

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Division of Community Development Newsletter

April 2024

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### Did You Know...

The word Navajo is an exonym: it comes from the Tewa word Navahu, which combines the roots nava ('field') and hu ('valley') to mean 'large field'. It was borrowed into Spanish to refer to an area of present-day northwestern New Mexico, and later into English for the Navajo tribe and their language. The Navajo refer to themselves as the Diné ('People'), with their language known as Diné bizaad ('People's language'). Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3UE3bA1>

### Events:

#### April: T'áächil - "Little Leaves"

April 1: April Fool's Day

April 18: Tax Day

April 22: Earth Day

April 24: Administrative Professionals Day

April 26: Arbor Day

#### May: T'áátsoh - "Big Leaves"

May 4: Star Wars Day

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 10: Navajo Nation Police Officers Day (Observed)

May 12: Mother's Day

May 27: Memorial Day

May 31: Navajo Nation Memorial Day (Observed)

## Tselani-Cottonwood Senior Center Building Project Nears Completion



In a long-awaited development, the Cottonwood Chapter Senior Center Building project is in its final stages, bringing with it a host of amenities and services for the community. Here's a glimpse into what this project entails and its journey to fruition.

### Project Overview

The Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter Senior Center Building spans an impressive 4,000 square feet, designed to cater to the diverse needs of the community. It includes a meeting room, reception area, spacious waiting area, separate men's and women's restrooms, storage facilities, electrical/mechanical rooms, two office spaces, a pantry, a generously sized kitchen, and an inviting outdoor patio.

### Construction Management

The project operates under a Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) framework, ensuring efficient and quality construction. Based on CPMD's conceptual floor plan design, the project is meticulously managed to meet the community's expectations.

### Contract Award

Arviso Construction Company has been awarded the contract for this significant endeavor, with the Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued on January 24, 2023. The construction timeline spans 540 days, with an expected completion within 360 days.





### Project Milestones

The Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) oversees the project's financial aspects, managing funds from the Navajo Nation Sihasin. Key milestones include the pre-construction meeting on January 31, 2023, the pre-final walkthrough on March 06, 2024, and the final walkthrough on April 02, 2024. The grand opening, tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2024, promises to be a momentous occasion for the community.



### Community Impact

This project is not just about construction; it's about enhancing community life. It will serve not only the Cottonwood Chapter but also neighboring chapters, including Whippoorwill, Pinon, Blue Gap, and Low Mountain. With over 380 participants expected, the center will become a hub of activity and support for the region.

### Long-Awaited Vision

The project's roots trace back to discussions as early as 1999, reflecting years of planning and dedication. The center's mission is clear: to promote healthy independent living among elders and empower the community with Hozho'—a vision of peace, beauty, balance, cultural richness, and harmony.

### Caring for the Elderly

Survey data underscores the importance of this center, revealing over 300 elderly residents aged 60 and above within the Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter boundary. The center's role in delivering meals to homebound individuals across several communities further highlights its essential services.



### Mission, Vision, and Values

The Tselani-Cottonwood Senior Citizen Center stands as a beacon of professionalism, cultural richness, quality service, and integrity. Its mission to promote healthy independent living and its vision to empower through Hozho' encapsulate the center's dedication to the community's well-being.

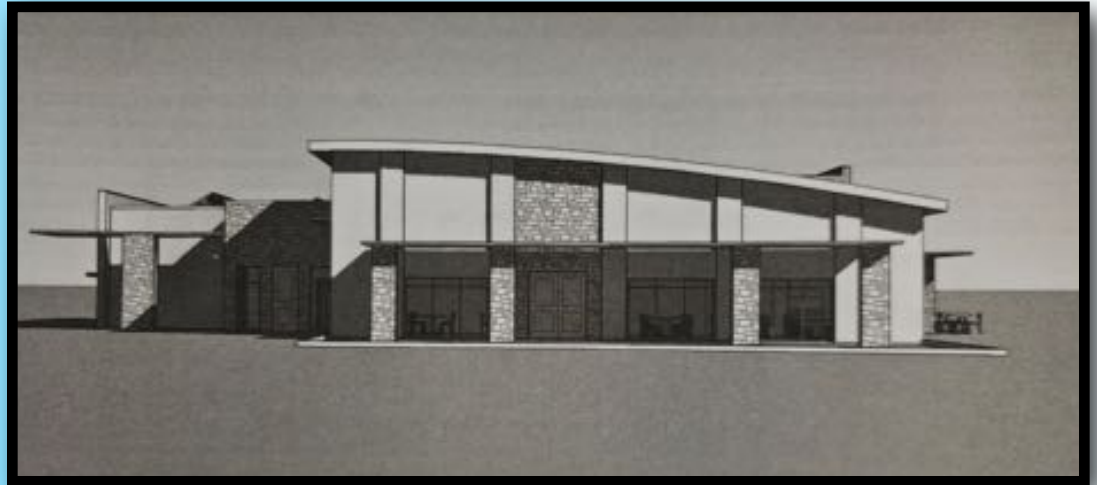
As the project nears completion, anticipation and excitement grow, marking a significant milestone in the Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter's journey towards a brighter, more vibrant community.



## Capital Projects Management Department Updates

### Mariano Lake Multipurpose Building

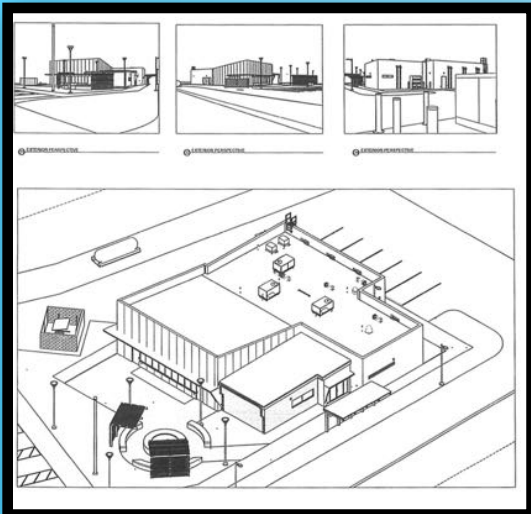
The Mariano Lake chapter in 2018 undertook the endeavor with starting the process of designing a new Chapter facility for the community. With this endeavor the chapter officials and chapter staff were met with several challenges and barriers which they overcome six (6) years later with new Facility design being completed in December 2023.



In early February 2024 the Capital Projects Management (CPMD) invited all licensed general contractors to submit bids for the Mariano Lake Chapter Multipurpose building. The new facility is over 9,000 sq ft and will house several government programs such as Chapter service, local VA office and Community Health Service.

On April 26, 2024 at 2:00 PM the CPMD and architect Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture, LLC open the construction bids for new Facility Construction. As of the opening no contractor has been selected.

### Nageezi Senior Center Building



The Nageezi Chapter community, and the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) has partnered with IDS+A to advance the development of a modern Senior Center. This collaboration, marked by a contract agreement for the design of a 5,000 sq ft facility as of April 22, 2024, reflects a commitment to providing a vibrant space for elders to gather, connect, and thrive. Led by IDS+A, the design phase will capture the essence of Nageezi's cultural heritage, ensuring the Senior Center not only meets functional needs but also embodies the community's identity and aspirations.

The forthcoming Senior Center will prioritize accessibility, comfort, and sustainability, echoing the CPMD's dedication to inclusive and environmentally conscious spaces. This project signifies a transformative step towards honoring and supporting Nageezi's elder members, fostering intergenerational connections, and enriching community life.

April 2024

# Housing Improvement Program Update

Community Housing Infrastructure Department  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
Phone# 928.729.4319  
Fax# 928.729.4277  
email: [rbegay@nnchid.org](mailto:rbegay@nnchid.org)  
2nd email: [rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rmbegay@navajo-nsn.gov)



HIP Program Office Fort Defiance  
[Google maps location](#)  
PWPJ+2P  
Fort Defiance, AZ, USA



HIP Program Office Chinle  
[Google maps location](#)  
5C3Q+8W  
Chinle, Arizona



New Staff: Mildred Yazzie, Fort Defiance Agency Eligibility Technician and Lolita Candelario, Crownpoint Agency Eligibility Technician



April 2024

# Housing Improvement Program Outreach



Mildred Yazzie, Fort Defiance Agency Eligibility Technician and Lolita Candelerio, Crownpoint Agency Eligibility Technician. HIP staff at Red Rock chapter doing outreach.





April 2024

**COMMUNITY HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT**  
**HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP) INTAKE SECTION**

The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) is federally funded by P.L. 93-638 contracts. The program is to improve the living standards by providing decent, safe and sanitary homes within the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Nation. HIP provides housing assistance through home repairs, renovation, and replacement of existing house or new construction to assist very-low income families and/or individual.

The program is application driven meaning the more completed qualified application submitted determines the funding amount for the upcoming fiscal year so Housing Improvement Program has been doing presentation and outreach at Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. HIP has finally hired two additional Eligibility Technician which would help the program in getting out to the chapters, at their request, to do presentation and outreach for their community and/or neighboring communities. The new employees are: Mildred Yazzie, Fort Defiance Agency Eligibility Technician and Lolita Candelario, Crownpoint Agency Eligibility Technician. There are two (2) additional staff that are hired temporarily to assist with daily intake and office coverage at the Fort Defiance office: Theresa Boyd, Eligibility Technician and Autumn John, Office Assistant. With additional staff, it has eliminated the extra duties for the three (3) administrative staff, Program Manager, Accounting Technician and Angelita John, Chinle Eligibility Technician. Ms. John can now concentrate on helping the Chinle and Western Agency without covering other agencies. HIP does not have an office in the Western therefore the Eligibility Technician is station at the Chinle office. Second, there is also no Agency office in Shiprock and due to limited Eligibility Technician, the Fort Defiance office takes care of the Northern Agency communities. The office in Crownpoint for the Eastern Agency will be reopen on Monday, May 6, 2024 which is located in the ASC Bldg#6746, Chapter House Road. Contact number is (505) 786-2105.

For the month of April, HIP has completed three (3) presentation, at Crystal, Dilcon and Naschitti chapter to give out information on the Program, such as type of assistance, eligibility requirement and required documents. There were eight (8) outreach completed which were at the following chapters:

DATE	CHAPTER	AMOUNT ATTENDEES
April 9, 2024	Sanostee/Northern Agency	21
April 10, 2024	Sanostee/Northern Agency	29
April 15, 2024	Naschitti/Ft. Defiance Agency	23
April 16, 2024	Naschitti/Ft. Defiance Agency	46
April 17, 2024	Tonalea/Western Agency	52
April 18, 2024	Leupp/Western Agency	17
April 23, 2024	Rock Springs/Eastern Agency	
April 24, 2024	Rock Springs/Eastern Agency	
April 25, 2024	TecNosPos/Western Agency	40
April 26, 2024	Kayenta/Western Agency	50
April 29, 2024	Red Rock Chapter	
April 30, 2024	Red Rock Chapter	

HIP will continue doing intake outreach at the request of the Chapter. The Senior Program & Project Specialist for all the Agency Office have been assisting in providing information to their perspective Chapters. HIP was also a part of the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department Chapters orientation in February and March for all chapter administration, official, Council Delegate, their LDA. With all the information provided during the Orientation, we are hoping that the information is provided and/or shared with their communities.

HIP is available to do Presentation and Outreach to the end of July for Fiscal Year 2025. Chapters or other entities that would like to schedule presentation and/or outreach can contact the Program Manager I, Rita Begay at [rbegay@nnchid.org](mailto:rbegay@nnchid.org) and phone# 928.729.4017.

# TECH TIPS:

## 5 EASY WAYS TO UNPLUG IN DAILY LIFE



### 1. Smell the Flowers

Switch off the WiFi, physically leave your phone at home, and get outside to smell the flowers!

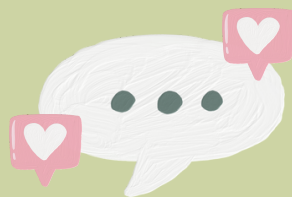


### 2. Relax & Create

Do something creative or relaxing like drawing, painting, reading - even if it's just for 15 minutes!

### 3. Go Low-tech

Choose low-tech gadgets. Take real photos with a vintage camera, or wake up with a retro-style alarm clock.



### 4. Chat in Real Life

Take your text messages and chat offline and into real world and real conversations. Turn phones off!

### 5. Treat Yourself

Give yourself a fun treat after working hard. Unplug your wifi, go offline, grab a coffee or see a show!



Get more  
life tips at  
[mindfood.com](http://mindfood.com)





# Administrative Services Centers

## APRIL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout April, our team at the Administrative Services Centers has been hard at work, continuing our mission to support the 110 Navajo chapters. We're thrilled to share that we've been offering exciting opportunities for training, providing crucial Navajo Nation updates, and much more.

Our dedication to empowering Navajo communities remains unwavering. This month, our eight local offices collaborated closely with division programs and other Navajo Nation offices to organize a diverse array of trainings and meetings. From comprehensive new employee orientations to insightful sessions on project management and best fiscal practices, we've been fostering growth and sustainability every step of the way.

Stay tuned for more updates on our ongoing efforts to empower Navajo chapters and promote self-sufficiency within our communities!



Kayenta ASC - Monument Valley Welcome Center 03/29/2024

<b>Date:</b>	<b>ASC Office:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Office/Topic/Presenter:</b>
4-24-24	Shiprock ASC	San Juan College, Farmington, NM	Funds Management Plan and Financial Monitoring & Reporting
4-19-24	Tuba City ASC	Tuba City Chapter	Denise Copleland, DCD ICIP in the WIND Training Chapter Staff Meeting - Updates
4-18-24	Kayenta ASC	MV Welcome Center	Presentation by: DesignBuildUtah, Weatherization Assistance Program Heat Assistance Program, Navajo Nation Veteran Housing Program, Navajo Nation Land Department (Homesite Lease), Navajo Utah Commission/Olene Walker Projects, Utah Navajo Trust Fund/ Indian Health Services
4-10-24	Fort Defiance ASC	NTUA - Room A	Project Meeting Update
4-9-24	Kayenta ASC	Red Mesa Chapter	WIND System ICIP and 164 Tracker Training
4-5-24	Shiprock ASC	Virtual via GoogleMeet	New Employee Orientation
4-4-24	Shiprock ASC	TSe Alnaoztii	Training for new Laws, Burial & Cemetery and Amended Homesite Leases
4-3-24	Shiprock ASC	Virtual Training	Year 2024 Third Party Liabilities Work Session presented by Danielle Redhouse, ASO
3-29-24	Fort Defiance ASC	Gallup UNM	Appendix M
3-29-24	Kayenta ASC	Monument Valley Welcome Center	New Employee Orientation Meeting
3-29-24	Tuba City ASC	Monument Valley, UT	New Employee Orientation
3-29-24	Gallup ASC	UNM Gallup	Presentations from General Land Leasing Dept, Navajo Land Dept., Eastern Navajo Home Site Lease Office



# Administrative Services Centers

## FORT DEFIANCE ASC NTUA - PROJECT UPDATE MEETING 04/10/2024

Fort Defiance ASC convened with Mexican Springs staff and officials on April 10th for a meeting to go over updates from NDOT, the DCD Project Management Funds, Capital Outlay, and Water Resources.



## SHIPROCK ASC TSE ALNAOZTII, NM MEETING 04/04/2024

April 4th: Shiprock ASC Office gathers with staff and officials (approx. 92 attendees) for training on new laws, burial & cemetery procedures, and amended homesite leases.



## FORT DEFIANCE ASC UNM-GALLUP MEETING 03/29/2024

March 29th: Ft. Defiance ASC Offices hosting a staff meeting with 30 participants, diving into the Navajo Nation Budget Instructions Manual.



# STAFF UPDATES

## NEW BEGINNINGS AT ROCK SPRINGS CHAPTER!

We are thrilled to announce a recent promotion on our team at **Rock Springs Chapter**! On April 22nd, **Eunice Harrison-Martin** started as our new **Community Services Coordinator (CSC)**, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Rock Springs community.

Eunice first joined the chapter back in June 2022, serving as our dedicated Accounts Maintenance Specialist (AMS). In this role, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to financial stewardship, meticulously managing the chapter's finances and ensuring the integrity of our financial records through our MIP system.

Bringing a wealth of experience from her previous roles with the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance, as well as the University of New Mexican - Gallup campus, Eunice's expertise has already proven invaluable to Rock Springs.

During her tenure as AMS, Eunice seized every opportunity to immerse herself in the chapter's operations, gaining invaluable insights along the way. Her dedication and proactive approach have not only benefitted the community but have also prepared her to seamlessly transition into her new role as CSC.

As Eunice embarks on this new journey with us, we extend our heartfelt best wishes for her continued success. We are confident that her passion for community service and her unwavering dedication will propel Rock Springs Chapter to even greater heights.

Join us in congratulating Eunice on her well-deserved appointment as our new Community Services Coordinator!

## CONGRATULATIONS, EUNICE!





# WELCOME NEW STAFF!

We're thrilled to include in this month's newsletter some exciting news: we've expanded our team with the addition of new members dedicated to serving our communities! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest team members.

These individuals bring with them a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and we couldn't be more delighted to have them on board. Their roles are integral to our mission of delivering essential services to communities throughout the Navajo Nation.

***Applicant Name:***

***Chapter:***

***Position:***

**Karilyn Begay**

Oljato Chapter

CSC

**Valerie Spencer**

Indian Wells Chapter

AMS

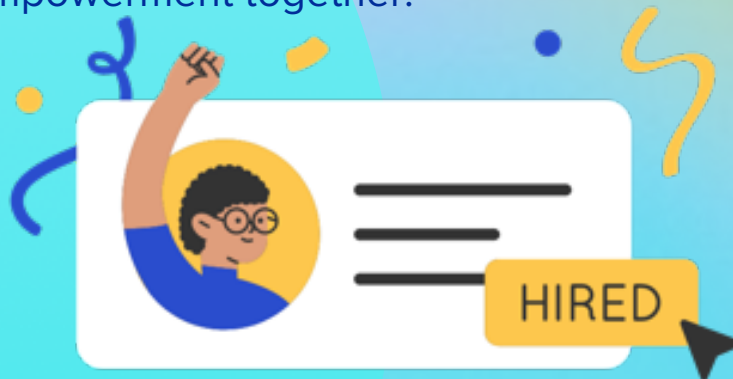
**Ina Gillis**

Huerfano Chapter

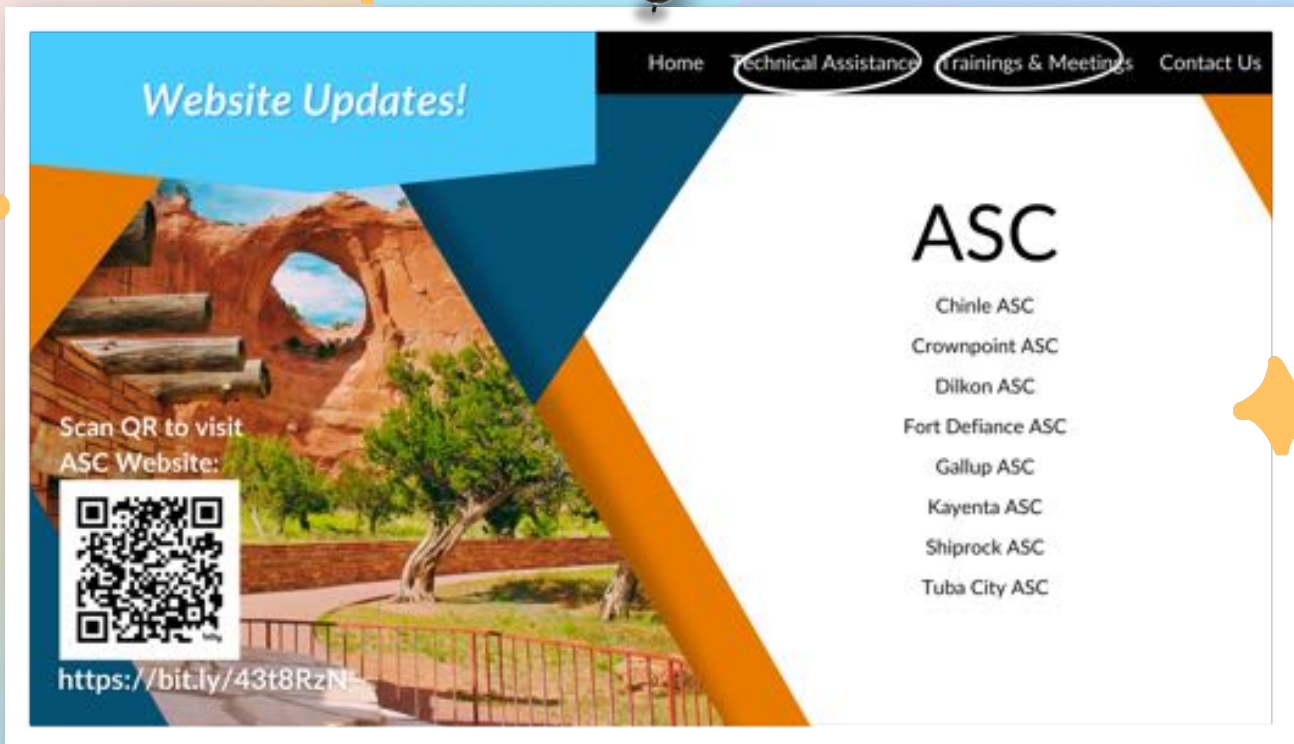
CSC

Our ASC Department and chapters are buzzing with excitement to integrate these valuable additions into our team. We're eager to witness the positive impact they will undoubtedly make under the Division of Community Development.

Let's give a hearty welcome to our new team members, and here's to the bright future ahead as we continue our journey of service and community empowerment together!



# Administrative Services Centers



## THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS HAS UPDATED THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE.

We're thrilled to announce that the ASC Department has been hard at work enhancing our online presence!

Over the past few weeks, we've been diligently updating our department's websites to ensure easy access to information about our services, initiatives, and more.

With these updates, we've introduced uniform design elements and added features aimed at providing clear and concise information about each office.

Now, visitors can expect to find calendars, maps, form links, and staff contact information—all conveniently displayed in an appealing format. We're committed to enhancing your online experience and making it easier than ever to engage with the ASC Department. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue to improve our digital platforms!

**COMING MAY 1ST, 2024**

## ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY & ACCESSIBILITY!

Exciting news! Alongside improving public access to our department's services, we're ramping up transparency efforts. Now, we're proud to announce our department will be publishing our technical assistance numbers and department event listings—including trainings and meetings—right on the ASC website.

We've diligently tracked our services via the trusted technical assistance form, breaking down performance across crucial areas where ASC supports local governments. Plus, our log of trainings and meetings will keep growing, ensuring you stay informed every step of the way!

Visit our website come 05/01/2024 to explore the latest updates and dive into the wealth of information ASC has to offer!



April 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS

## 5 BENEFITS OF SPRING CLEANING

### 1. IMPROVED INDOOR AIR QUALITY:

*Spring cleaning removes dust, pet dander, and allergens, enhancing air freshness and benefitting those with allergies or respiratory issues.*

### 2. REDUCED STRESS AND ANXIETY:

*Decluttering and organizing during spring cleaning creates a tranquil atmosphere, proven to alleviate stress and promote mental well-being.*

### 3. ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY AND FOCUS:

*Tidying workspaces and eliminating distractions in spring cleaning boost productivity and cognitive function, aiding concentration on tasks.*

### 4. PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

*Engaging in physical tasks like scrubbing and lifting during spring cleaning offers exercise opportunities, promoting health and well-being.*

### 5. RENEWED SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

*Completing spring cleaning tasks fosters pride and satisfaction, inspiring motivation for future goals and projects.*



# Bulletin Board

## Telemedicine Boosts GDMT Rates for HFrEF in Navajo Nation

Richard Mark Kirkner  
April 23, 2024

ATLANTA – A telemedicine-based outreach to patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) across the rural expanse of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico significantly increased rates of guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) within 30 days of signing them up, results of a clinical trial showed.

The Hózhó trial enrolled 103 members of the Navajo Nation with HFrEF.

The telemedicine outreach included giving them a blood pressure cuff they could use at home and connecting them via telehealth with primary care providers who spoke Navajo, said study leader Lauren Eberly, MD, MPH, an assistant professor of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a part-time cardiologist at Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gallup, New Mexico, one of two sites where the telehealth program was employed.

"There was significant and rapid increase in the uptake of GDMT as patients crossed over from usual care to the intervention," Eberly said in presenting the trial results at the American College of Cardiology meeting here. "When we looked at our primary outcome of addition of GDMT classes at 30 days, the primary outcome occurred significantly more frequently in the intervention arm than the usual care arm, 66% vs 13%, which was highly statistically significant."

The trial results were also published online on April 7 in JAMA Internal Medicine.

'Targeting a 'Binary Outcome'

"For our study, what we really wanted to look at was a binary outcome – so, a yes or no. Do they have an increase in addition of GDMT of those recommended classes to their regimen?" Eberly told [theheart.org](https://theheart.org) | Medscape Cardiology.

The goal was to determine how many patients added a GDMT class of treatment at 30 days or an increase in dose among the four cornerstones of GDMT first-line treatment of beta-blockers, renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitors (RAAS) – including angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, or angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors – mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists (MRAs), and sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2is).

Eberly noted the telemedicine initiative was designed after garnering input from the Navajo Nation and tribal elders.

The patient population was divided into five cohorts, one of which started out in the telemedicine



program, the remaining four crossed over from usual care to the intervention at 30-day intervals until all had crossed over after 4 months.

In only one GDMT drug class, beta-blockers, were the results not statistically significant, as 3.5% of the intervention added the class at 30 days vs 2.1% of the usual care arm (P = .24).

For all other classes, the telemedicine results were dramatic, Eberly said: 39.7% vs 6.3% for RAAS drugs; 30.7% vs 0.9 for MRAs; and 37.2% vs 4.6% for SGLT2is (P < .001 for all).

"The number of patients needed to receive this intervention to result in the addition of a GDMT class was two, so it was quite low," Eberly told the attendees.

"In addition to the significantly high rates of addition of GDMT in the intervention arm, there were also higher rates of increase in doses at 79% vs 23%, and while this was exploratory and a secondary outcome, there were lower heart failure hospitalizations in the intervention arm, and there were very few adverse events in total with no significant differences between the arms," she added. The rate of heart failure hospitalizations was 1.3% in the telemedicine arm vs 4.3% for usual care (P < .024).

After the presentation, Eberly explained the challenges of closely monitoring HFrEF patients in the Navajo Nation.

"We're still facing enduring impacts of settler colonialism, and I think that's important to note that that affects real life and everyday life," she said. "One in three people have no electricity or no running water in the Navajo Nation, so cardiology specialty care can be 2 hours away. That's gas money, unpaved roads."

Sometimes, the roads are virtually impassable, she said, and for those who can travel, food and a hotel stay add costs. "Sometimes those barriers are completely prohibitive," she said.

Program Expanding

The Indian Health Service has since adopted this GDMT telemedicine initiative at its Gallup and Tohatchi, New Mexico, centers, with plans to expand it to a third center in Arizona, Eberly said, and is exploring ways to target other disease states, again based on input from the tribal community and elders.

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



# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Power seeks to rectify energy injustice deep in Navajo Nation Organizations in Navajo Nation are fighting energy injustice with solar power.

By Ginger Zee, Daniel Manzo, Kelly Livingston, and Kelly Landrigan  
April 22, 2024

Deep in western Navajo Nation, an organization called Navajo Power is pushing back against a legacy of energy injustice and attempting to rectify it for those who call the tribal lands home.

"The Navajo Nation served as the battery for the West for decades," Brett Issac, founder and executive chairman of Navajo Power, told ABC News. "Cities like Las Vegas and Los Angeles wouldn't be in existence without the coal resources that were extracted on the Navajo Nation."

Issac said the "massive infrastructure investment" required to build major western cities using Navajo resources is still out of reach for many that live on Navajo land.

"You have massive transmission lines running across a vast landscape, houses living underneath, that are still using generators and kerosene lamps even today," he said.

ABC News Chief Meteorologist and Chief Climate Correspondent Ginger Zee traveled to the Navajo tribal lands in northeastern Arizona to examine the work of Issac, and others, who are trying to bring power to the Navajo people.

"Within Navajo Nation, there are still thousands of people that do not have power?" Zee asked.

"It's estimated that there's 15,000 homes plus," Issac said.

Navajo Power is focused on bringing clean energy, like solar power, to tribal lands for Navajo families who have never had electricity. The company hopes to get up to 500 off-grid homes connected each year.

One of the homes Navajo Power outfitted with solar power belongs to Eleanor Paddock.

She moved back to her family's land 11 years ago, and in the

years since has used a car battery to power her cell phone, propane to cook and sometimes drives over an hour to plug in and make lesson plans for her job as a substitute teacher.

Paddock said before the project was completed that she "cannot explain the feeling" she'll have when her home gets electricity.

The lack of electricity on Navajo lands can be traced, in part, back to a development ban called, "The Bennett Freeze," named for Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett, who was in office when the ban took effect.

From 1966 through 2009, the law held that the Hopi, Navajo and federal government had to agree before any development – meaning any water lines, electricity and even fixing a roof was illegal.

"This is also the era of federal Indian policy that largely academics refer to for the assimilation era," Issac replied. "This is when they were trying to create incentives for native people to move to urban areas and assimilate into it."

Issac isn't working alone in using solar power to create energy and jobs for the Navajo people.

ABC News also spent time with Native Renewables, an



The home of Eleanor Paddock in Navajo Nation after being connected with electricity for the first time by the organization Navajo Power.  
Dan Manzo/ABC News

organization that emphasizes the cultural and spiritual significance of the sun while bringing solar energy to Hopi and Navajo lands.

"We are helping people who live on this earth and we are helping them by using the sun," Native Renewables Deputy Director Chelsea Chee said. "And so we are in a way, exercising and practicing the things that our ancestors have been doing."

Back at Paddock's home, her food went from the barn to her first refrigerator after her Navajo Power connected her new solar power.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4b8FpS1>

## NNWO Director Urges Legislation to Ensure Lifeline Communication is Accessible in Every Vehicle

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On April 30, 2024, Mr. Justin Ahasteen, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, provided testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce regarding the significance of AM radio for the Navajo Nation. The testimony supported the enactment of the "AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act," which seeks to ensure the continued presence of AM radio in all new motor vehicles.

Responding to the removal of AM radio receivers from new vehicles due to interference issues in certain electric vehicles, the bill would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement a rule mandating that all new motor vehicles come standard with devices capable of accessing analog AM radio signals. This mandate is critical for the Navajo Nation, where AM radio is a primary

source of communication, particularly for emergency broadcasting and public safety alerts across its 27,000-square-mile reservation.

Navajo Nation President, Dr. Buu Nygren, recognizes the importance of AM radio to the Navajo people, stating, "For our communities, AM radio is a necessary service for receiving timely and lifesaving information. It is the most reliable way to reach our people during emergencies when other forms of communication are unavailable."

The proposed legislation also includes a requirement for manufacturers to clearly label any vehicles that do not include AM radio, with DOT authorized to issue civil penalties for non-compliance. Furthermore, the bill calls for the Government Accountability Office to evaluate whether a reliable alternative to AM radio exists for emergency communications, considering the costs and

implementation challenges.

Opponents to the legislation argued that the vast majority of new cars will continue to be equipped with radios capable of receiving AM transmissions for the foreseeable future, and it was only some electric vehicles that were removing AM radios because of interference the electrical systems created for the transmissions. They argue that requiring new cars to have AM radios would add significant cost and weight to electric vehicles, which seems to be at odd with the Biden administration's prioritization of electrifying America's vehicle market.

To reach the entirety of its territory, the Navajo Nation relies on KTNN, "The Voice of the Navajo Nation," which broadcasts in both Navajo and English. The broadcast reaches remote areas where cell service is inconsistent and other technologies are cost-prohibitive. The AM radio station is particularly crucial for Navajo elders

with limited English proficiency. It ensures they have access to essential information and updates in a language they understand.

During the testimony, Director Ahasteen underscored that removing AM radio from vehicles would pose significant challenges in maintaining the current level of public safety and information dissemination. This legislation could prevent a communications gap that would disproportionately affect not only the Navajo Nation but rural communities throughout the country.

Director Ahasteen urged legislators to consider the indispensable role of AM radio and to take action to ensure its continued presence in the daily lives of millions who depend on it. By doing so, they will be helping to bridge the digital divide while preserving a critical tool for emergency communication.

For further info, contact NNWO.

# Bulletin Board

## New Cameron Chapter House approved, will provide cultural and civic vitality

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In a move to strengthen the heart of community activity in Cameron, the Navajo Nation Council under the sponsorship of Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake), approved Legislation No. 0039-24 April 16, allocating \$4.8 million from the Navajo Nation's Sihasin Fund for the construction of a new Cameron Chapter House. Johnson stated that the new facility will serve as a hub for gatherings, cultural events and administrative operations, strengthening community spirit and governance.

"Cameron is proactive in protecting their home, community, and especially the youth. Utilizing the chapter house for celebrations, ceremonies, and local government meetings is pivotal for the cultural and civic vitality of our people," Johnson said.

The council also approved an amendment put forth by Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock, Whiterock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint) to include a Cameron Chapter resolution acknowledging the chapter's contribution of \$80,000 toward the project.

Johnson added that the new facility is not merely a building, it is a beacon of hope and progress, a safe place for healing and unity.

Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley also thanked



Navajo Nation Council approved allocation for the new Cameron chapter house April 16. (Photo/NNC)

her council colleagues and recognized the legislation as a significant investment that underscores the council's commitment to all communities.

The council approved the legislation during the second day of the Spring Council Session by a vote of 20-0. Once

the resolution is certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation President will have ten calendar days to consider the funding request.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/4aLcm7u>

## Leveraging tech to link the next generation to Navajo language and culture

### Diné entrepreneur uses technology to teach the Navajo clans

April 2, 2024

LUKACHUKAI, Ariz. – Albert Haskie may not have a computer science degree but it didn't stop him from starting his own business, Nyzhon Studios, or creating his first mobile app, Adoone'é.

Haskie describes his business as a developer start-up working to create an innovative way to blend the Navajo language and cultural teachings with technology. This is exactly what he's done with Adoone'é, an app designed to teach the Navajo clan system and language.

With the Navajo clan system being complex and made up of groups of individual clans, Haskie had to find a way to make it understandable and user friendly, all without any training on how to design or program apps.

"I always wanted to develop and code but I didn't have a computer science or engineering degree. So a lot of it was just imposter syndrome, thinking I'm not cut out for this field," he said about building the mobile app.

Clans are used by Navajos to introduce themselves. An introduction includes four clans – your mother's first clan, your father's first clan, your maternal grandfather's first clan, and your paternal grandfather's first clan. Not only are clans an individual identifier but it's also a way for Navajos to see how they are related to each other and a way to share where they are from. It's part of k'é, a Navajo teaching that emphasizes interconnectedness with nature, community, and ancestors, and reinforces a sense of belonging and unity among Navajo people.

The app is recommended for users of all ages who are interested in learning more about clans, what the different groupings are, and for those who want to connect with others that may share the same clan.

Although the app launched in the middle of 2023, Haskie is continuing to improve features and make the app more customizable for the user.

"Although it's not as in depth as I want it to be, it's still better than nothing," he said. "This is a resource that anyone can get at any time right now and that's what my goal was for this app."

Haskie said he hopes he can help elders and other adults who weren't able to learn their language or practice their culture when they were growing up. He also hopes it helps parents who want their kids to learn about clans.

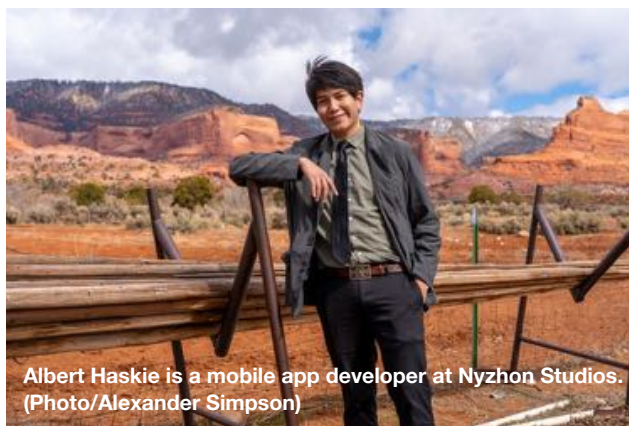
"It's a teaching tool for a parent as well, to showcase to their kids who they are and where they come from and how their clan systems works," he said

Haskie relied on resources from local schools such as Diné College and Chinle Unified School District, where he found clan sheets and experts in the Navajo Language to develop the app. He also utilized websites, books, elders and community members.

"We're incorporating our Navajo teachings into everything we do. Coding, programming, application, even customer service," he said.

Haskie credits his love of language and desire to teach his former school, Tséhootsooí Diné Bi'Óltá, an elementary immersion school dedicated to teaching the Navajo language.

The rate of decline of Navajo speakers over the decades alarms Navajo educators. Preserving the Navajo language is critical for passing down traditional knowledge, maintaining cultural identity, and fostering communication within Navajo communities. Apps like Adoone'é are still rare, but an essential tool for cultural preservation.



Albert Haskie is a mobile app developer at Nyzhon Studios. (Photo/Alexander Simpson)

Haskie is also proud to use the app as a way to show students that they have the potential to achieve big things and support community resilience.

"I'm a product of the school and I want to show them 'Don't stop what you're doing, keep doing what you're doing,'" Haskie said. "I've always seen the need for next generation technology and new ways to lead our people into teaching our own language and culture through technology," he said.

"I've always been fascinated in learning the language myself. I've always found challenges along the way with there not being resources available. I just want to provide that service to people who are on that same journey of learning the language," Haskie said.

Adoone'é is available for Android and iPhone users and costs \$9.99 to download.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4dcsroi>



# Bulletin Board

## NAVAJO, ZUNI ARTISTS REVEAL CULTURE AND CLIMATE IN 2024 YOUNG TRIBAL LEADERS ART CONTEST

February 13, 2024 11:57 a.m

WASHINGTON — The Division of Environmental Service and Cultural Resource Management (DESCRM) announced winners of the 2024 Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest March 22.

The contest received over 100 submissions from tribal citizens aged 14-30 across the nation. These pieces included various artistic mediums including painting, sculpture, beadwork, weaving, photography, and film; all of which centered the contest themes of culture, environment and climate.

A selection committee of DESCRM and Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals staff chose three winners whose artwork best depicted these themes. These winners will each receive full travel funding to share their work at the 2024 National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) in Anchorage, Alaska in September.

Along with the three winners, the selection committee chose 20 other exemplary works to exhibit online in the BIA's 2024 Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest Gallery as well as at the Main Interior Building in Washington D.C.

Top three winners

The three top winners include "Indigenizing Environmental Justice Movement" beadwork by Kimey Begaye, a 23-year-old from Winslow, Arizona; "Dek'ohananne" mixed media piece by Lakin Epaloose, 20, from the Zuni pueblo; and "Zuzeca Sapa" mixed media by Kassidy Linabery, 28, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Begaye said she focused her bead project on the Cholla Power Plant located by Winslow, which opened in 1962 and is coal fire generated.

"Navajo land is abundant in gas, coal, water and uranium," she said. "Currently, there are five extractive industries on our territories. Of those, there are three coal-fired power plants that are polluting our lands and contributing greatly to climate change."

Begaye described Indigenous environmental injustice as "irresponsible and exploitative environmental policies that harm the physical and financial health of Indigenous communities."

They also cause spiritual harm by destroying land held in a place of

exceptional reverence for Indigenous peoples, she said, adding that exposure to emissions from coal-fired power plants can be extremely harmful to human health — even deadly.

"Other community members described decades of watching the power plant and coal mine take precious water sources, pollute the air, extract materials from the earth, all while Navajo community members' health suffered and communities lacked electricity and running water," Begaye said. "Art shows power, evokes emotions and challenges paradigm. It is a way to inspire action that would otherwise remain unseen."

Lakin Epaloose said "Dek'ohananne" encompasses the migration story of Zuni and all Puebloan communities of the southwest from a Zuni perspective.

"These locations extend all the way from the Grand Canyon into what is today known as central Mexico," Epaloose said. "The elements of water (k'yana), such as in the form of cumulus clouds (awethuya:we), and flora, serve as key points in this work. Many of the petroglyphs and pottery designs found throughout each respective area are also depicted in the work."

Exemplary works

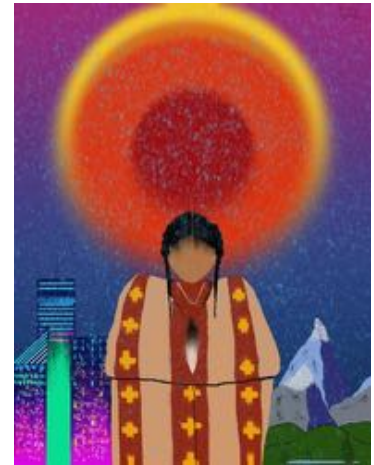
Other exemplary works featured in the gallery include 24-year-old Sabrina Manygoats' photograph, "Stills from Kéétsoh." A photograph taken October 2023 of a Geiger counter measuring radiation at the Church Rock, Arizona, nuclear disaster site is overlaid with archival footage from the Kerr McGee uranium mining operations in Shiprock, Arizona.

"Depicted is a conveyor system transporting uranium ore to a processing facility where it would be refined into yellow cake," Manygoats said.

Skylar Blackbull said her painting and beadwork series "Medicine in Movement." represent the physical and spiritual beauty in Native American heritage. The regalia worn represents a story. The grass dancer and the eagle dancer mimic the animals in nature, while the shawl dancer is sharing her own story.

"Through song and dance we bring our community closer and heal those around us," she said. "Through my work, I hope to inspire others to explore the vibrant world of Indigenous creativity, to recognize the

beauty and complexity of Native American culture, and to appreciate the diversity that exists within it."



Read more at: <https://bit.ly/44jqvWQ>  
<https://bit.ly/3Whzrdl>

# Bulletin Board

## In Arizona, these young Native American voters seize their political power

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 5:01 AM ET

HEARD ON NPR MORNING EDITION

By Ximena Bustillo, Elena Moo

Young and Native voters could make or break the 2024 election in Arizona for President Biden. Four years ago, both groups helped Biden win the state by just 11,400 votes, making him the first Democratic candidate to carry Arizona in over 20 years.

This year, these voters are expected to not only be influential in the race for the White House but also for control of Congress.

In between, there are young, Native voters deciding how to use their electoral power.

But strategists and politicians familiar with organizing Native voters agree: more needs to be done to court this significant voting bloc.

"Native voters are powerful, and we can't be ignored anymore. We've shown that," said Jaynie Parrish, executive director of Arizona Native Vote. Parrish is part of the Navajo Nation. "And we just need other people to meet us where we are and get on board."

The battleground state is home to 22 federally recognized Native tribes and nations. The U.S. Census estimates that more than 300,000 people in Arizona identify as Native American. Each tribal government and community, whether it's rural or urban, has its own unique governance, history and challenges to participating in state and federal elections.

"We are fighting against structures that weren't built for us. ... They weren't meant for us there. They were trying to kill us all. We're not supposed to be here," Parrish said. "We're not supposed to be voters."

Organizers say challenges remain with outreach from the Democratic and Republican parties.

Outreach that goes beyond asking for a vote. Arizona GOP state Rep. David Cook said that Native voters are stereotyped as affiliating with Democrats, leaving votes on the table for the Republican Party.

"[Republicans] need to get outside their comfort zone and go out and meet those Americans, those Arizonans in this state," Cook said, whose legislative district borders five tribal reservations. "That one Native American vote on that reservation, no matter what party, is just as important as my [own] vote."

Cook said that he has seen limited attempts to bridge that gap from his party in Arizona, something he sees as shortsighted when many conservative issues could overlap with issues in Native communities.

"Tribal members on reservations have a lot in common with those people that live off reservations in small rural communities," he said. "They want good schools and education opportunities. They want good jobs, but really careers to raise families on. They want good roads and bridges and stuff for their kids. And they want to live in safe communities."

When asked who is responsible for conducting outreach to tribal members, the Republican National Committee told NPR it doesn't have a point person but is rolling out voting resources in Navajo. The Arizona GOP did not respond to NPR's requests about tribal outreach, but there are signs that statewide candidates acknowledge the need to mobilize the community. Kari Lake, a Republican running for Arizona Senate, has a Natives for Kari Lake group.

Democrats have a head start. They formed outreach roles on the national level at the Democratic National Committee, down to the local Navajo County office.



Loren Marshall, 38, is the director of campaigns and engagement for Northeast Arizona Native Democrats, a project of the Navajo County Democrats. Marshall, who wasn't registered to vote until 2020, works to get tribal members registered to vote and has put an emphasis on courting young voters.

She said she's encountered pushback from younger voters over not wanting to be active in a system that damaged their communities.

"Why would we want to participate or get involved in something that just has not been something that we've practiced or something that we've done as Natives," Marshall said, repeating comments she'd heard.

Still, she said she's confident turnout will be high for Democrats this year, partially due to their focus on community-based organizing.

"We're going to be able to get a lot of folks to come out, and the voter turnout is going to be pretty high," Marshall said. "It's going to be a great election year in tribal communities."

Arizona ranks as the top third state where young voters are most likely to shape the presidential race, according to data from Tufts University, and the top state for young voter impact on the Senate election.

NPR spoke with six young indigenous-identifying Arizona voters to discuss what political parties need to do to win over their potentially election-deciding vote this November.

Alec Ferreira, 25, San Carlos Apache Tribe, youth program coordinator for the San Carlos Apache Tribe Vice-Chairman

Lourdes Pereira, 23, Hia-Ced/Tohono O'odham tribe and Yoeme, archivist at Hia-Ced Hemajkam LLC and program specialist for the Administration for Native Americans

Matthew Holgate, 23, Diné, Navajo Nation, director of student engagement at the American Indian College

Nalani Lopez, 19, San Carlos Apache tribe and Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, student at Scottsdale Community College

Shelbylyn Henry, 32, Diné, Navajo Nation, lead Navajo organizer with the indigenous organizing group Wingbeat 88

Xavier Medina, 25, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, police officer with the Pascua Yaqui Police Department

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4bbe15j>



# Bulletin Board

## Horse gentler Leland Grass: Reconnecting the Diné with what is being forgotten

By Toni Gibbons Staff writer

Apr 19, 2024

For Leland Grass, Navajo horse gentler, 2013 was a pivotal turning point in his life. It was the year the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution signed into law by President Ben Shelly, allowing the roundup, sale and slaughter of feral, abandoned horses from the Navajo Indian Reservation. It was also the year that the traditionalist elders and medicine people of the Navajo Nation gathered with youth and formed Nohooka Diné (Earth Surface People), passing a resolution four months later, on Aug. 26, 2013, in opposition to the roundup and sale of Navajo horses, especially to kill buyers.

"Since 2013, I have spoken against the horse roundups. I speak not only for myself but for the Nohooka Diné, but more importantly, I speak for the Navajo horse to remind you of the time our horses were sacred to the Navajo people," said Grass. "We have songs, prayers and ceremonies that are performed in honor of the horse. There was a time when the Diné were a horse nation. The Navajo people and horses were inseparable companions, sharing a deep sense of friendship and understanding. Our horses were an important part of our families and we were a part of their herd."

In 2014 Diné for Wild Horses was created to revive the sacred legacy and spiritual connection of the majestic animal that has enabled the Navajo to survive in a land that could be both beautiful and barren.

### Generations of horses

As a child growing up in Betatakin near Kayenta, with the only transportation in a wagon pulled by mules or on the back of a horse, the world of horses and humans was common for Grass. "I grew up around animals when I was a kid," he said. "We had dogs, chickens, sheep, cattle and horses."

Grass learned about riding and training horses and mules from his mom, Mary Jim Teamster. "My grandpa, Jim Teamster, was a teamster and a beauty way medicine man in the 1930s, 40s and 50s on a wagon train that carried soft and hard goods, food and mail from Flagstaff to the Four Corners and on to Farmington before returning. His route carried him past all the trading posts, many that are now only ruins. He had lots of wagons and mules. The work carried his last name Teamster. He taught my mom how to work with the horses and mules," said Grass. It was not uncommon for Grass' mom and friends to gather wild donkeys and mules and train them.

"Back in the late 60s, we had a wagon and a couple of horses. I remember those days vividly, sitting beside my mom as we trotted along. She would hand me the reins, and suddenly, as a kid, I felt like I owned the world," said Grass.

Living with no electricity or running water, horses were more than companions; they were a lifeline for survival. From trips to the local well, where 10-gallon jugs were filled, to harvesting food and gathering herbs for healing and ceremonies, horses were a part of that life. "They were our wheels, our engines," said Grass.

"When my mom joined forces with my stepdad, a medicine man, she carried on caring for animals, although we traded the wagon for a modern vehicle. But she made sure I still had a horse," said Grass. "She introduced me to the hand technique later with ropes, but I started with bareback riding. Even as I started boarding school at six or seven, returning home in summers, the lessons continued — caring for animals, tending to crops and participating in ceremonies.

"I had an uncle, my stepfather's brother, who was mute and deaf; his only communication was by sign language," Grass continued. "He took care of himself and lived with his animals. I would watch how he would communicate with the horses, with no words, and the horses always paid attention to him. His body language spoke to them; that was his medicine and his ability."

By the time Grass turned eight, he received his first saddle, a gift from his stepfather. Inspired by John Wayne movies shown at the boarding school, Grass mimicked the stunts. "I even made a bow and arrow. Then I would run my horse so hard, and I would go underneath and shoot like the movies."

Whether practicing stunts or riding for the joy of connection, Grass quickly learned that the horse reacts to your body and that is where he will go. "That was what my mom was trying to tell me by body language. I didn't need to train them; they already knew. I remember thinking then that everyone on the reservation knew about horses; it was just life for us. I didn't realize the depth of our connection to these animals until later," Grass said.

### The loss of the Navajo horses

After completing boarding school, Grass ventured into the modern lifestyle, taking his first job in Utah while he pursued vocational training. In 2006, his parents fell ill. "I returned home to be with them," said Grass. "And it was then that I learned the Navajo Government was considering getting rid of our horses. It baffled me. Why would they want to let go of something so integral to our heritage and survival?"

"Then I realized a lot of those people I thought were taught about horses had grown out of it. Nobody was teaching it and a lot of horses were roaming around. The people weren't doing anything about it," continued Grass.

Grass reached out to the government but quickly realized that when they had made a law, it was not to be touched by the people. He began speaking out, trying to raise awareness wherever possible, but it wasn't until Aug. 26, 2013, when Nohooka Diné passed their resolution, that another dream was realized: a dream to teach the Navajo people about horses and the power they bring to heal and restore connection. Diné for Wild Horses was born. Grass spent two days a week traveling around the reservation doing seminars, helping people to understand how to speak horse, how to start a colt or gentle an older horse. A few Navajo horsemen carry different methods but none teach through traditional acknowledgment with horses and humans.

### Raising awareness through Diné for Wild Horses

"As I was trying to raise awareness, I realized that my own people had lost their horse heritage," said Grass. "I started going around the Navajo Reservation teaching my people how to handle wild horses and how to know the difference between wild, feral and domestic. I began to use traditional equine therapy to heal.

"A family might be traumatized by alcohol and domestic violence and suicide. I talk about it at my seminars," said Grass. "I trained the horses for free. Sometimes I would train up to six horses, and then the next day I trained more. I did it because I wanted both the owner and the horse to be happy. There are many times the horse talks with me and tells me about the owner's home and the troubles that are there. I connect that person with their horse so those bad things will go away."

At one of his seminars, a man approached Grass. The man's dad had passed away and the horse that he had ridden for years had become unapproachable. "The horse doesn't want anything to do with us, not even my kids," said the man. "We want to connect with him, but he won't let us." Grass told the man to bring the horse and his kids to the seminar the next day.

"Sure enough, that horse wanted nothing to do with any of us," said Grass. The day was very windy, and the flags Grass had mounted on the corral panels were flapping hard. "My corral has an American flag on the north side, a Navajo Nation flag on the east and an Arizona flag on the south. I use the noise the flags make for the horses. When you have a horse that hasn't been touched, they will be afraid and run around but then they get used to it."

With the wind whipping the flags, the horse still refused to let a human near him. Grass continued to gently push into the horse's space. "I kept going to him. The wind was at my back and



Leland Grass with one of the wild horses he trained.  
Courtesy of Leland Grass

I could hear the flags flapping, and then something changed," said Grass. "The horse was standing under the American flag, and as I reached my hand toward his chin, I felt his whisker, then I noticed it was calm around me. My hair stopped flopping. I looked up with my eyes and the American flag was laying still. Then I opened my ears. I heard the wind that was behind me where the two flags were still flapping. I touched the horse and touched him again. There was no wind where the horse and I stood with the American flag."

Grass had the man come in and touch the horse, and then he showed him how to halter him without a rope. Grass repeated the process with the son and daughter, then he asked the man, "When did your dad die?"

"It was last year," said the man.

"So the horse was pinned in a corral for a year?" asked Grass.

"Yeah," was the reply.

"The horse told me that your dad was a veteran," said Grass. The man nodded yes. The moment ended with the horse and family understanding how to move forward.

### Restarting after COVID

From 2014 until the pandemic hit in 2020, the momentum of the seminars was growing, with Grass setting up horse competitions that were building into a championship that was shut down because of COVID. For the last two years, Grass has been working to restart the seminars. With the cost of gas and food on the rise, he is charging to do the seminars both on and off tribal lands and welcomes a chance to share with people the healing power of connecting with their horses.

"We train people to be colt starters and horse gentlers. Our seminars are for both horses and people. From round pen work and trailer training to building trust with people using gentling techniques. We teach the humans the horse language and how to communicate with our horses and cultural lessons. We also provide therapy clinics and outreach programs tailor-made to heal children with autism, veterans with PTSD and domestic violence survivors," said Grass. "These clinics are also used to reduce suicide and alcohol and drug abuse among our youth."

For all who love horses, Diné for Wild Horses will help people connect with their spiritual legacy with the Navajo horse. "This is the place they call home," said Grass. "Our horses have roamed freely since they were born and they possess the same fundamental right to life that we, the Five Fingered Ones do."

For more information on Diné for Wild Horses, email Grass at [sacred4s@hotmail.com](mailto:sacred4s@hotmail.com).

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/3xRst4R>

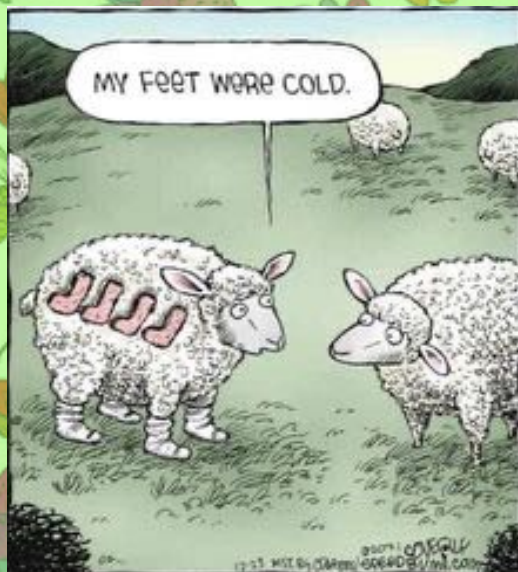


# PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Wide Ruins, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Oak Springs, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tsayatoh, NM	\$42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Jeddito, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sawmill, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tsaile, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Low Mountain, AZ	\$42,407.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	\$30,046.32	5/3/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lake Valley, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tohajilee, NM	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Nageezi, NM	\$42,407.28	5/7/2024
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	\$42,407.28	5/7/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Teecnospos, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Cameron, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	\$30,046.32	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coppermine, AZ	\$42,407.28	4/30/2024
Office Specialist (S)	Dilkon, AZ	\$30,046.32	5/1/2024
<b>Capital Projects Management Department</b>			
Registered Architect	Window Rock, AZ	\$75,585.60	OUF
Engineering Technician	Window Rock, AZ	\$30,046.32	5/8/2024
Senior Engineering Technician	Window Rock, AZ	\$35,642.16	5/8/2024
Planner/Estimator (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$53,849.52	5/8/2024
Project Manager (S) (2 Pos )	Window Rock, AZ	\$49,381.20	5/8/2024
Accounts Maintenance Specialist	Window Rock, AZ	\$30,046.32	5/8/2024
<b>CHID/Housing Improvement Program</b>			
Carpenter (S) (T)	Fort Defiance, AZ	\$35,642.16	4/29/2024
<b>Executive Administration</b>			
Senior Accountant (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$53,849.52	5/9/2024
(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





## Exploring Undercount of Young Children in 2020 Census by County Most Counties Had an Undercount of Young Children in the 2020 Census

April 11, 2024

Written by: Eric Jensen and George M. Hayward

A new analysis of the undercount of young children in the 2020 Census shows variation by county and a relationship between net coverage errors and socioeconomic characteristics like family structure and poverty.

The 2020 Demographic Analysis (DA) found that children ages 0 to 4 had a national net coverage error estimate of -5.46% in the 2020 Census – a larger undercount than any other age group. This means the number of young children counted in the 2020 Census was approximately 1 million lower than the benchmark population estimate.



The undercount of young children is a persistent problem in the decennial census and demographic surveys. Many countries face similar challenges in their censuses and surveys.

The new county-level analysis shows undercounts of young children in counties across the country but a substantial number were clustered along the West Coast, in the South, and in the Southwest, particularly in the border regions of Arizona, California, and Texas.

The analysis also found a relationship between net coverage error and several county-level sociodemographic characteristics including household structure variables, the percentage of children in poverty, and the percentage of adults without a high school diploma. We chose these specific characteristics because they cut across all race and ethnicity groups.

### Analyzing Undercounts of Young Children

The U.S. Census Bureau used two approaches to estimate net coverage error of the 2020 Census:

DA, which uses birth and death records, data on international migration, and Medicare Enrollment data to produce population estimates that are compared to the census to estimate net coverage error.

The Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) was conducted shortly after the census data were collected. The results of the survey were matched to the census results to produce dual-system estimates of the population, which are compared to the census to produce net coverage error estimates.

While both methods have their strengths and limitations, DA is a better approach for assessing the census count of young children because the estimate comes primarily from the birth records, which are considered 100% complete in the United States.

The Census Bureau produced a series of experimental DA net coverage error estimates for children ages 0 to 4 at the state and county levels.

These estimates are experimental because they were developed with some new data and methods relative to the official national-level DA estimates released in December 2020. The distinction also takes into account that there may be more error in the county estimates than in the national estimates.

The official DA net coverage error estimates for all ages are only available at the national level because we use historical birth records as the foundation for DA population estimates. The birth records include information about where a person was born, but we do not have the data and methods to track migration over the life course.

However, we are confident we can estimate migration of young children over a relatively short period. The experimental DA estimates were produced using birth records from 2015 to 2020, so we only had to estimate migration for less than five years.

# Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

There are limitations to the data and methods used for the experimental state and county estimates, which is why we are only releasing data for 1,927 of 3,143 U.S. counties with a DA 0-4 population estimate of 1,000 or more.

One issue is that births might not be geocoded correctly and thus could be assigned to a different state or county.

For example, mothers from Virginia and Maryland may give birth in the neighboring District of Columbia. If the birth is assigned to D.C. instead of the actual state of residence, the DA population estimate will be too high and show an inflated undercount for D.C.

Geocoding can also be an issue at the county level.

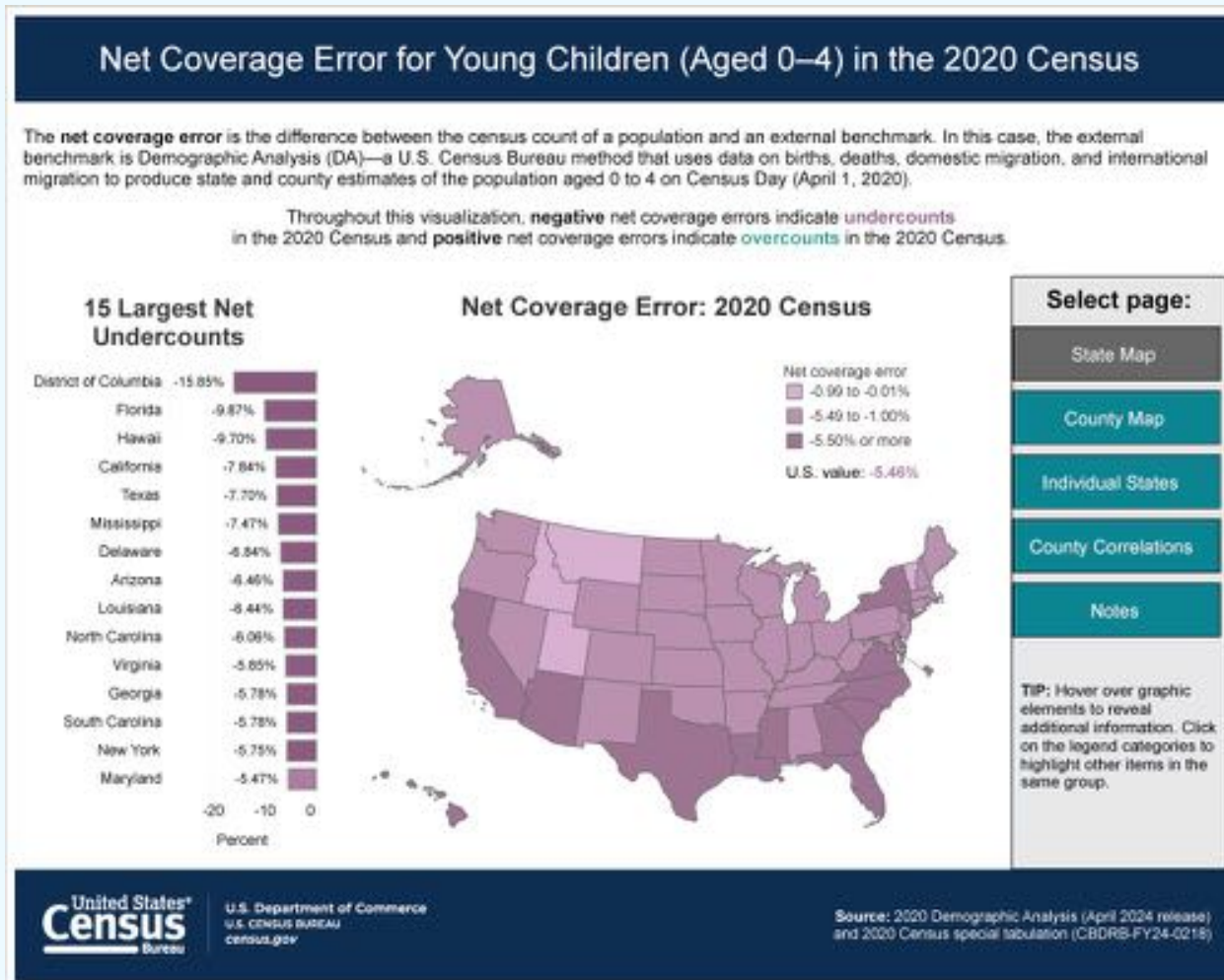
For example, we found some cases in which one small rural county had a large undercount and an adjacent county had a large overcount. We assume that the county with the undercount does not have a hospital and that a number of births for that county are being assigned to the neighboring county with a hospital.

There can also be errors in the other components of population change – deaths, domestic migration and international migration – but the births are the largest portion of the overall DA estimate.

## Data Visualization

A new data visualization allows users to explore the results of the experimental DA state and county net coverage error estimates.

The tool includes state maps, county maps and graphs showing the relationships between the DA net coverage error estimates and socioeconomic characteristics of counties.

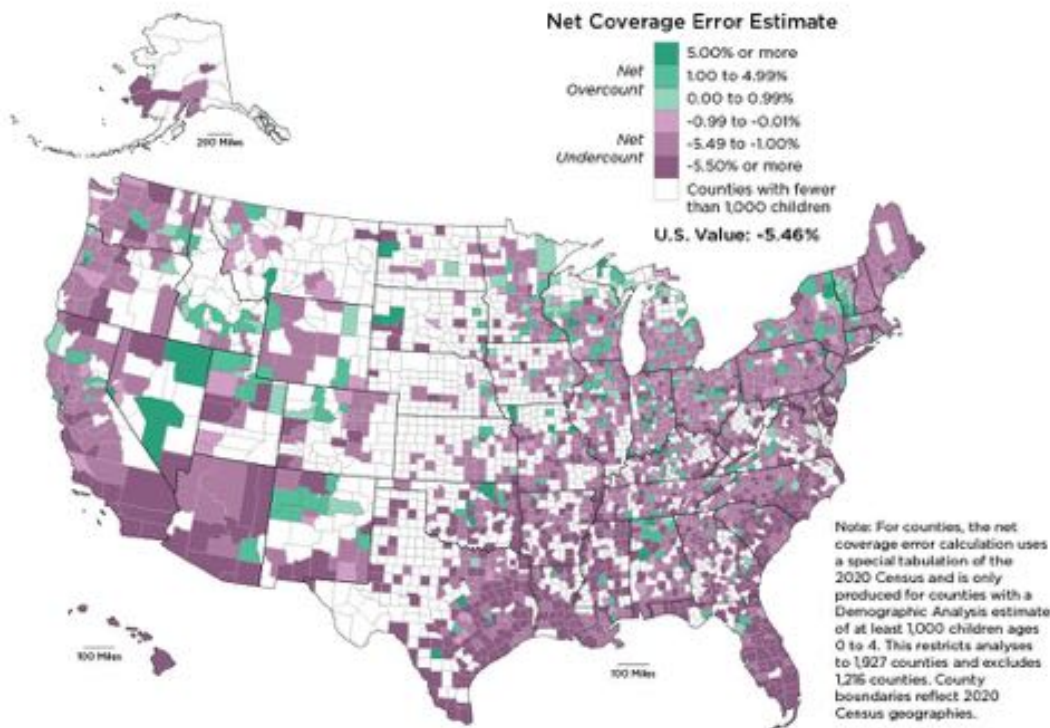


READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2024/04/children-undercount.html>



# Young Children in 2020 County Undercounts and Overcounts

Demographic Analysis Net Coverage Error Estimates for Children Ages 0-4

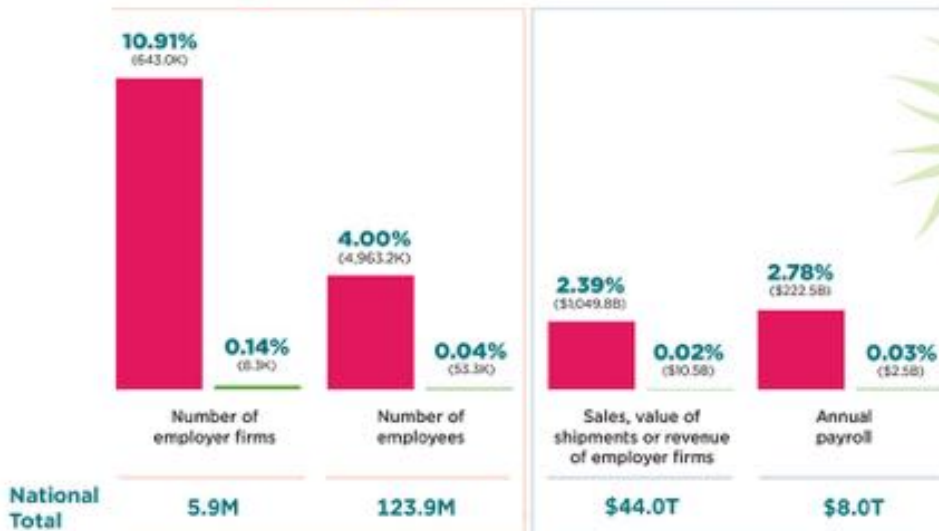


## Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Firms, Employees, Receipts and Payroll as a Percentage of National Totals

K = Thousand M = Million B = Billion T = Trillion

Asian Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander



Note: Data in graphic are for employer firms. Race classification is based on business ownership. Business ownership is defined as having 51 percent or more of the stock or equity in the business. The Annual Business Survey is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation. The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized data disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY23-0479).

April 16, 2024

Volume 24 Issue 5

### [2023 Population Estimates by Age and Sex](#)

The U.S. APRIL 11, 2024 – The U.S. Census Bureau today released a downloadable file containing estimates of the nation’s resident population by sex and single year of age as of July 1, 2023, which is available at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html).

In the [coming months](#), the Census Bureau will release additional population estimates for cities and towns, as well as population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for the nation, states, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, and counties.

In addition, the Census Bureau today also released experimental [State and County Demographic Analysis Estimates of Net Coverage Error for Children Ages 0-4](#).

### [Census Bureau Releases Experimental Estimates of State and County Undercounts and Overcounts of Young Children in the 2020 Census](#)

#### **Census Bureau Initiatives to Address Persistent Undercount of Children**

The U.S. Census Bureau released new [experimental estimates](#) showing children ages 0 to 4 were undercounted in the 2020 Census in every state. Additionally, there were undercounts of children ages 0 to 4 in more than 4 out of 5 counties included in this release. The experimental estimates are available only for counties with a population of 1,000 or more children ages 0 to 4, and are based on the Census Bureau’s [Demographic Analysis \(DA\) estimates](#).

The number of U.S. children ages 0 to 4 counted in the 2020 Census was previously found to be about 1 million lower than the benchmark population estimate – an [undercount of 5.46%](#). This was a larger undercount than [any other age group](#).

This release of [net coverage error](#) rates for young children comes from the Census Bureau’s DA estimates. Instead of conducting a count based on responses collected or on behalf of each household like the 2020 Census, DA uses administrative records to estimate the size of the population and compares those estimates to census counts to assess the accuracy of the 2020 Census.

“The Census Bureau recognizes historical undercounts of young children in our decennial census as well as an under-representation in our demographic surveys. We know these undercounts are often correlated with undercounts of certain race and ethnicity groups along with other factors that we were not able to measure directly. We are diligently working to address this issue,” Census Bureau Director Robert Santos said. “Our goal is to accurately count every child in the census and to ensure they are fully represented in our surveys. Quality statistics help communities better understand their needs and seek resources.”

[Click here to continue.](#)

#### **2024 Event Calendar**

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2024.

#### **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**

#### **[Using Census Data: A Case Study & Data Tools Walk Through](#)**

**Thursday, April 18**  
**Time: 2:00PM EST**

Census Bureau subject matter experts will dive into different ways to use and access Census data through case studies with real world applications including examples of how Census data is used to make business decisions. The session includes a live demonstration on how to find key data and will offer resources connected to the 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 1 of 6 in a series to help data users discover Census data related to people, places, and the economy.



## Happening Around The Networks



### Upcoming

#### “Mom and Pop Shops Lead Job Recovery from Economic Downturn after Covid-19”

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership, in collaboration with the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and the Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute, welcomes Bryce Hill as he presents, “Mom and Pop Shops Lead Job Recovery from Economic Downturn after COVID-19.” The Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) dataset indicates small businesses with fewer than 50 employees created the majority of new jobs in the state of Illinois. Despite obstacles from the pandemic and government policies, Hill shares insights on how small businesses thrived in new jobs, employment and payroll. (Scheduled for release April 17.)

#### Household Pulse Survey

The experimental [Household Pulse Survey](#) (HPS) is an effort by the Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies to measure how emergent issues are impacting U.S. households from a social and economic perspective. Phase 4 topics include employment status, spending, food security, housing, health, mental health, natural disasters, inflation and spending, vaccine receipt, COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment, shortage of critical products, disability, income, social connection and child care arrangements. Data collection for phase 4.0 began January 9, with data dissemination, including detailed data tables and public-use files, on a monthly basis. (Scheduled for release April 18.)



Deputy Director Ron Jarmin traveled to North Carolina to present at the [NC Counts](#) Annual Convening. Deputy Director Jarmin led the discussion about new race/ethnicity standards and how it will help give a more accurate portrait of how the U.S. population self-identifies, especially for people who identify with more than one race and/or ethnicity.

### Did You Miss....

#### [Business Trends and Outlook Survey Data Release](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau released new data products from the [Business Trends and Outlook Survey](#) (BTOS), a survey that measures business conditions and projections on an ongoing basis. The BTOS now includes data for multiunit/multilocation businesses. BTOS will continue to collect data complementary to key items found on other Economic surveys, such as revenues, employees, hours, and inventories. Content inquiring about the use of artificial intelligence or the plan to use artificial intelligence is now available. Additional details on artificial intelligence use and types used were added for one cycle and released March 28, 2024. Content is available here: [BTOS Content V2 Supplement 11.29.2023\\_Watermarked.pdf \(census.gov\)](#)

BTOS data are representative of all employer businesses in the U.S. economy, excluding farms. BTOS provides insight into the state of the economy by providing continuous, timely data for key economic measures every two weeks. By providing continuous data with geographic and subsector detail, BTOS captures the impact of events like natural disasters and economic crises, and assists in monitoring recovery efforts.

The BTOS sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses with biweekly data collection. [Click here to continue.](#)

#### [Batter Up! America's Pastime Is Back](#)

Sports fans across the nation are eagerly awaiting the first pitch of the 2024 Major League Baseball (MLB) season. From Tampa Bay to Toronto, all 30 teams will play ball on opening day.

The national pastime comes to us courtesy of 29 teams from 25 metropolitan areas across the United States and one team from Canada. The American League and the National League each have five teams in three divisions: East, Central and West as shown on the map [below](#).

[Click here for fun facts about Major League Baseball Teams!](#)



# Save the Dates



## 2024 CHAPTER TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

July 1st - 3rd, 2024

San Juan College

Henderson Fine Arts Center

# Reboot & Reconnect






# ATTENTION



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Dawnell Begay	(928)551-8941
Ryan Begay	(928)551-8947

**You may contact us Monday-  
Friday 8:00 am-5:00pm**



**MAIN: (928) 871-7182**

**WWW.NNDCD.ORG**



NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

## 2024 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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Fax No.# (928) 674-2266

**WESTERN AGENCY**  
**CLOSED**  
contact Chinle Agency Office.

**EASTERN AND SHIPROCK AGENCY**  
**CLOSED**  
contact Fort Defiance Agency Office.

# HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP)

**Community Housing & Infrastructure Department – CHID**

**Division of Community Development**



Contact any of the HIP Agency Office for additional information or to obtain housing assistance application.

Application can be downloaded from the DCD Website:  
[nndcd.org](http://nndcd.org)

The **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** is federally funded by P.L. 93-638 contracts. The program is to improve the living standards by providing decent, safe and sanitary homes within the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Nation. HIP provides housing assistance through home repairs, renovation, and replacement of existing house or new construction to assist very-low-income families and/or individual.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Total annual household income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- Enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe.
- Lives in an approved Navajo Tribal service area.
- Present housing is substandard.
- Has no other resource for housing assistance.
- Has not received assistance from HIP for repairs, renovation, replacement and new housing, or down payment assistance.
- Has not received any other type of federal government sponsored housing program assistance over the previous 20-year period.
- Down Payment Assistance available to eligible borrowers to participate in HIP. The applicant must still meet all the eligibility requirements. A letter from the funding institution that specifies the down payment amount and closing costs required to qualify for the loan must be provided.

**Application Requirement**

Complete housing assistance application must be fully complete and sign and date. Provide required documents.

- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) and Social Security Card; for all permanent household members.
- Provide proof of all income for all permanent members of the household.
  - Award letters from social security, general assistance, retirement, unemployment benefits and other unearned income.
  - Signed copies of current 1040 tax returns, including W-2s, if filed.
  - Signed notarized statement explaining why you did not file a tax return.
  - Signed notarized statement of how you support yourself, if you are reporting no income received.
- Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts.
- If claiming disability, provide a Doctor's statement or documents verifying disability.
- Must have a finalized and approved home site lease in your name.
- Cultural Resource Compliance Form & Archaeological Inventory Report
- Proof of Veteran status (veterans' card, discharge forms, DD214)

All permanent household members over the age of eighteen (18) years is required to provide and complete all income verification forms.

All applications are reviewed to determine if you are eligible. Eligible applicants are ranked in order of need, from highest to lowest, based on the total numeric priority ranking points outlined in the 25 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 256.14. The application can be carried over into next fiscal year but the applicant must submit an undated information form and provide income documentation for all permanent household members.

Housing assistance applications are available beginning February ending September 30. To obtain an application, call your local agency office.

**25 C.F.R., Part 256  
HIP REGULATIONS REVISIONS;  
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 10, 2015**

**NEW RANKING POINTS**

- **Annual Household Income**
- **Aged Person;**
- **Disabled Individual;**
- **Dependent Children;**
- **Veteran;**
- **Homeless;**
- **Overcrowded;**
- **Dilapidated House;**
- **Down Payment Assistance;** Applicant must meet all HIP requirements and must be eligible. Applicant must be approved for a home with a bank or mortgage company.

April 2024



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

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