

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahone'

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

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Did You Know...

The Navajo stick game, also known as Tsidił, is a traditional game that teaches Navajo culture, history, and language. It is said that the Navajo stick game (Tsidił) was a game made by changing woman in the first world for women. Tsidił is a women's game but men and women can play this game. It is said that when changing woman went back to the west and took her people with her they became sad. She created this game for them to play.

Read More: <https://bit.ly/4hD2oYS>

Events:

January: Yasnilt'ees - The Thawing of Snow

January 1: New Year's Day

January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20: U.S. Inauguration Day

February: Atsá Biyáázh - Baby Eagles

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 9: Superbowl Sunday

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 17: Presidents' Day

January 2025
Yas Nilt'ees



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BRINGS A 'GO GET 'EM AND GET IT DONE ATTITUDE'

Facebook Page of Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren

January 4, 2025

It is with great pride that I congratulate Candice Yazzie on her new role as the Executive Director of Community Development. From Fort Defiance, Arizona, Yazzie is Tódich'íí'nii born for Naneesht'ézhí Táchii'nii, her maternal grandfather being Naashashí and paternal grandfather is Kinlichí'nii.

Yazzie earned her Bachelor's degree in Construction Management from Northern Arizona University in 2003 and has spent her career mastering community development within the construction industry. Her first project was with the Hopi community, where she learned the importance of collaboration between tribes and construction teams to achieve meaningful results.

"I know it's going to be a lot of communication and team building to push these projects through," said Yazzie. "I hope I can bring the collaboration and positivity that any successful team needs because it's important in getting things done."

Like many Navajos, Yazzie left the reservation to pursue higher education. Upon returning home, she faced challenges in finding a job on the Navajo Nation despite submitting numerous resumes.

Fortunately, Yazzie now has the chance to give back to her community in this important role.

With experience in both New Mexico and Arizona, working alongside private owners, state, and federal entities, Yazzie is ready to lead with a "get it done" attitude.

"I was excited getting the call from President Nygren because that means I get to come home," Yazzie shared, expressing her pride in returning to serve her people.

Congratulations, Ms. Yazzie - we look forward to seeing how your leadership will drive the future of community development.

Welcome to the Team: Katherine Largo and Selina Yazzie

Join the Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department

The Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) is pleased to welcome two talented professionals to its growing team: Katherine Largo as a Project Manager and Selina Yazzie as an Account Maintenance Specialist. Their expertise and dedication will further strengthen CPMD's commitment to serving the Navajo Nation with innovation and excellence.

Katherine Largo – Project Manager

Hello, my name is Kat Largo, and I am excited to join CPMD as a Project Manager. I live in Farmington, NM, and hold a Bachelor of Science in Planning from Arizona State University, as well as an Associate of Business Administration from San Juan College. Currently, I am pursuing a Master of Legal Studies with an emphasis in Construction Law at Arizona State University.

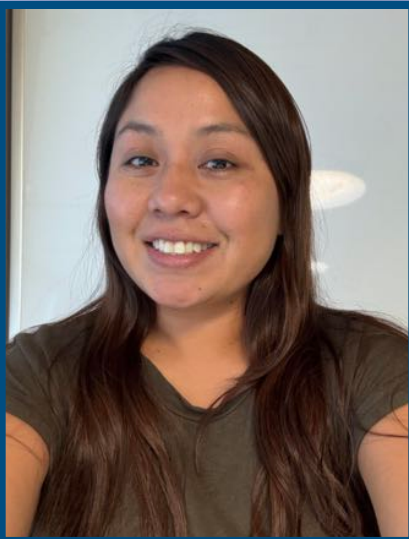
I am passionate about supporting and uplifting communities. Outside of work, I enjoy fishing, watching sports, and cooking delicious meals.



Selina Yazzie – Account Maintenance Specialist

Hello, my name is Selina Yazzie, and I'm originally from Newcomb, NM. My clans are Red Bottom Clan and Bitter Water Clan. I hold an Associate's degree in General Studies from Mesa Community College.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as an Account Maintenance Specialist and look forward to getting to know everyone in the department. In my free time, I enjoy playing basketball and spending time with my family.



Strengthening the Mission

CPMD Department Manager Dwayne Waseta shared his enthusiasm for the new team members:

"We're excited to welcome Katherine and Selina to CPMD. Their skills and dedication align perfectly with our mission to deliver high-quality projects that benefit the Navajo Nation. We are confident they will help CPMD make significant strides in completing projects."

As CPMD continues to develop vital projects—including senior centers, waterline extensions, and wellness facilities—the expertise of Katherine Largo and Selina Yazzie will be instrumental in advancing the department's mission to serve the Navajo people.

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THEM A WARM WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Housing Improvement Program

HIP Program Team update

The **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** continues to work with **BIA/ARPA** funding received in 2021. Through many necessary financial documentation processes, manufactured homes are now being delivered to the first thirty (30) selected applicants.

HIP has delivered manufactured homes to nine (9) applicants throughout the reservation, starting with Kayenta, Coyote Canyon, Kinlichee, Sweetwater, Red Valley, Steamboat, Shonto, Mexican Springs, and Naschitti. The homes will be released to the applicants once the skirting, gutters, and steps and/or ramps are completed. HIP is working diligently with Home Direct and their vendors to complete everything in a timely manner. However, there may be some delays due to unforeseen circumstances, such as weather conditions and material availability.

The first home was given to its proud owner, Martha Boyd, in Kayenta on Monday, January 27, 2025. Ms. Boyd had been patiently waiting for her home since 2022 when HIP first notified her. She was one of the many homeless Navajo individuals who had to move from one family member's home to another just to have shelter. Ms. Boyd and her family were overjoyed to receive the beautiful home after years of applying. In appreciation, they prepared a dinner for the workers, which included representatives from Home Direct, Speedy Sales & Services (which provides padding for the homes), Nizhoni Homes (which delivers and sets up the homes), and HIP staff (who worked on the skirting, gutters, and steps). According to attendees, there was plenty to eat.

Under the regular HIP program, one of the crews is currently working on a one-bedroom home in Tolani Lake, Arizona, and construction on the second home will begin soon in Bodaway, AZ, once the materials and supplies are received.

The Eligibility Technician will be conducting presentations at Chapters, Senior Centers, and other events upon request. HIP would like to welcome Autumn John, the new Eligibility Technician for the Fort Defiance Agency. Applications for Fiscal Year 2026 are available at the agency offices and online at nndcd.org. Intake and outreach will begin in March when requested by Chapters and other entities. HIP is also planning to schedule presentations and outreach for all five agencies in March and April. The time and locations will be announced once finalized.

Housing Improvement Program

Rita M. Begay
Program Manager I
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Chinle, Arizona 86503
Phone No.# (928) 674-2260
Fax No.# (928) 674-2266

EASTERN AGENCY
Google maps location
MVM2+83



HIP Con't

**Martha Boyd,
Kayenta, AZ
Monday,
January 27,
2025**



January 2025 Department Highlights

This month, the Administrative Services Centers continued providing essential technical assistance and guidance to the 110 Navajo Nation Chapter Houses, ensuring compliance with Navajo Nation laws, policies, and best practices for fiscal management. Our eight local offices actively engaged in training and support efforts to strengthen chapter operations.

The ASC department has been busy this January in hosting and facilitating Chapter Official Orientations for the newly elected Chapter Officials at the 110 Navajo Nation Chapter Houses.

Additionally, The ASC department assisted the Election Administration with facilitating the 2025 Chapter Officials Inaugurations, assisting with event coordination and meeting newly elected leaders. Our staff have continued meeting new chapter officials to discuss project updates and address local concerns. They also participated in orientation and training sessions for chapter leaders.

Some key activities from this month involved our ASC Staff assisting chapters with check processing, financial reviews, and budget planning. They also provided critical support in tax form preparation, reconciliation, and financial reporting.

As we move forward into 2025, we remain dedicated to equipping chapters with the knowledge and tools they need for effective governance and financial stewardship. Thank you to all staff for their commitment to supporting our local governments!

Welcoming Our Newest Team Members!

We're excited to kick off the new year by welcoming three new employees to our team! Their skills, dedication, and enthusiasm will be instrumental in supporting our mission to serve communities across the Navajo Nation.

Each of these individuals brings valuable experience and a commitment to excellence, and we are eager to see the contributions

New Staff	Chapter:	Position:
Melissa Todecheenie	Rough Rock Chapter	Community Services Coordinator
Keshaun Jones	Round Rock Chapter	Accounts Maintenance Specialist
Bessie Hatathlie	Coalmine Canyon Chapter	Community Services Coordinator

they will make within the ASC Department and local chapters. As they settle into their new roles, we look forward to the fresh perspectives and positive impact they will bring.

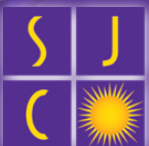
Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest team members. We're grateful to have them on board and excited for the journey ahead as we continue working together to strengthen our communities!

2025 Northern & Central Agencies Chapter Official Orientation

The Central and Northern Agency Chapter Officials Orientation took place from January 22-24, 2025, at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. This comprehensive orientation, planned and facilitated by the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) department, was designed to equip newly elected and returning chapter officials with essential knowledge and skills for their leadership roles.

A total of 34 chapters from the Central and Northern Agencies were invited to participate in this informative event. The agenda spanned two days, covering key topics relevant to effective chapter governance.

On Day 1, officials received an overview of Division of Community Development (DCD) programs, with breakout sessions hosted by ASC local office staff and representatives from various DCD departments, including Capital Projects Management and the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department. These sessions provided insight into available resources and program functions that support chapter operations.



2025 Northern & Central Agencies Chapter Official Orientation

Day 2 continued with in-depth breakout sessions facilitated by ASC staff, focusing on critical governance topics such as Proper Meeting Procedures and Rules of Order, Financial Reports (Appendix M) and Reviews, Direct Local Supervision, and Travel Policies. These sessions aimed to enhance officials' understanding of financial accountability, operational compliance, and leadership responsibilities within their respective chapters.

This orientation aligns with the ASC department's ongoing mission to provide technical assistance and guidance to the 110 chapters across the Navajo Nation, ensuring that chapter officials are well-prepared to serve their communities effectively.



2025

Chapter Official Inaugurations

The Navajo Nation Election Administration, with the support of the Administrative Services Centers (ASC) and our eight local offices, successfully facilitated the 2025 Navajo Nation Chapter Official Inaugurations across all five agencies. These events, held from January 6–10, 2025, marked the official swearing-in of newly elected Chapter Officials, Grazing Committee Members, School Board Members, and other local leaders, who will serve a four-year term.



Eastern Agency



2025

Chapter Official Inaugurations

Each inauguration ceremony featured an oath of office, motivational addresses from invited special guests, and appearances by representatives from the Office of the President and Vice President. These inaugurations celebrated the dedication of community-elected leaders who will guide their chapters in governance and service over the next four years.

We extend our gratitude to the Navajo Nation Election Administration, our ASC teams, and all participants who contributed to making these events a success. Congratulations to the newly inaugurated officials—we look forward to the positive impact you will bring to your communities!



Western Agency



Central Agency

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bidadiljleehi

Old ways transformed by new solution



TESTING THE WATERS — From left, Mike Lisk, owner of Remote Well Solutions; Ferdinand Notah, Navajo Nation project lead; Larson Uentillie of the Navajo Nation Water Division; and Sandia geochemistry intern Sean Dwyer observe Sandia geotechnology systems engineer Brian Dwyer collect a water sample from a cattle drinker. (Photo courtesy of Brian Dwyer)

BY KIM VALLEZ QUINTANA

Modern engineering brings water to livestock on the Navajo Nation

"They say water is life, and that couldn't be truer," said Anne Francis, who has spent her life on the Navajo Nation watching how water sustains the landscape, crops and herds of cattle on her family ranch.

But life on the Navajo Nation is hard.

The vast landscape is dotted with old-fashioned windmills, and many places are untouched by modern conveniences like electricity. Without the right infrastructure, getting water where it needs to go has been a struggle for generations. Sandia has partnered with New Mexico State University to develop a new technology that is changing this.

"We only had one watering point, a tank with a constantly running pump. Water often overflowed from the tank and went right back into the ground; it was a waste," Francis said. "Then you had those poor cows — they had to walk miles and miles just to get water."

It's a challenge faced by most ranchers on the Navajo Nation.

Animals typically stay near a water source if there is also food, so those areas are overgrazed. As a result, the cows have no alternative but to walk long distances, or the ranchers are forced to haul water long distances to them.

There is so much more land for them to graze, but without access to water, ranchers can't sustain cattle in those areas. Former Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer set out to solve this problem in July 2021.

After looking into several companies, Lizer found a partner in Remote Well Solutions LLC, a business owned by Corina and Mike Lisk of Cloudcroft that had developed a promising technology.

"We own a ranch in Lincoln County and know water challenges firsthand," Mike Lisk said. "We felt very motivated to solve this problem; not just for ourselves but for others with the same struggles. No one needed it more than our Navajo neighbors."

With the help of Sandia and the New Mexico State University Arrowhead Center, that technology was further developed, patented and embraced by Lizer and the Navajo Nation, becoming

the focus of a pilot project in 2022.

"We're taking what's available with solar power right now and adding our technology to take it to the next level," Lisk said.

Designing a solution

That technology is a simple controller operated by wind or solar energy. No electricity or batteries required.

"We take the water that is being pumped and put it in a storage tank. We then distribute it through the landscape using our controller and a network of piping," Lisk said. "It can detect the tiniest change in pressure from a tank as far as five miles away and makes sure to keep those tanks full automatically."

Those tanks are all positioned at a high point so that the water flow can then be gravity fed and no more energy is required. It allows for drinkers to be set up every half-mile throughout the ranch.

It's a system that is changing the way Navajo Nation ranches operate. No more hauling water, no more driving long distances every day and no more overgrazing.

It's a project that is close to Lisk's heart.

"I am a retired electrical engineer. I've worked on controls for my entire career, and we saw a need. I've lived in Farmington and Mountainair, and we've always been close to the Navajos," he said. "The need out there is pretty obvious."

Small business, big impact

When Lisk was inspired with this idea, he realized he couldn't implement it alone. That is when he turned to Sandia and the New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program for some help.

This program is designed to provide New Mexico small businesses facing technical challenges access to Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories' expertise and capabilities at no cost. Remote Well Solutions secured a grant and work began.

"This started out with them basically wanting Sandia to look over their shoulder to check their work," said Brian Dwyer, a systems engineer at Sandia who lent his expertise to the project. "Sandia didn't design this system but checked on what they were doing and validated it to make sure it made sense."

Brian, who has a background in civil and environmental engineering, has worked on other projects related to water and energy, making him a perfect fit.

"Some of our work involved testing for water quality and helping determine the best location for wells," Brian said. "The wells must meet a certain quality standard for livestock. Sometimes you have an area where two wells are within a mile of each other but only one meets water standards. In some cases, we figured out a system to blend the water, so it still meets standards, and both can still be utilized."

Brian says the Sandia team also supported the system's economic analysis conducted by the Arrowhead Center. That analysis found that the system could at least double the number of cattle these ranches can sustain. A big reason the Navajo Nation has not adopted modern technology is because of the cost, but this system is an inexpensive solution.

To date, the team has installed four systems on the Navajo Nation with plans for more. The Navajo Nation has applied for a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pay for those additional systems.

Rewarding work

In the meantime, their work is changing lives.

For many, water is taken for granted. Not the case for the Navajo people, some of whom still live without running water in their homes.

For Francis and others, this system not only makes the work manageable, but it allows them to grow their ranches and make

them profitable.

For many years, the Francis ranch could only sustain 45 head of cattle, and now they have double the herd. Other ranches expect to expand from 60 head to 300.

Francis got emotional as she talked about the project and her late husband Johnny, who recently died.

"He never shared the whole story with me. He wanted to surprise me. I didn't get to see the system until after he passed," she said. "He had been working with the tribal ranch office for a long time to get this done."

Francis, who is elderly, now depends on her daughter and son-in-law to run the family ranch. She said it couldn't have come at a better time. "They live in Los Lunas, so he comes out every weekend to check on things. We have three grandboys, age 16-19, they come and help, but now they have to work less. I am so relieved I don't have to worry about the cattle knowing they are cared for with water."

Francis is not alone. Brian said the impact is obvious.

"I have been out there and met many of the people benefiting from this. They are so grateful," Brian said. "I remember this older guy — he had to be 75 years old. After we installed the system and he saw what it could do, he started crying because he couldn't believe it."

"This is the most rewarding thing we've ever done," Lisk said. "The person who benefits the most is the guy out on the ranch, the guy



STAMP OF APPROVAL — Rancher Dean Gamble gives a thumbs up to new water pumping technology developed by Remote Well Solutions and Sandia that distributes water across his ranch on the Navajo Nation. (Photo courtesy of Mike Lisk)

at the bottom. These people have been hauling water for generations. These are strong, hard men who have been ranching for 50 years. When they start to get emotional, you know this is a good thing."

Charging ahead

Remote Well Solutions owner Mike Lisk and Sandia hope their work with the Navajo Nation is far from done. The next phase is to use this technology to bring water to homes on the Navajo Nation that don't yet have it. The process will be more challenging because water standards are more stringent for humans, and it will be more expensive.

"We would have to likely install water treatment systems at each house," Sandia systems engineer Brian Dwyer said. "It would be a challenge but it's doable with the right engineering."

A job well done

The Remote Well Solutions and Sandia project received the 2023 Honorable Speaker Ben Lujan Award for Small Business Excellence by the New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program. Each year, the organization awards one project that has had the greatest economic benefit. The awards ceremony was held Sept. 11 at Santa Fe Brewing Company.

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

Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsos Bídadiiljeehí

FLC alumna who led efforts to bring solar power to Navajo Nation becomes the inaugural Marathon Solar Fellow



COURTESY
CAMILLE KEITH GREW UP IN SHONTO, ARIZ.

By Navajo Times | Nov 27, 2024 | People |

DURANGO, Colo. – Camille Keith was a first-year Fort Lewis College student when she traveled to Nong Boat, Myanmar, in 2016 with the Village Aid Project. Building a gravity-fed water system for those in need changed her career path, helping her blend her passion for engineering with her desire to help disadvantaged communities.

"Seeing them have water turned on for the first time was one of the most emotional experiences I've had," recalled Keith, who grew up in Shonto, Arizona. "I knew what it was like not having running water growing up. It felt like a connection, and the impact of knowing: this is what I want to do as an engineer—providing basic infrastructure to help communities in need."

From Shonto to Fort Lewis College

Her mother, Eleanor Keith, noted Camille's early interest in how things work.

"She was a quiet person, but you could tell her mind was going on all the time," Eleanor said.

Eleanor worked long hours away from the Navajo Nation, so Camille's grandparents and aunts helped raise her, encouraging her to pursue education and return to support the community.

"That motivated me to come to Fort Lewis," said Camille Keith, the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. "I'm trying to be a role model for the younger generation, showing it's possible to follow your dreams, get your education, and then come back to help your community or other tribal communities in need. There's a lot needed on tribal lands."

Finding her purpose

Keith said her trip to Myanmar in 2016 opened her eyes to the intersection of engineering and community service.

The Village Aid Project is a student organization that designs and constructs sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene systems in remote, underdeveloped areas. Since its inception in 2005, more than 425 students, 75 community partners, and 10 faculty members have volunteered thousands of hours in communities in Ecuador, Laos, Myanmar, Nicaragua, and Thailand.

A key component of the VAP programs is working with local organizations to ensure the program's sustainability.

"It was great interacting with the villagers. I learned so much from them—their culture, religion, and spirituality. Just being grateful for the simple things, like having water for the first time, was very special," she said.

After Myanmar, she joined the VAP Solar Initiative—the domestic arm of VAP. Under the mentorship of its director, engineering professor Laurie Williams, Keith gained hands-on experience with solar photovoltaic technology through internships with Solar Barn Raising in Durango and Grid Alternatives in northern California. She helped install grid-connected PV systems for the Pa'O Tribe and a PV system at a school located in a tribal Nation.

Recalling the idea of returning to Shonto, Keith said, "What if we go back to the Navajo Nation?"

Around 55,000 Navajo Nation residents don't have electricity.

Without electricity, and with supermarkets a couple of hours away, Shonto residents don't have regular access to many fresh fruits and vegetables, which also negatively impacts their health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about half of the adult population in the Navajo Nation is either living with Type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes.

Finding support

In 2023, Keith and Williams co-founded the Navajo Nation Solar Initiative, focusing on the Shonto Chapter. After securing a \$100,000 Department of Energy "Energizing Rural Communities" prize, they developed a comprehensive home site assessment database for Shonto.

Gaining community trust was a significant challenge. "It took time and effort, attending meetings and explaining our mission," Keith explained. They also faced practical hurdles like finding local electricians to wire the homes. Despite these challenges, the team installed their first off-grid PV system prototype in March 2023 and four more systems by March 2024.

Over the summer, Keith and Williams returned to Shonto to provide a three-day, hands-on workshop for families who received the PV systems.

Another first

While the DOE grant expired, Williams said they plan to continue their efforts through the VAP Solar Initiative and other philanthropic efforts.

This year, the FLC Foundation secured funding to support a continuing education role, launching the inaugural post-baccalaureate Marathon Solar Fellowship through donations and a philanthropic grant from Marathon Petroleum Corporation.

As the inaugural fellow, Keith will expand her work with the Shonto leadership to prioritize future installations.

"We hope to replicate the success in Shonto, which takes a lot of commitment, often more than a volunteer can provide," Williams said. "The Solar Fellow could also mentor a rising senior to assume the position the following year, ensuring continuity and program sustainability."

Bright future ahead

For Keith, the position is a dream realized. "I've always dreamed of going back and helping my community. Many families still need access to electricity, which motivates us to continue providing off-grid solar energy.

"I hope others see this and say, 'I can do that, too,'" she added. "We empower FLC students to return to their Nation and help their tribes."

Eleanor is proud of her daughter's achievements. She recalled the family's sacrifices for Camille's education and the support for her Myanmar trip. "My mom said, 'Come back and help the people,' and so she did. We prayed a lot for her, and we're really proud of her."

Looking ahead, Camille Keith plans to scale up solar system installations. "Our plan is to install off-grid PV systems not just during spring break but also in the fall and possibly expand to summer projects involving FLC alumni and staff.

"I'm excited to see the impact we can make in the Shonto community," she said.

read more: <https://bit.ly/4gniTXG>



Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

NTUA awarded \$110 M for renewable energy projects



On Aug. 25, 2023, SOLV Energy joined the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Red Mesa Tapaha solar project. The event brought together project partners and Navajo Nation leaders, including President Buu Nygren and Council Resources and Development Chairwoman Brenda Jesus, to celebrate a milestone in the Navajo Nation's transition to clean, renewable energy. (Photo/SOLV Energy)

FORT DEFIANCE, Ariz. – The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) was notified that it will be awarded \$110 million from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as part of the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program.

Last year, NTUA applied after it was announced that \$1 billion in PACE funding was available to help make clean, affordable, and reliable energy accessible to the people of rural America.

NTUA's application focused on developing photovoltaic solar facilities with a battery energy storage system totaling 30.75 megawatts of renewable energy in rural parts of Arizona and New

Mexico.

This will provide enough locally generated electricity to power nearly 13,000 homes each year.

A key element to this funding relates to utility scale Solar powered electric generating plants with battery storage because it will provide another level of reliability to the electric system, especially in remote areas.

It will be the first time that NTUA will be able to operate its own battery storage system on the Navajo Nation.

Energy from the projects will offset the costs that

NTUA electric customers would otherwise bear when NTUA purchases power from a third-party company outside the Navajo Nation.

These purchases can become very expensive, especially during high peak usage times when NTUA must purchase power at very high prices.

"We are extremely grateful for this award," said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. "Anytime we can provide a cost savings to our customers, they can use the savings for items they need for life necessities."

NTUA plans to build solar generation units at 9 locations within the Navajo Nation, which include 5 utility scale Solar plants located in Cudei, Ganado, Chinle, LeChee, and Round Rock communities. NTUA will also replace 4 small solar generation units at NTUA offices in Fort Defiance, Chinle, Dilkon, and Crownpoint.

These projects will be near NTUA distribution facilities, and all the energy and storage will be used by the NTUA electric customers that reside within those regions.

As NTUA builds these facilities, there is the guarantee of new jobs. Navajo workers employed by NTUA contractors will construct, repair, operate, and maintain the projects and gain essential skills and workforce training.

"New job creation is always a monumental plus when building renewable energy facilities. Jobs not only help families, but they also bring additional revenue to the communities where these facilities are being built," Haase said.

"Also, the Navajo Nation benefits through tax revenue from the construction of the facilities. Overall, this funding is a wonderful opportunity for all." Information provided by NTUA

Read More: <https://bit.ly/4jBnmcj>



Farewell Paulene Thomas, ARPA/RRR Manager

"I would like to say I liked working with DCD ARPA Office. When you're working with the DCD office, and we've made a lot of progress, which I'm really proud of. There's a long ways to go, but I think that what we've done has laid the groundwork for a lot of work that's going to be going forward. So I just want to thank the staff for continuing to work hard at the projects and for the support. I'd like to also thank the DCD staff for their support, and helping us with the ARPA projects, and the general fund triple-R projects. I'd like to say thank you for working with me"
-- Paulene Thomas

"On your last day, we thank you for being a great mentor. You have guided us at work in ways that no other manager has done. May you always be the guiding star in whatever path you choose". -DCD ARPA the Begays

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS
Naanish ʼaa'idaat'ehigíí

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Sanostee, NM	\$31,257.36	1/31/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Blue Gap, AZ	\$31,257.36	2/4/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Pueblo Pintado, NM	\$31,257.36	2/3/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	\$31,257.36	2/7/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coppermine, AZ	\$31,257.36	2/7/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	\$31,257.36	2/12/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Standing Rock, NM	\$31,257.36	2/13/2025

(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
<https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí Naashoh'aa'



Quote of the Month

Saad Baʼa Nitsóhokeesigíí



Data Centers Growing Fast and Reshaping Local Economies

Employment in Data Centers Increased by More Than 60% From 2016 to 2023 But Growth Was Uneven Across the United States

January 06, 2025

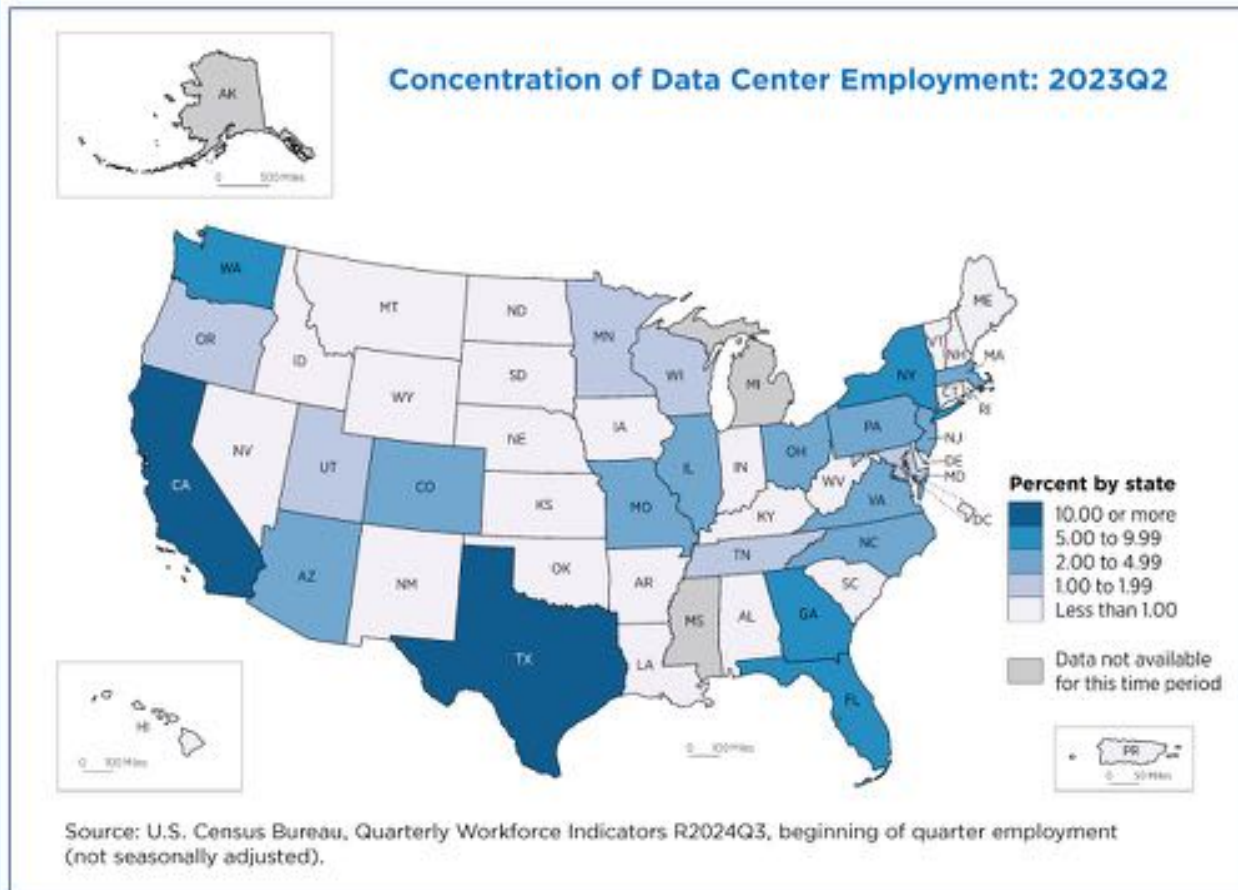
Written by: Andrew Foote and Caelan Wilkie-Rogers

Employment in U.S. data centers – facilities that house the computer systems that store and manage data – increased more than 60% nationally from 2016 to 2023 but growth was uneven across the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI).

The number of people working in data centers grew from 306,000 to 501,000 between 2016 and 2023, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the QWI shows where the growth is concentrated and provides a profile of data center workers.

The map below shows the concentration of data center employment by state across the United States. Not surprisingly, the two most populous states have the nation’s highest share of data center employment: 17% in California and 10% in Texas.

Over 40% of U.S. data center employment are in five states: California, Texas, Florida, New York and Georgia.



Employment was uneven within states, too.

In California, for example, three counties (San Francisco, Los Angeles and Santa Clara) accounted for 60% of the state’s data center employment. In Texas, nearly 75% was in four counties (Travis, Bexar, Collin and Dallas).

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2025/01/data-centers.html>

Big Game Census 2025

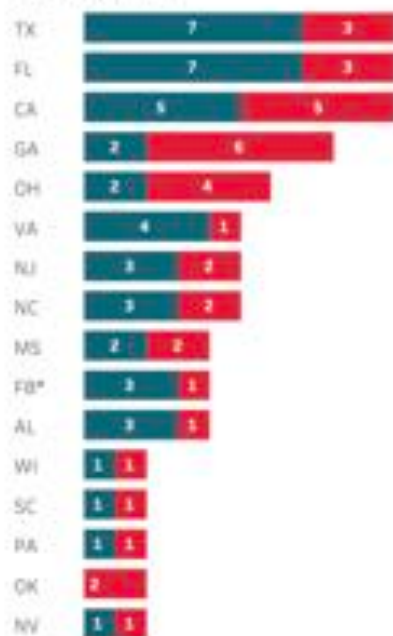
Is Someone From Your Hometown in the Game?

Select team: ⓘ

Kansas City Chiefs 📍

Philadelphia Eagles 📍

Players by: State



* FB denotes foreign-born players.

Player Name	Position	Age	Exp.	Height	Weight	Team	College	Birthplace	ⓘ
Byron Young	DT/NT	24	2	6' 3"	292 lbs	PHI	Alabama	Laurel, Mississippi	ⓘ
DeVonta Smith	WR	26	4	6' 0"	170 lbs	PHI	Alabama	Amite City, Louisiana	ⓘ
Eli Ricks	CB/LCB	23	2	6' 2"	188 lbs	PHI	Alabama	Rancho Cucamonga, California	ⓘ
Landon Dickerson	G	26	4	6' 5"	332 lbs	PHI	Alabama	Hickory, North Carolina	ⓘ
Tyler Steen	OL	24	2	6' 5"	321 lbs	PHI	Alabama	Miami, Florida	ⓘ
Brett Toth	OL	28	6	6' 5"	304 lbs	PHI	Army	Charleston, South Carolina	ⓘ
Kingsley Suamataia	T	22	R	6' 4"	326 lbs	KC	BYU	Gren, Utah	ⓘ
Bryan Cook	S/FS	25	3	6' 1"	206 lbs	KC	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	ⓘ

January 28, 2025

Volume 25 Issue 2

Research Matters

[Guidance on How to Cite Census Bureau Products and Information](#)

In an age where data are abundant and readily accessible, citing sources enhances the credibility of research and writing, strengthens one's argument, and supports scientific integrity by promoting transparency and reproducibility.

When you use and consistently cite U.S. Census Bureau data in your work, it enhances its credibility because it lets readers know your data come from a trusted and reliable source. In addition, consistent citations help the Census Bureau measure the quality and impact of work that uses Census Bureau data. It also helps communicate the value of the data for research. In turn, this can lead to creation of new statistics and research and inform funding decisions for the federal statistical system.

The Census Bureau recently [released new guidance](#) on how to cite its statistical products, technical documentation and research through the citation of publications, data, code and tools. This blog provides a brief overview of the guidance and shares a new data.census.gov feature designed to make citing Census Bureau data even easier.

[Click here to continue.](#)

[Census Bureau Releases 2022 Nonemployer Statistics Marine Economy Table](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the [2022 Nonemployer Statistics \(NES\) estimates of the U.S. Marine Economy](#). Nonemployer Statistics is a data product that provides subnational economic data for businesses that have no paid employees, are subject to federal income tax, and have receipts of \$1,000 or more (\$1 or more for the Construction sector).

Nonemployer establishment counts and receipts estimates are provided by [nonstandard state- and county-equivalent geographies](#), comprised of selected coastal regions across each state, and by the [Economics: National Ocean Watch \(ENOW\) sectors](#) defined by the Office for Coastal Management at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The ENOW sectors include Tourism and Recreation, Ship and Boat building, Marine Construction and Transportation, Offshore Minerals, and Living Resources such as fishing.

Nonemployer Statistics estimates of the Marine Economy were publicly released starting with the 2021 reference year. The [2022 NES Marine Economy Table](#) is available on data.census.gov.

[Click here to continue.](#)

[2025 Event Calendar](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted anticipated release dates for each regular and recurring statistical product scheduled for release in 2025.

[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 Training

[Exploring the Enhanced Veteran Employment Outcomes Data Tool](#)

Wed Feb 19 2025
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | US/Eastern

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 David Wasser as he presents, "Exploring the Enhanced Veteran Employment Outcomes Data Tool." Recently the U.S. Census Bureau released an expanded version of Veteran Employment Outcomes (VEO). The updated experimental data product now includes earnings and employment outcomes for veterans honorably discharged between 2002 and 2021 as well as from additional branches of the Armed Services. These data show important differences across military rank and occupation, regardless of the branch of service. The Census Bureau partnered with the Department of Defense to update and expand VEO. Earnings and employment outcomes of more than 2.8 million enlisted service members.



Upcoming

Census Bureau Releases 2023 Community Resilience Estimates and Natural Hazard Risk Ranking Tables

The U.S. Census Bureau is scheduled to release the [2023 Community Resilience Estimates](#), which highlight socially vulnerable areas in the United States. Featuring a new interactive tool, this release includes seven ranking tables per geographic level, highlighting the nation's most socially vulnerable counties (top 25) and census tracts (top 100) in the following context: winter weather risk areas (i.e., snow, sleet and freezing rain); flooding risk areas (i.e., coastal flooding and riverine flooding); hurricane risk areas; strong wind risk areas (i.e., damaging winds exceeding 58 mph); wildfire risk areas; and earthquake risk areas (new for 2023 CRE). (Scheduled for release **Jan. 30.**)

[Census Business Builder Version 5.8](#)

The U.S. Census Bureau released version 5.8 of the Census Business Builder (CBB) tool. This update included new data from the 2022 Economic Census Geographic Area Statistics and Economic Census of Island Areas. Enhancements include data traceability in the app and Business Profile, sorting capability for the Business Comparison tables, time series for American Community Survey variables, NAICS codes added to the Top Impacted Industries, enhancements to UI elements, as well as fixes for previously known issues. More information on CBB is available [online](#).

[New U.S. Census Bureau Data Show Detailed Characteristics of Home-Based Workers](#)

The share of the workforce working from home has declined in recent years but remains more than double what it was before COVID-19. New data reveal significant inequalities between remote workers and commuters: remote workers tend to be older, are more likely to be White and less likely to be in poverty.

Because of the increased prominence of home-based workers within the U.S. workforce, American Community Survey (ACS) tables have been updated beginning in 2023 to include their key sociodemographic characteristics.

These findings are consistent with earlier research that showed the generally [higher earnings](#) of home-based workers and the [disproportionately White composition](#) of remote workers.

In 2023, [13.8%](#) of U.S. workers usually worked from home – more than twice the [5.7%](#) that did so in 2019, despite a decrease from [17.9%](#) in 2021 and [15.2%](#) in 2022.

[Click here to continue.](#)

[National Black History Month: February 2025](#)

Historian Carter G. Woodson launched Black History Week in 1926 to recognize the significant contributions of African Americans during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist/writer Frederick Douglass (February 14). Congress expanded it to National Black History Month 50 years later during the nation's bicentennial celebration at which time then-President Gerald Ford urged the country to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

[The following facts](#) are possible thanks to the invaluable responses to [U.S. Census Bureau surveys](#). We appreciate the public's cooperation as we measure America's people, places and economy.



Protect Your Email – Safeguard Your Community



A Warning to Navajo Nation Chapters: Keep Your Email Passwords Safe

Did You Know?

Sharing your email password—even with someone you trust—can lead to serious risks for you, your chapter, and the Navajo Nation. Bad actors can exploit shared or stolen passwords to gain unauthorized access, causing harm to your operations and community.



The Dangers of Sharing Passwords

- **Unauthorized Access:** If your password falls into the wrong hands, someone could access your sensitive emails and misuse them.
- **Data Theft:** Critical chapter information could be stolen, exposing financial, operational, and personal data to criminals.
- **Impersonation:** Hackers can use your account to send harmful messages, scams, or misinformation, damaging your reputation and trust.
- **Community Impact:** A breach of one chapter email account could impact the entire chapter's operations and resources.



Real Consequences Include:

- **Financial Loss:** Fraudsters can manipulate email accounts to divert funds or steal donations.
- **Disruption of Services:** Hackers can lock you out of your account, halting critical communication and services.
- **Legal Troubles:** Mishandling sensitive information could result in compliance issues or penalties.



If You Think Your Account Has Been Compromised:

1. Change your password immediately.
2. Notify your chapter leadership and DCD IT support.
3. Review recent activity in your account for suspicious actions.



How to Protect Your Email Account

- **Never Share Your Password:** Your password is for you alone. Sharing it—even with colleagues—creates unnecessary risks.
- **Use Strong Passwords:** Create a unique password with a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using personal information like your birthday.
- **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Add an extra layer of protection to your account. 2FA ensures only you can access your email, even if someone knows your password.
- **Watch for Scams:** Don't fall for phishing emails asking for your password or personal information. Legitimate organizations will never ask you for your password.



Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe

- Your email is a gateway to sensitive information. Protect it to protect your chapter and the Navajo Nation.
- For questions or help with email security, contact the Division of Community Development IT or your chapter's tech support, if available.

Together, we can keep our community safe from cyber threats. Don't let your guard down--secure your email today!



Division of
Community
Development

Yas Nilt'ees 2025

Happy New Year!!



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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