo community recognizes Di’Orr Greenwood for positive contributions

FORT DEFIANCE, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren honored a young Diné woman today for having her skateboard art with a Navajo design placed on a U.S. Postal Service “Forever Stamp” to share across the country.

The President spoke about the “Art of the Skateboard Forever Stamp Dedication” to thank Di’Orr Greenwood of Fort Defiance for being such a positive example to Navajo kids who have someone close to their age to look up to.

“Thank you on behalf of the President’s office for just being such a wonderful role model to all of us,” he said at the Fort Defiance Office of Diné Youth Skateboard Park. “It’s an amazing feat.”

He said he keeps a sheet of stamps with her design in his office to show visitors as well as a skateboard with another of Di’Orr’s designs on it.

The “Art of the Skateboard” stamps are part of the “Forever” stamps category. They will always be equal to the current First Class Mail one-ounce price. The collection became available on March 24, 2023.

President Nygren said Di’Orr was an example to Navajo youth to not quit on their dreams because wonderful things they cannot imagine will happen for them if they keep trying.

“She’s on the right track to be recognized all over the country and the world with her stamp,” the President said. “Her designs and just her good heart and her good spirit represent us as Navajo people. I feel like our Navajo people are just doing such, such wonderful things out in the world. I’m wishing for that to continue.”

Struggling to hold back tears of joy, Di’Orr said it meant a lot to her to be honored, to be introduced by her grandfather Dave Bowman, to have her grandmother Lucy Bowman attend, to be welcomed by her community, and to be recognized for her art on a federal



stamp with Navajo designs.

“These designs don’t belong to me,” she said. “They belong to this community. They belong to the people here. The designs are older than our grandparents. They belong to the artists in Virginia, Alaska, Bogota, Columbia, and those on Navajo.”

Read More: <https://bit.ly/3prO284>

Bulletin Board

A chef sensation on the Navajo Nation

Diné chef Justin Pioche earned one of the country's most coveted culinary honors. He serves a lot more than food.

by Michael Benanav and photos by Michael Benanav -- June 20, 2023

The only chef from New Mexico who was a finalist for this year's James Beard Awards was recently manning a food truck in his hometown of Farmington, at the annual Memorial Day weekend Riverfest. His tattooed hands busily dished up what he thinks of as "our version of bar food" – green chile pork on frybread, tacos, nachos, and the like, served on paper plates. Winners of the elite awards, known as the "Oscars of the food world," would be announced in just over a week.

Based in nearby Fruitland, 37-year-old Justin Pioche – pronounced Pie-oh-chee – belongs to the Salt Clan Diné, born for the Folded Arms People. With help from his family, perhaps especially his younger sister, Tia, he runs Pioche Food Group. Rather than establishing a restaurant, he's opted to experiment with an alternative business model, staging pop-up gourmet dinners, catering private events and bringing his food truck to regional festivals.

"I'm not ready to be tied down to a brick-and-mortar location just yet – right now I have lots of opportunities to travel around the country and internationally, which I couldn't do if I had to be in the same kitchen all the time," he says. Wherever he goes, the inspiration for his culinary creations – which earned him the nomination for Best Chef in the Southwest – remains firmly rooted in the Four Corners region.

It wasn't Pioche's lifelong dream to become a chef. "I wanted to be a rock star, and I was a pretty good drummer," he says. "But my mom told



me it wouldn't pay the bills, that I needed something to fall back on." He knew he liked cooking, so he enrolled at the Arizona Culinary Institute, graduating in 2014. At first, it seemed like there were fewer job opportunities for chefs than for percussionists. "No one was hiring then, so I ended up working at a Fuddrucker's. I hated it." But an unexpected encounter changed everything.

While on vacation in Florida with his father, Pioche happened to recognize celebrity chef Robert Irvine standing outside of Margaritaville at Universal Citywalk in Orlando. Pioche nervously approached Irvine and told him how much he appreciated what Irvine was doing for the culinary industry, adding that he hoped to have an opportunity to feed him someday.

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

Honoring past, promoting future with Navajo Nation

Published June 29, 2023

By 2nd Lt. Dorian Neuendorf

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, III. (AFNS) -- Air Mobility Command organized a meet-and-greet event in Page, Arizona, where Air Force representatives and local Navajo veterans and community members came together to honor the past, develop the present and promote the future.

The community event brought together approximately 30 AMC representatives and 50 Navajo veterans and community members. AMC showcased mobility air forces and flew in two C-130 Hercules aircraft for the community to experience firsthand.

Civilian participants were given the unique opportunity to walk through the C-130, connect with experienced aviators and mentors, and engage in professional development and networking opportunities.

"This is the beginning of a relationship where we can come here and let young people know what the Air Force and serving is all about, and also lower as many barriers as we can," said Gen. Mike Minihan, AMC commander, at a lunch sponsored by the Navajo Nation's vice president, Richelle Montoya. "I am committed to working with the Air Force and any other service on how we can ... make sure that if there's a kid dreaming about being in the Air Force, I want to work as hard as they are to help them come in."

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3XBt9UO>



Bulletin Board

This machine creates drinking water 'from thin air' in driest parts of the world

June 29, 2023

Peter O'Dowd

For the vast majority of Americans, access to clean drinking water is a given. But that isn't the case for Abbie Nez. The 77-year-old has lived in a one-room hogan on the Navajo Nation for decades without running water or electricity.

She has to drive into Page, Ariz., to buy water for cooking and bathing even though the country's second-largest reservoir, Lake Powell, is close to Nez's home.

"It's right here, it's not even less than 5 miles, and no running water," says her daughter, Sheila Emmons. "It's sad to see my mom on the daily, sweating, complaining about being so hot."

This is not a new problem. About a third of the residents on the Navajo Nation live without running water in their homes. They're forced to collect rain from their roofs or haul tanks of water back home from far-away cities.



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Even though a large portion of the reservation borders the Colorado River, the tribe has never been legally allowed to draw from it. Just last week, the Navajo Nation lost its fight in the U.S. Supreme Court to improve water rights.

As the tribe looks for solutions, there is new technology helping people like Nez.

She has two solar-powered machines in her yard that suck water vapor out of the air to create more than a gallon of drinking water every day. They're called hydropanels.

"I was kind of skeptical when they said 'Hey, we can pull moisture out of the air. We can make drinking water.' My first thought was, 'When hell freezes over,'" says Jerry Williams, a local leader who does work for Source Global, the company that makes the machines.

With his help, the tribal government purchased panels for about 540 homes, reducing the need for people to drive into town to buy water.

'A book of solutions' to solve climate crisis. Nez's family says the technology is a blessing, but it's not flawless. Recently, one of the many dogs that lives on her property chewed through a wire, and she wasn't getting any water at all. The company says her panels are getting fixed.

"The challenges with water have been around for a long time," says Source Global CEO Cody Friesen from his company's headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz. "That only gets worse as you put more people into a place that's getting ever drier."

Hydropanels are installed in 52 countries, Friesen says, and even in extremely arid places like Arizona, there is more than enough water vapor in the air to collect for drinking.

If all the water in the atmosphere fell at once, it would cover the entire planet with an inch of rain, according to scientists at the U.S. Geological Service. "You're talking about an atmospheric ocean of water vapor, a resource that's untapped," Friesen explains.

Depending on the model, a hydropanel costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 – a price that's too expensive for many people living in rural areas to afford. Friesen expects that price to come down and says there is little doubt that tapping water vapor in a place like the Southwest would help the people who live there.



Decades of drought and overuse brought the Colorado River to the brink of collapse. Cities and farms across the region are contemplating significant restrictions to the water supply as reservoirs dwindled over the past several years.

READ MORE: <https://wbur.fm/44bbGov>

Introduction of New CPMD Department Manager

It is a pleasure to announce the new Department Manager for Capital Projects Management Department, Mr. Dwayne Waseta. He came aboard on June 19, 2023.

Please join us in welcoming him to the Division of Community Development. He brings to [DCD] a wealth of

experience in construction management and contract administration.

We ask for your cooperation and assistance during his transition, and we look forward to his contribution to the growth and success of the Division.

Thank you.

Calvin Castillo, DCD Executive Director



PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rough Rock, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Teecnospos, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sawmill, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajiilee, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Thoreau, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Iyanbito, NM	28,897.92	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	40,778.64	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	28,897.92	OUF
Community Service Coordinator (S)	Coppermine, AZ	37,333.44	OUF

Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect (S) Window Rock, AZ 72,683.28 OUF

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check) Closing Dates may change

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

Comic of the Month



Quote of the Month



America Is Getting Older

New Population Estimates Highlight Increase in National Median Age

Press Release Number CB23-106

JUNE 22, 2023 – The nation's median age increased by 0.2 years to 38.9 years between 2021 and 2022, according to Vintage 2022 Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Median age is the age at which half of the population is older and half of the population is younger.

"As the nation's median age creeps closer to 40, you can really see how the aging of baby boomers, and now their children – sometimes called echo boomers – is impacting the median age. The eldest of the echo boomers have started to reach or exceed the nation's median age of 38.9," said Kristie Wilder, a demographer in the Census Bureau's Population Division. "While natural change nationally has been positive, as there have been more births than deaths, birth rates have gradually declined over the past two decades. Without a rapidly growing young population, the U.S. median age will likely continue its slow but steady rise."

A third (17) of the states in the country had a median age above 40.0 in 2022, led by Maine with the highest at 44.8, and New Hampshire at 43.3. Utah (31.9), the District of Columbia (34.8), and Texas (35.5) had the lowest median ages in the nation. Hawaii had the largest increase in median age among states, up 0.4 years to 40.7.

No states experienced a decrease in median age. Four states – Alabama (39.4), Maine (44.8), Tennessee (39.1), West Virginia (42.8), and the District of Columbia (34.8) – had no change in their median age from 2021 to 2022.

The median age of the nation's 3,144 counties or equivalents ranged from 20.9 to 68.1 in 2022. About 75% (2,357) had a median age at or above that of the nation, down from 76% and 2,374 counties in 2021. Roughly a quarter (787) had a median age below the national median age in 2022, 17 more than in 2021 when 770 counties had median ages under the then 38.7 national median age. Fifty-nine percent (1,846) of U.S. counties experienced an increase in median age between 2021 and 2022, up from 51% or 1,590 counties between 2020 and 2021.

In 2022, seven counties had median ages at or above 60: Highland County, Virginia (60.0); Charlotte County, Florida (60.2); Jefferson County, Washington (60.4); Harding County, New Mexico (60.5); Jeff Davis County, Texas (61.7); Catron County, New Mexico (62.1); and Sumter County, Florida (68.1). Of the counties with resident populations at or above 20,000, Jasper County, South Carolina, and Blaine County, Idaho, had the largest increases in median age between 2021 and 2022, both seeing their median age increase by 1 year to 46.3 and 45.9, respectively. Also notable: Barnstable County, Massachusetts, where the median age increased by 0.7 to 55.6 between 2021 and 2022.

Among counties with populations of 100,000 or more, several of the oldest counties were in Florida. Sumter County (68.1), home to a large retirement community, has perennially been the nation's oldest county. Neighboring Citrus County, although younger, still had a median age (57) well above that of the nation. Similarly, Sarasota County (57.5) and Charlotte County (60.2), both coastal Florida counties, had median ages near or over 60.

Seven counties among those with resident populations of at least 100,000 had a median age below 30.0 – Utah (25.7) and Cache (25.8) counties in Utah; Onslow County, North Carolina (27.6); Tippecanoe County, Indiana (28.8); Clarke County, Georgia (29.1); and Brazos (26.7) and Webb (29.8) counties in Texas. Many of these counties are home to large universities, which explains their lower median ages.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Today's release also featured updated estimates by race and Hispanic origin. The following references are for race-alone-or-in-combination groups or Hispanic populations of any race unless otherwise specified.

White

The White population in the United States was 260,570,291 in 2022, representing an increase of 0.1% or 388,779 people from 2021.

In 2022, California had the largest White population (29,079,926), followed by Texas (23,853,626) and Florida (17,553,268). Florida also had the largest-gaining (321,037) and second fastest-growing (1.9%) White population behind South Carolina, which grew by 2.0% (74,990).

Among counties, Los Angeles County, California, had the largest (7,085,816) White population, down 79,000 people from 2021. Maricopa County, Arizona, had the largest increase (35,294 or 0.9%) in the White population between 2021 and 2022.

Whitman County, Washington, had the fastest-growing White population, which increased by 10% (3,781 residents) in 2022.

Black or African American

Comprising 15% of the nation's total population in 2022, the national Black population totaled 50,087,750, up 0.9% from July 2021.

Texas had the largest Black population in 2022, with a total of 4,334,313, an increase of 120,945 (2.9%) from July 2021. Maine had the fastest-growing Black population, expanding by 7.0% (2,412 people) between 2021 and 2022.

Cook County, Illinois (1,260,073), and Harris County, Texas (1,032,566), had the largest Black populations in the nation and were the only counties with a Black population over 1 million.

The Black population increased in 67% of counties (2,110) in 2022; Harris County, Texas, had the largest numeric gain, with its Black population up by almost 23,000.

Among counties with Black populations above 10,000, Kaufman County, Texas, had the fastest-growing Black population, growing by 21% or 6,207 people from 2021 to 2022 – adding to the growth that occurred from 2020 to 2021, when it grew by 20% or 4,912 residents.

Asian

The Asian population in the United States was 24,683,008 in 2022, up 577,420 or 2.4% from 2021.

In 2022, California had the largest Asian population (7,242,739), followed by New York (2,085,285) and Texas (1,958,128). California also had the largest-gaining Asian population with an increase of 108,881, while Montana – with an increase of 6.8% (1,276) – had the fastest-growing Asian population.

California was home to four of the top five counties with the largest Asian populations in 2022. Los Angeles County topped the list with an Asian population of 1,711,002, followed by Santa Clara County (830,790) and Orange County (816,274). Alameda County, California, had the fifth largest Asian population at just over 616,000, and Queens County, New York, ranked fourth with an Asian population of 671,358.

King County, Washington, had the largest-gaining Asian population, adding 21,498 people.

Williamson County, Texas, had the fastest growth among counties with an Asian population above 10,000, expanding by 15.9% or 10,742 people.

American Indian and Alaska Native

The American Indian and Alaska Native population reached 7,274,656 between July 2021 and July 2022, an increase of 93,443 or 1.3%. California had the largest American Indian and Alaska Native population at 1,114,580, followed by Oklahoma (572,435) and Texas (528,255).

Texas also had the largest-gaining American Indian and Alaska Native population, having increased by 15,245 from 2021 to 2022, while the District of Columbia had the nation's fastest-growing American Indian and Alaska Native population, increasing by 5.0% or 507 residents.

Among counties, Los Angeles County had the largest American Indian and Alaska Native population (235,603), and Maricopa County, Arizona, had the largest-gaining American Indian and Alaska Native population, adding 3,108 people.

READ MORE AT: https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/population-estimates-characteristics.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

[Redefining Urban Areas following the 2020 Census](#)

Written by:

Michael Ratcliffe, U.S. Census Bureau Geography Division

“Urban” and “rural” are terms that bring to mind specific kinds of landscapes—densely developed areas in the case of urban, and small towns, farms and open spaces in the case of rural. While we can all think of specific areas in each category, it’s important to have a consistent measure to define these areas in order to produce meaningful data.

After each decennial census, the U.S. Census Bureau redefines both areas, providing an important baseline for analyzing the distribution and characteristics of urban and rural populations and economic activity. We periodically review the criteria defining urban and rural areas to make sure the distinctions continue to be relevant for analysis, planning and decision making. We do this by publishing Federal Register Notices – first to [gather feedback](#) and then to notify the public of the [changes in criteria](#).

In this post, we discuss several key changes to the urban area criteria we have made by incorporating learnings from analysis of 2010 Census urban areas, changes in settlement patterns, and discussions with users of our urban and rural classification.

[Click here to continue.](#)

Same-Sex Couple Households an Important Subset of Full LGBTQ Population

As Pride Month is celebrated this June across the nation and world, the U.S. Census Bureau helps to paint a more complete demographic portrait of America with a wealth of data products on same-sex couple households.

The Census Bureau has created products that look at same-sex couple households (a small subset of the full lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or LGBTQ population) including the following:

We recently released the Census 2020 estimates based on the relationship to householder data in the DHC 2020 tables: [2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File \(DHC\)](#)

We authored an America Counts story released with the DHC 2020 data: [Share of U.S. Coupled Households Declined in 2020](#)

To have a closer look at characteristics of same-sex couple households, see this table package and the accompanying historical table: [Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present](#)

Yet another useful resource is the Census Bureau’s [Household Pulse survey](#), which among other things measures sexual orientation and gender identity.

[Click here to continue](#)

June 28, 2023

Volume 23 Issue 51

2023 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.

Archived Back to Data Basics Webinar Series

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

Training Resources

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

Upcoming Webinars

Exploring Census Data: Housing & Real Estate

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 ET

Webex link

Exploring Census Data webinar series on Housing and Real Estate. Census Bureau subject matter experts will present data available from economic and demographic sources. You will learn about the different types of business data available from residential construction programs and demographic characteristics from the American Community Survey. Learn how to find key data and crucial information while discovering gems and resources connected to housing and real estate statistics. There will be an opportunity to connect with our experts via live chat and during the Q&A segment of the webinar. This webinar is part 3 of 6 in a series to help data users discover Census data related to people, places, and the economy.



Coming Up!

2021 Community Resilience Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau is set to release 2021 Community Resilience Estimates (CRE). Using data from the American Community Survey modeled with the Population Estimates Program data, the CRE provide an easily understood metric for a community's capacity to withstand and recover from disasters such as a hurricane or hazardous event. The new 2021 estimates include ranked estimates of the most socially vulnerable counties (top 25) and census tracts (top 100) in the United States, including areas with hurricane hazard risk according to FEMA's National Risk Index. Along with the standard CRE, the Census Bureau is releasing 2021 Equity Supplement (CRE for Equity), which combines the 2021 CRE with 2021 5-year ACS indicators and 2020 Census data to highlight social context and further discussions of equity. Both the standard CRE and CRE for Equity come with interactive mapping tools. (Scheduled for release June 29.)

The Wealth of Households: 2021

June 27, 2023 – Wealth is an important indicator of economic well-being that provides valuable insights into a household's economic health. For example, during financial hardships, such as unemployment, illness, or divorce, wealth is a source of liquidity to pay expenses and bills. This brief uses the 2022 Survey of Income and Program Participation to examine household wealth in 2021.

Impact of Social Security Processing Error on Poverty Estimates: 2014-2021 SIPP

June 27, 2023 – Since the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), where the survey was largely re-engineered, it has been well documented that the survey has captured too much gross (before tax and Medicare premiums) Social Security income (National Academies of Sciences 2018, Warren et al. 2020). Recent work by the Census Bureau identified a processing error in the SIPP monthly Social Security income variable "TSSSAMT", where Medicare premiums were double counted during the 2014-2021 SIPP surveys covering reference years 2013-2020. To address the double count of Medicare premiums produced from the 2014-2021 SIPP surveys, this paper provides a methodology for fixing the error in public-use data files, tests the quality of the fix, and provides updated poverty rates based on corrected Social Security amounts. Applying the fix increased the average monthly poverty rate by 0.4 percentage points over the 2013-2020 period, with the average monthly poverty rate for individuals aged 65 years and over increasing by 1.7 percentage points. To assist data users in incorporating the fix, accompanying data files with corrected TSSSAMT, income recodes, and poverty recodes for the 2014-2021 SIPP files are also being released that can be linked by data users to previously released SIPP files for these years. A list of these variables is provided in the Data Appendix. It should be noted that the fix is already implemented in the 2022 SIPP files.

The Fourth of July: 2023

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As we celebrate this Independence Day, we reflect on how our Founding Fathers enshrined in our Constitution the importance of data as a vital tool for measuring America.

Most of the following facts are possible thanks to responses to U.S. Census Bureau censuses and surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure our people, places and economy.

Did You Know?

2.5 million

The estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation in July 1776.

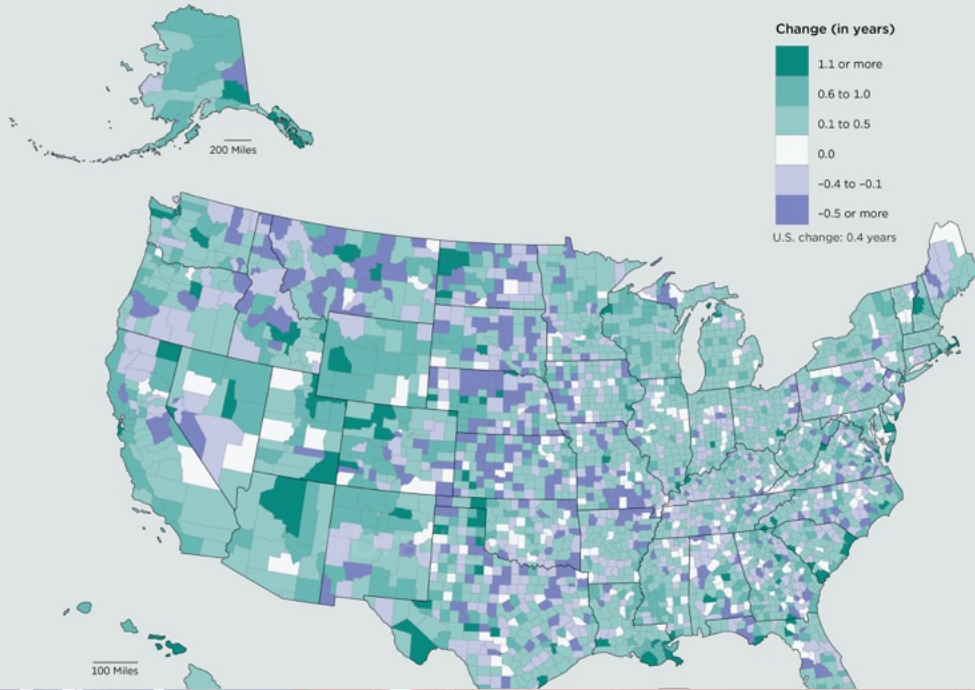
[Click here for more facts!](#)

	Number of establishments	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Number of employees
Museums	5,297	3,346,074	70,046
Historical sites	1,133	363,013	9,193
Zoos and botanical gardens	711	1,436,760	34,013
Nature parks	723	314,686	7,165
Amusement parks and arcades	3,823	5,405,118	178,679

Note: Employment is for the week including March 12. Project P-7503846. OMB approval 32088-PY23-021

United States Census Bureau | U.S. Department of Commerce | Source: 2021 County Business Patterns

Change in Median Age by County: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022



Enjoy July 4th!

Economic Data on Things To Do Around the Holiday

	<u>Number of establishments</u>	<u>Annual payroll (\$1,000)</u>	<u>Number of employees</u>
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Note: Employment is for the week including March 12. Project P-7503949, DRB approval CBDRB-FY23-0121.



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Schedule Now!

Community Land Use Planning Orientations & Trainings

Topics

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

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Looking for Large Local Business to Host Employment Training Program

Thanks to a generous grant from [MolinaCares](#), Shiprock has been identified as the location for New Mexico's eighth Project SEARCH site. This summer, Central Consolidated School District is recruiting a large local business to join them in this initiative that will train Shiprock-area youth, ages 18-22, with skills for employment. The initiative will begin active planning in fall 2023, with the goal of launching in fall 2024.

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a nationally-recognized, business-based job training program for youth between the ages of 18-22 who have documented disabilities. In the course of one school year, 8-10 young adult trainees rotate through three departments in a business where they learn three different employability skill sets. For example, at a hospital they might spend 10 weeks in food service, ten weeks in the linens department, and 10 weeks in shipping & receiving. Or, on a college campus or a distribution center, they might spend 10 weeks in groundskeeping, 10 weeks in filing & inventory, and 10 weeks maintaining fleet vehicles. At the end of the year, trainees exit the program as trained, qualified candidates for jobs in the hospitality industry, groundskeeping & maintenance, or any company with extensive operations.

What is innovative about Project SEARCH?

In New Mexico, 15.1% of the population has a documented disability. But nationwide, only 21.3% of people with disabilities are employed.* This is despite the fact that employees with developmental disabilities have been shown to contribute to higher productivity, lower absenteeism and increased customer loyalty.** Hiring people with disabilities is good for business.

Project SEARCH supports local businesses by connecting them with well-trained job candidates. And Project SEARCH supports young adults with disabilities by giving them a pathway to employment. It's a win-win.

Anthony Leekity, the Assistant General Manager of the Springhill Suite in Gallup, shares his experience serving as a training partner with Project SEARCH and now hiring interns who have graduated from Project SEARCH:

"I was introduced to Project SEARCH 5 years ago, while working at the Hilton Garden Inn as a breakfast and dinner server, which is also where I first met Project SEARCH alumni Shelby. She was my prep cook in the morning and eventually became my cook during the dinner service. Working alongside the intern and graduates open my eyes and showed me that the interns are just as capable if not more capable than anybody else. Shelby and I used to run the restaurant in the mornings and evenings and she never missed a beat. As an assistant general manager of Springhill Suites in Gallup we are a supporting business of Project SEARCH. I have learned that these individuals are no different than anybody else and they just need to be given the chance to succeed and show the world what they can do. They are hard-working and driven individuals and over the last 5 years of working with this program I have seen that. They work the hardest and are the most dependable employees that we have hired. They need to be given the time, patience and opportunity to succeed."

Project SEARCH is recognized across the country and around the world as one of the most successful work training programs for people with disabilities. Since Project SEARCH began in New Mexico in 2014, ninety-one young adults have gained competitive employment, working more than 16 hours/week, earning above minimum wage.

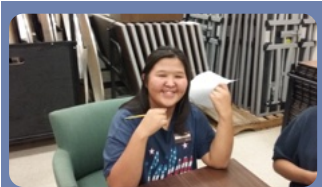
Why Shiprock?

- In 2018, 14.8% of the total population of San Juan County was a person with a disability.
- The economy of Shiprock employs 2,970 people. The largest industries in Shiprock are Educational Services (681 people); Health Care & Social Assistance (643 people); and retail trade (249 people)
- The most common job groups by number of people living in Shiprock are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (368 people); Healthcare Support Occupations (330 people); Construction and Extraction Occupations (284 people)

We are looking for a large business of 50 employees or more to serve as the home base for Shiprock Project SEARCH.

To learn more about Project SEARCH, visit projectsearch.us.

Please contact Ann Kluth-Clark at 505-360-5621 if you are a business who is interested.



Interested in Participating In Our Program?

Please Contact:

Ann Kluth-Clark

Central Consolidated Schools Instructor

Phone: 505-360-5621

Email: kluta@centralschools.org



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a one-year school-to-work internship for graduated adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who are between the ages of 18-22. The program prepares them for integrated, competitively paid work.

Interns complete three 10-week internships where they gain hard and soft employability skills that prepare them for competitive jobs in their community. During their third rotation interns work into preferred jobs with additional skills training at participating community businesses.

Goals of Project SEARCH

- Learn real-world job skills and responsibility in a real-world setting
- Create community connections through volunteer activities
- Practice independent living skills
- Match an intern's strengths, interests, and abilities with a preferred job
- Obtain a preferred job in an integrated setting earning at least minimum wage and working at least 16 hours per week

Project SEARCH Benefits for Businesses

Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs

Gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as a role model for patients, visitors and staff

Increased regional and national recognition through marketing of this unique program

Better employee performance and employee retention

Statewide Participating Project SEARCH Employment Partners:

- City of Farmington, New Mexico
- Embassy Suites by Hilton
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Holloman Airforce Base
- La Clinica de Familia, Inc.
- Presbyterian RUST Medical Center
- University of New Mexico Hospital

Our Shiprock, NM Project SEARCH Team:



The Entire program takes place at the host business, and is a full collaboration between a local school district (Central Consolidated Schools), NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR), NM Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Support's Division (DDSD), UNM Center for Development and Disability (UNM CDD), and Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (NN-OSERS)



Project SEARCH New Mexico in Shiprock

Shiprock, Newcomb, and Kirtland Central Consolidated School District

Preparing young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment.

MolinaCares
Building Stronger Communities...One Life at a Time

A Typical Day For A Project SEARCH Intern:

Mondays-Fridays
8am-3pm

- 8:00am: Check-in
- 8:30am: Internship Rotation
- 11:30am: Lunch
- 12:00pm Instructional Time
- 1:00pm: Internship Rotation
- 3:00pm: Head Home

Example Internship Rotations Could Include: Laundry & Housekeeping, Front Desk, Inspection, Maintenance, Grounds Keeping, Sanitizing & Dishwashing, or Childcare

*Schedules may vary depending on the needs of the host business



July 2023



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