

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Nihitahgó Adahooníílgíí Baahane'

## DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Ya'iishjááshchilí

Díí naltsoos biyi' baach'ida hwiit'aah

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Nít bée hoziníshii...

### Did You Know...

#### Oak Ridge Fire near 10,000 acres

A wildfire that ignited Saturday, June 28, on the Navajo Nation near the New Mexico border has grown to more than 9,800 acres. The wildfire is the second-biggest on the Navajo Nation in more than a decade, prompting evacuations and the arrival of more than 400 personnel.

The fire is the biggest on the Navajo Nation since June 2020, according to a Source review of National Interagency Fire Center records, and is already the second-biggest in more than a decade. The biggest fire, the Wood Springs 2 Fire, burned about 20 miles north of the Oak Ridge Fire, consuming more than 12,000 acres.

<https://bit.ly/4koBq8j>

T'áán náhah bikeh ndahoo'aah

### Events:

#### June: Ya'iishjááshchilí - Planting of Early Crops

June 2: American Indian Citizenship Day

June 14: Flag Day

June 15: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 20: Summer Solstice

#### July: Ya'iishjááshtsoh - Planting of Late Crops

July 4: Independence Day



## Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter Hosts Drought Relief Event for Community

Tselani/Cottonwood, AZ – June 25, 2025 — In response to the severe drought conditions affecting the region, the Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter launched a vital Drought Relief Event for its community members on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The event stems from the Chapter's official Declaration of Emergency under Resolution No. CEM 25-005, which mobilized resources to assist residents through the summer.

The Chapter distributed over 200 cases of bottled water, bags of mixed fruit, dry goods, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to local families. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Summer Youth Employment Program participants and Public Employment Program (PEP) workers, the distribution process ran smoothly and efficiently.

"This event is not just about providing essentials—it's about showing up for our community during a time of need," said a Chapter official. "We are deeply grateful for our youth and PEP workers who are working tirelessly to support this effort."



## OAK RIDGE FIRE

AND STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

DECLARED BY PRESIDENT NYGREN THROUGH E.O. 04-2025

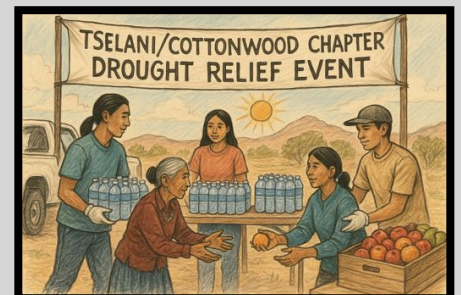
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In addition to their hands-on support, summer students are also receiving educational enrichment opportunities. Through a variety of sessions and guest visits, students have been learning from Indian Health Service (IHS), Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance (ONNSFA), Native American Law Center, Navajo Technical University (NTU), Diné College, Johns Hopkins University, National Park Rangers, the Office of Diné Youth, and even had a special visit from Miss Navajo Nation.



The Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter remains committed to serving its residents and empowering its youth during these challenging times.





# Community Housing Infrastructure Department



## A New Family Home through the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program

By Jeffrey Goodluck  
6/30/2025  
Window Rock, AZ

### Transforming Lives with Community Housing & Infrastructure Initiatives

The FRF/ARPA Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID) Section 10 Housing Program has taken a monumental step in addressing the urgent housing needs of the Navajo Nation. Recently, deserving Navajo families were selected to receive newly manufactured homes—a decision deeply rooted in the principles of fairness, with Navajo Nation Chapters actively involved and resources strategically allocated. This initiative symbolizes hope, resilience, and the ongoing efforts to uplift underserved communities.

### Understanding the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program

The program, funded under the Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), was not only created to mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19, but also to respond to the health, social, and economic impacts experienced by residents and businesses. It was also designed to address critical housing shortages across the Navajo Nation. For decades, housing has remained a pressing issue, with numerous families living in substandard conditions or facing significant overcrowding. The FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program serves as a beacon of improvement, striving to ensure that housing is not only a foundational need but a right accessible to all.

A specific facet of the program focused on three types of homes: Manufactured, Modular, and Stick-Framed Homes—efficient and sustainable solutions for meeting the unique housing needs of the Navajo Nation. Manufactured and Modular Homes are not only cost-effective but also quicker to deploy, making them ideal for addressing urgent housing crises. However, given the limited budget and the vast needs of the community, the program implemented a rigorous selection process to ensure fairness and maximum impact.



# CHID cont.

## The Selection Process

The selection of families for the homes was not a decision made lightly. Applications from constituents across the Navajo Nation were carefully reviewed based on factors such as household needs, current living conditions, and the available budget for each community. The program's transparency and focus on prioritizing those most in need highlight its commitment to equitable resource distribution.

While the initiative has brought hope to many, it is important to note that not all applicants were guaranteed a home. The reality of limited resources meant that difficult choices had to be made. This underscores the importance of programs like the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program in advocating for increased funding and support to meet the housing demands of all constituents.

## The Impact of a New Home

For the family from Sweetwater Chapter that was selected, the provision of a new home represents more than just a roof over their heads—it is a new beginning. Safe, stable housing serves as a cornerstone for numerous other aspects of life, including health, education, and economic stability. Children in the household can focus on their studies without the disruption caused by inadequate living conditions. Parents can direct their energy toward work and community engagement, knowing their family is safe and comfortable.

Moreover, the home itself is a symbol of modernity and resilience. With efficient layouts and durable materials, these homes are designed to withstand the unique environmental challenges of the region while promoting sustainable living. They are a testament to the innovative thinking behind the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department's initiative.

## The Broader Implications for the Navajo Nation

The allocation of a new home to the family from Sweetwater Chapter is a microcosm of the broader efforts to address systemic challenges within the Navajo Nation. Housing shortages are not isolated issues—they intertwine with other socio-



economic factors, including employment opportunities, access to education, and healthcare availability. By investing in housing, the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program sets the stage for a ripple effect of positive change.

Navajo Nation leaders and chapter officials hope that this initiative will inspire further investment in infrastructure and housing projects across the Navajo Nation. The success of the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program provides a compelling case for why additional resources should be allocated to similar initiatives. It also highlights the importance of partnerships between local governments, federal programs, and community organizations in driving meaningful change.



# CHID cont.

## Looking Toward the Future

While the selection of one family for a new home is cause for celebration, it also serves as a reminder of the work that remains. The Navajo Nation, like many Indigenous communities, continues to face significant challenges in securing adequate housing for all its members. Programs like the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program are vital lifelines—but they also illustrate the need for systemic reform and sustained investment.

The hope is that this success story will serve as a catalyst for more comprehensive housing solutions. By demonstrating the tangible benefits of standard, stable housing, the program underscores the urgent need for the Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President and Vice President to prioritize these initiatives. With continued effort and collaboration, the dream of adequate housing for every family in the Navajo Nation can become a reality.

## A Testament to Community Resilience

The allocation of a new home to the family from Sweetwater Chapter is not only a tribute to the FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program's effectiveness but also a celebration of the resilience of the Navajo Nation. Despite challenges and limitations, the community continues to advocate for its needs and strives for a better future.

This milestone serves as a poignant reminder that housing is more than just a physical structure—it is a foundation for dignity, security, and opportunity. As selected families across the Navajo Nation begin their new chapters, they stand as symbols of what can be achieved when communities and programs work together toward a shared vision.

In conclusion, the FRF/ARPA Community Housing & Infrastructure Department's Section 10 Housing Program exemplifies the power of targeted, needs-based initiatives in transforming lives. While the journey toward housing equity is far from over, every step forward—like the one celebrated here—brings the Navajo Nation closer to a future where every family has a place to call home.

***FRF/ARPA CHID Section 10 Housing Program funding must be used by the end of December 2026.***





# DCD Tech Team Presents at Fort Defiance ASC Staff Meeting at Wide Ruins Chapter

June  
FD ASC STAFF  
MTG

By Sylvia Jordan  
June 25, 2025 | Wide Ruins Chapter



On June 25, 2025, the Fort Defiance Agency Service Center (ASC) staff hosted an engaging and informative staff meeting at the Wide Ruins Chapter, where they welcomed the Division of Community Development (DCD) Tech team as their featured presenters.

As the first presenters of the day, the DCD Tech team took the opportunity to walk chapter officials and staff through several key components of the DCD's official webpage. The presentation aimed to provide clarity, build confidence, and encourage chapter staff to take a more active role in maintaining and enhancing their digital presence.

During the session, the team reviewed important webpage elements, offered guidance on creating and managing website content, and emphasized the importance of keeping information up to date and accessible to the public. Topics included how to upload and post forms, insert images, and create new pages tailored to each chapter's needs.



Additionally, the team provided hands-on troubleshooting support to address specific issues that some chapters were experiencing on their webpages. They also fielded a variety of questions related to email setup, WIND system navigation, and general Google platform tools, ensuring staff members left the session better equipped to manage their digital communications.

The visit reflected ongoing efforts by the DCD to support chapters with digital literacy and technological capacity-building. By strengthening these skills, local chapters are better able to serve their communities through more efficient and effective information

sharing.

The Fort Defiance ASC and Wide Ruins Chapter expressed their appreciation for the Tech team's support and commitment to improving local government operations.

THANK YOU TO  
Wide Ruins Staff:  
Michael Halliwell, CSC  
Shante Dale, AMS  
Officials

Chapter Aides  
for being great hosts and providing lunch  
for all the FD attending staff.





# BODAWAY/GAP NEWSLETTER

June 27th, 2025

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## CHAPTER UPDATES

This new year we have all new officials. The new Chapter President is La'Shon Hanks, the new Vice-President, the Secretary is Loretta Seweingyawma, and the Grazing officer is Lee Yazzie Jr. It has been an adjustment so far this year.



2 of our Youth Workers attending a Sheering Workshop in Tuba City.

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Youth Employment Program hires for every major break in the school year. Summer break, Winter break and Spring break. Students are able to earn money for school supplies and clothes.

In the Summer time Bodaway/Gap has two sessions for students younger than 18 years and in High School. College Students are able to work both sessions. During the summer we invite departments to come in and present education material for our students. It has been a chapter initiative to provide students with new skills while including the culture aspect.



Bodaway/Gap View from Above

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The students created a coffee shop, they sell during large events and daily during the summer time. All proceeds go to the Summer Youth Fund, for future projects and activities.

On average we get 8-10 High school students per session and up to three college students. We also work with Navajo WorkForce, allowing students to work in Gap, but they get paid by another entity. All students are from the Bodaway/Gap area.

The students are a huge help to the community when they are working. Every month we receive food from St. Mary's and they assist with the distribution. It definitely helps the regular staff and community members are grateful for their help.

Students are given the opportunities to receive certifications and training. We have had Food Service Trainings, CPR Certifications, Shooter Safety Courses, and Health & Wellness Courses.



SY getting certified in CPR, other Youth were able to attend from the community.



NN Diabetes Prevention Instructor teaching Summer Youth students how to make a Navajo recipe.

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The Community Health & Wellness Fair on June 11, 2025. Over 30 booths with Mobile Medical, Rec on Wheels and a Car Seat Check joined.

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## **WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS: CHIP, RED FEATHER, WOOD FOR LIFE, COCONINO COUNTY, AND MULTIPLE NAVAJO NATION DIVISIONS.**

Another initiative that the Chapter is working on is collaborating with Community Partners. Bodaway/Gap Chapter is a part of the CHIP Team (Community Health Improvement Planning). It is a partnership of several divisions working together to improve Health & Wellness in local communities.

In late December of 2024, the Community Health Assessment was published by TCRHCC. The assessment revealed the top health disparities in the Chapter service area. The top three disparities of the chapter are Diabetes, Substance Abuse and Public & Highway Safety. This gave us a better outlook on the problems we should be focusing more on.

As a result, we have partnered with Coconino County Human & Health services, TCRHCC Health Promotion Disease Prevention, Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services, Navajo Nation Diabetes Prevention and many more divisions to provide education and resources to the community. It has been growing, we had recent success with the Health Fair. It was a great turnout. We are pushing for more recreation areas, that encourage members to be active. We currently have Zumba and JMI in our area.



Over 35 full cords of firewood donated by The Woods for Life Organization. They help year-around, encouraging community members to get their wood piles early before winter hits.

The Chapter is a part of another collaborative called Wood For Life. It includes partners in the forestry and Red Feather. This allows us to serve as a small wood bank. Throughout the year, wood is delivered to give to the community. They provide workshops, education and resources that help low-income families stay warm and cool during the changing seasons.

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# Jeddito Chapter Summer Youth Employees



Jeddito Chapter administrative staff are enjoying the students who have and are currently working as Summer Youth Employees. The first group of students were ready to start on a project, they did plant a garden and constructed planters, helped with the St. Mary's Food Distribution and Frybread making class.

The second group students are very active, social and are enthused about their employment at the Chapter. assembling a Greenhouse. We invited programs to provide enrichment work sessions and activities.



## Events:

6/18 - Fire Safety Hands-on presentation by the Hopi Fire Department on Fire Safety.

6/24 - Dine Youth (ODY) and WIHCC Wellness host a Bike Ride activity for all ages. They are two other activities scheduled in July for the students which they look forward to.

## Upcoming events:

July 1 - NN-DOT - Highway Safety

July 2 - NN Mental Health Program

July 3 - WIHCC, Inc. - " Just Move "



## Community Project:

A long standing waterline extension project is becoming a reality in the Northeastern area of the community called "Goldwater Loop". The Chapter Officials and Appointed Grazing Member are collaboratively working to ensure all required documents are authorized with the support of the Community Services Coordinator.



# *Administrative Services Centers*

## *JUNE 2025 HIGHLIGHTS*

*June 2025 Newsletter Highlight*  
The Administrative Services Centers (ASC) department continued its dedicated support to the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters this past month. ASC remained focused on delivering technical assistance, promoting sound governance, and ensuring policy and financial compliance through a variety of hands-on engagements.

One of the department's major milestones in June was the successful completion of its Chapter Official Orientation Series. The fourth and final orientation session was hosted June 18–20, 2025, marking the conclusion of a comprehensive effort that began in January. The series was designed to ensure that newly elected officials from all five agencies—Northern, Eastern, Central, Western, and Fort Defiance—received essential training in chapter administration, budget oversight, and operational responsibilities.

This final installment brought together officials for in-depth discussions, practical guidance, and collaborative learning to help strengthen leadership and accountability at the local level.

As ASC continues its work into the latter half of the year, the department remains committed to empowering chapter governments through training, support, and responsive service.

## *June 2025 – Department Activities*

*June 11, 2025*

- Crownpoint ASC hosted their weekly staff meeting via Google Meet.

*June 12, 2025*

- Kayenta ASC facilitated MIP assistance/training at the Tolikan Chapter.
- Kayenta ASC hosted training on Personnel Issues – PEP Work Ethics in Red Mesa, AZ.

*June 13, 2025*

- Kayenta ASC represented the department at a Leadership Work Session at The View Hotel, Oljato, UT.

*June 21, 2025*

- Shiprock ASC represented the department at the Northern Agency Council Meeting in Cove, AZ.

*June 23–25, 2025*

- Dilkon ASC represented the department at the Commissioner Work Session and provided support to chapters with the RBDO Project Consultant at Sage Memorial – Turquoise Board Room.

*June 26, 2025*

- Dilkon ASC represented the department at the 2025 Navajo Nation School & Community Safety Summit at Gallup High School, Gallup, NM.
- Crownpoint ASC hosted their weekly staff meeting via Google Meet.
- Kayenta ASC hosted their weekly staff meeting via Google Meet.



## *Administrative Services Centers*

### *CHAPTER OFFICIALS ORIENTATION San Juan College - Farmington, NM*

#### *Final Chapter Officials Orientation Wraps Up at San Juan College*

*The Department successfully concluded its fourth and final Chapter Officials Orientation on June 16–18, 2025, at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. This concluding session marked the culmination of a comprehensive training series launched earlier this year to support and equip newly elected chapter officials and administrative staff across the Navajo Nation.*

*The first three sessions were held regionally: January 22–24 for Northern and Central Agencies, February 4–6 for Western and Fort Defiance Agencies, and March 17–19 for the Eastern Agency. This final session served as a make-up opportunity for officials and administrative staff from all 110 chapters who were unable to attend the earlier dates.*





## *Administrative Services Centers*

### *CHAPTER OFFICIALS ORIENTATION San Juan College - Farmington, NM*

*Over the three-day event, participants received in-depth presentations from key departments, including the Division of Community Development Executive Administration, Capital Projects Management, Community Housing and Infrastructure, Navajo Nation Addressing Authority, and the Administrative Services Center.*

*Breakout sessions focused on governance, financial procedures, infrastructure programs, ethics, and Title 26.*

*On the final day, ASC-led workshops emphasized practical tools for effective chapter operations, including meeting facilitation, financial reporting, supervision, and travel policies. The training concluded with a general session and closing message to encourage continued collaboration and accountability in serving Navajo communities.*

*The department extends its appreciation to all chapter officials and staff who participated and helped make the orientation series a success.*





## Administrative Services Centers

### COVID-19 Reimbursements Approved

*Legislation No. 0123-24 successfully resulted in reimbursement for eight chapters for expenses accrued during the COVID-19 response period with help from the Administrative Services Centers (ASC). This effort was made possible with support from the Office of the Controller (OOC), Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the sponsorship of Hon. Steven R. Arviso.*

BU	CHAPTER	AMOUNT
108035	Church Rock	9,672.49
108037	Crownpoint	32,054.00
108039	Iyanbito	16,194.74
108049	Ramah	4,043.81
108052	Smith Lake	14,091.63
108054	Thoreau	99,688.88
108053	Tse'li'Ahi (Standing Rock)	7,837.49
108032	Tohajiilee	67,285.59
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250,868.63</b>

TABLE WITH THE LIST OF CHAPTERS AND CORRESPONDING REIMBURSEMENTS.



### Commissioner Work Session – Ganado, AZ

*From June 23–25, 2025, Dilkon ASC represented the department at the Commissioner Work Session held at Sage Memorial's Turquoise Board Room in Ganado, AZ. The three-day session brought together chapter leaders, staff, and project partners to discuss key priorities, including budget reviews for 2021–2025, housing discretionary fund procedures, and chapter renovation updates. Dilkon ASC staff also supported participating chapters and collaborated with the RBDO Project Consultant on infrastructure efforts related to water systems, ADA ramps, storage solutions, vehicle procurement, and equipment operation protocols.*



## *Administrative Services Centers*

### *Chinle ASC Hosts June Chapter Staff Meeting and Appreciation Luncheon for Departing Staff Member*

On June 12, 2025, the Chinle Administrative Service Center (ASC) held a chapter staff meeting at the Navajo Department of Transportation in Tse Bonito, NM. The agenda featured important topics such as Allowable and Disallowable Costs, Budget and Invoice Management (BIM), and a special presentation from the Office of the Auditor General. The session provided vital updates and clarification on financial processes, aimed at strengthening chapter operations and accountability.

During the luncheon portion of the day, the department took a moment to honor and celebrate Mr. Robert Jumbo for his years of dedicated service. Robert has been with the department since June 2019 and has played a critical role in advancing financial stewardship across our offices. With a background as an auditor for the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General, Robert brought a depth of knowledge that department leadership consistently relied on, especially when navigating complex fiscal matters within tribal governance.



PHOTO: ROBERT JUMBO ADDRESSES CHAPTER WITH ADVICE AND WORDS OF FAREWELL ON 06/12/25 NDOT (TSE BONITO, NM)



PHOTO: AS A BREAK, CHAPTERS PLAYED A LIGHTEARTED GAME OF TRIVIA TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF NAVAJO NATION CHAPTER GOVERNANCE



## Administrative Services Centers

*Beyond his technical expertise, Robert was always willing to step up and support wherever needed—often assisting other local ASC offices during staff transitions and shortages. His reliability, professionalism, and commitment to service left a lasting impact on our team. While we are sad to see him go, we are proud to know he will continue to serve the Navajo Nation as he returns to his former role under the Office of the Auditor General.*

*We extend our deepest appreciation to Robert for his invaluable contributions and wish him continued success in his journey.*

### PHOTOS:

AS PART OF THE EVENT, CHAPTER STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS OFFERED THE ENTIRETY OF THE POTLUCK STYLE LUNCHEON, HEARTFELT WORDS OF APPRECIATION, AND THOUGHTFUL GIFTS TO ROBERT IN RECOGNITION OF HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE. A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CAKE, MADE BY BLACK MESA'S MARLINDA BEDE, WAS SHARED WITH ATTENDEES. THE ASC DEPARTMENT ALSO PRESENTED ROBERT WITH A NEW LAPTOP BAG AND JACKET AS TOKENS OF GRATITUDE FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS.





## *Administrative Services Centers*

*As the needs of our Navajo Nation Chapters continue to grow, we're proud to announce the hiring of six new Accounts Maintenance Specialists (AMS) this month—a vital role within chapter governments. These new team members bring valuable energy and skills to support our ongoing mission of strengthening chapter operations.*

*AMS staff play a key role in assisting chapters with financial management, records maintenance, and overall administrative compliance. Their work is essential in promoting accountability and ensuring sound fiscal practices across all levels of chapter governance.*

***Please join us in welcoming:***

New Staff	Chapter	Position
<b>Nortina Becenti</b>	Coyote Canyon	AMS
<b>Myron Begay</b>	Blue Gap Chapter	AMS
<b>Martha Yazzie-Valencia</b>	GadiiAhi Chapter	AMS
<b>Erin Lewis</b>	Iyanbito Chapter	AMS
<b>Kristoffer Dailey</b>	Rock Point Chapter	AMS
<b>Shania Logg</b>	Rock Springs Chapter	AMS

*We're excited to welcome these six individuals to the department and look forward to the positive impact they'll make in the communities they serve. Their contributions will further our shared goals of building capacity, enhancing local governance, and serving the Navajo people with integrity and purpose.*



# Capital Projects Management Department Hosts Procurement and Contract Training in Farmington

June 10–11, 2025

FARMINGTON, N.M. – The Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) successfully conducted a two-day Procurement and Contract Training on June 10–11, 2025, at the Sycamore Park Community Center in Farmington, New Mexico. The training brought together program staff and project specialists to enhance their understanding of Navajo Nation procurement laws, contract requirements, and financial processes that support capital project implementation.

The training opened with remarks from Ms. Michele Peterson, who outlined the purpose and objectives of the sessions: to strengthen internal coordination, ensure compliance with procurement procedures, and support the timely delivery of infrastructure projects across Navajo communities.



Sessions included a detailed overview of Procurement and Contract Accounting led by Ms. Valerie Bitsilly and Mr. James Bennet Jr., who walked attendees through purchasing thresholds, contract formats, and documentation expectations. The presentations emphasized transparency and fiscal responsibility at every stage of the project cycle.

The Navajo Nation is undergoing a comprehensive procurement transformation to improve efficiency, transparency, and equity in the way it purchases goods and services. The effort is led by the Procurement Transformation Team, with support from tribal departments, legal advisors, and key stakeholders.

## Key Goals:

- **Centralization:** Create a centralized Procurement Office to manage contracts and streamline purchasing processes.
- **Standardization:** Develop and implement clear, uniform procurement policies and procedures across departments.
- **Vendor Certification:** Launch a Navajo Vendor Portal to certify Navajo-owned businesses and increase their participation in government contracts.
- **Digital Transformation:** Transition from paper-based systems to an integrated digital platform for contract management, reporting, and compliance.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Establish clear procurement workflows, contract routing, and training to prevent miscommunication and audit issues.

## Current Challenges:

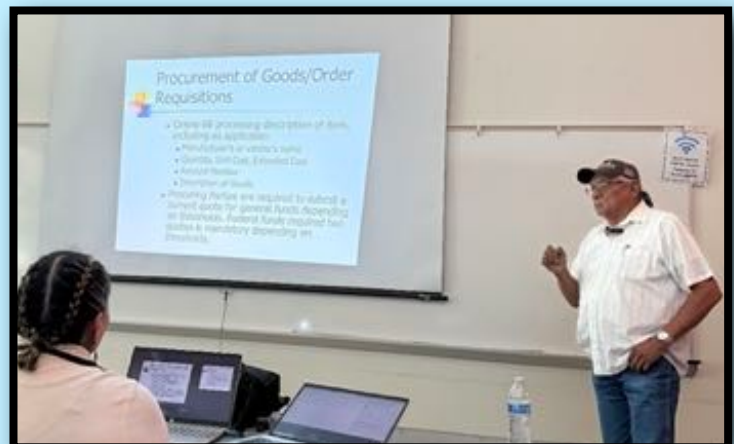
- Disconnected processes across departments
- Limited tracking and monitoring of contracts
- Low participation by Navajo businesses
- Insufficient training and clarity on procurement rules

## Solutions in Progress:

- Draft procurement policies and manuals
- Workflow diagrams for contract approvals
- Stakeholder interviews and department assessments
- Pilot programs with departments for process testing
- IT systems development to support automation

## Vision:

The reform aligns with Navajo values and principles of self-determination. It aims to strengthen the Nation's economic base by keeping more funds within the community, while also ensuring that departments operate efficiently and in compliance with tribal and federal standards.







Ms. Valerie Hubbard guided attendees through the Navajo Nation's Financial Management Information System (FMIS), demonstrating transaction processing, navigation, and budgeting functions. The session focused on how FMIS supports transaction processing, budget navigation, and real-time financial oversight.

Finance staff demonstrated how FMIS is used to enter, track, and reconcile transactions—ensuring transparency and accountability across all departments. The budgeting component allowed participants to view and manage fund allocations, monitor expenditures, and generate detailed financial reports.

Following the FMIS overview, the Accounts Payable Office led a hands-on training on proper invoice submission procedures and addressed common payment delays. Staff emphasized the importance of accurate documentation, prompt approvals, and communication between departments to avoid processing errors.

The training aimed to strengthen internal controls, improve financial efficiency, and empower employees with the tools needed to maintain fiscal integrity across the Navajo Nation government.

Ms. Genevieve White gave a presentation on the Navajo Nation Procurement Card (P-Card).

The P-Card program is a streamlined purchasing method that allows authorized employees to buy goods and services for official tribal business. Designed to reduce paperwork and improve efficiency, the P-Card functions like a credit card and is used for low-dollar, high-frequency transactions. Each cardholder is assigned specific spending limits and guidelines to ensure compliance with Navajo Nation policies and procedures.

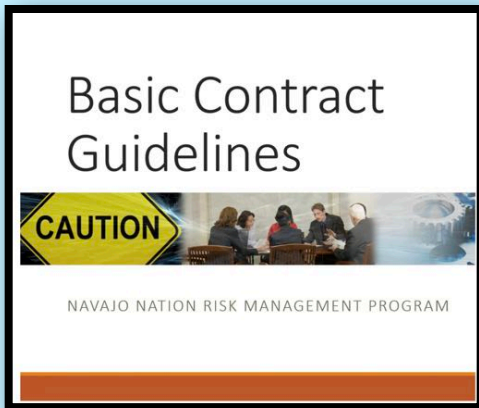
The program requires strict adherence to financial controls, including detailed documentation, monthly reconciliation, and regular audits. P-Card use is governed by the Navajo Nation's procurement rules to prevent misuse, ensure transparency, and support responsible stewardship of tribal funds.



Mr. Shawnevan Dale delivered the Navajo Nation Risk Management presentation, addressing insurance, bonding, and liability concerns for capital projects. Attendees gained valuable insight into mitigating risk while meeting legal and operational standards.

In a continued effort to strengthen accountability, transparency, and project success across the Navajo Nation, the Risk Management Program has released a comprehensive "Basic Contract Guideline" presentation aimed at educating departments, chapters, and program staff on best practices for contract development and approval.

The presentation, developed by the Navajo Nation Risk Management Department, outlines key steps for processing contracts, including required documentation, insurance requirements, and liability safeguards. This internal educational tool reinforces how proper contracting protects both the Navajo Nation and its vendors by ensuring agreements are clear, legally binding, and compliant with tribal laws and fiscal policies.



This presentation is about making sure everyone is on the same page when entering into contractual relationships. When we miss a requirement—such as proof of insurance or required approvals—it not only delays projects but also puts the Nation at financial risk.

#### Key Components of the Guideline Include:

- The Contract Review & Approval Routing Form
- Scope of Work (SOW) specifications
- Certificate of Insurance (COI) requirements
- Workers' Compensation and General Liability insurance thresholds
- Bonds for construction projects
- Indemnification language to protect the Navajo Nation



The guideline also emphasizes the importance of collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Business Regulatory Department when reviewing contracts.

According to the Risk Management Program, training and resources like this presentation are vital as the Navajo Nation continues to undertake capital projects across its 110 chapters. The document serves not only as an instructional aid but also as a safeguard against contractual oversights that can lead to legal or financial complications.

The training concluded with a presentation from Mr. Alvin Wauneka of the Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Department on contractor compliance. He emphasized the importance of up-to-date business licenses and vendor certification requirements for doing business with the Navajo Nation.

The presentation focused on the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act (NBOA)—a tribal law designed to promote economic self-sufficiency and development by giving preference to Navajo-owned and operated businesses when awarding contracts and conducting procurement activities within the Navajo Nation.

### Key Purposes of the NBOA:

- **Support Navajo Entrepreneurs:** Ensures that Navajo-owned businesses are prioritized in contract awards for goods, services, and construction projects funded by or associated with the Navajo Nation government.
- **Economic Development:** Encourages the growth of Navajo-owned enterprises, creating jobs and reinvesting capital within the Nation.
- **Business Certification:** Requires businesses to be certified as Navajo Priority One, Two, or Three to qualify for preference. These designations are based on ownership, control, and percentage of Navajo employment or ownership.
- **Fair Access:** Seeks to level the playing field for Navajo businesses competing with outside firms, especially in tribal procurement processes.
- **Contractual Compliance:** Enforces reporting and performance obligations to ensure compliance with the terms of contracts awarded under the Act.

### How It Works:

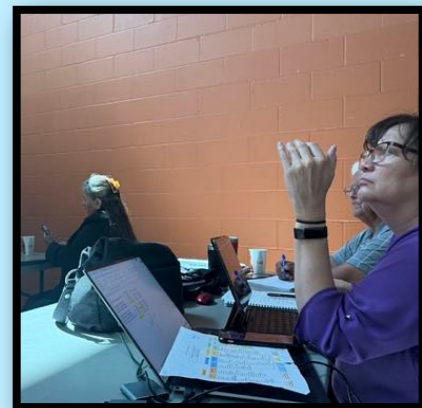
Businesses must apply for certification through the Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Department. Government departments and chapters are required to use certified Navajo businesses when possible, especially for contracts under a certain dollar amount. Enforcement includes audits and the potential for penalties or loss of preference status if businesses fail to meet eligibility or contract requirements.

### Impact:

The NBOA plays a critical role in building a stronger Navajo economy by keeping tribal dollars circulating within the Nation and encouraging the development of Navajo-owned small businesses, contractors, service providers, and vendors.

Participants praised the training for its clarity and relevance, noting that the cross-department collaboration helped clarify common challenges and improve project workflow.

This training reflects CPMD's continued commitment to building internal capacity, improving efficiency, and delivering quality capital projects that serve the needs of the Navajo people.







## Community Planning News



On Saturday, June 28, 2025, the Coalmine Canyon Chapter held its first public hearing for the Community Land Use Plan (CLUP) – a momentous occasion grounded in community, tradition, and vision. This special event launched the official 60-Day Comment Period, inviting voices from across the community to shape the future together.

The chapter house was filled with local elders, youth, leaders, and families – all coming together in the spirit of k'é and solidarity. It was a proud day for the CLUPC, as they presented the first full draft of the land use plan since 2018.

The updated plan includes stories of the land, the chapter's history, and the shared dreams of the people – all woven together with the values that guide Coalmine Canyon. From the beginning, this effort was rooted in community input, leadership support, and countless volunteer hours. In just six months, the CLUPC members, chapter officials, and staff worked tirelessly – often after hours – to complete this major milestone. Their dedication reflects the traditional teaching of t'áá hwó'ajít'éego (it is up to you/one's own effort).

Ahe'hee' to everyone who contributed – this is what community-led planning looks like! The future is being built with the wisdom of the past and the strength of today's leaders. thinking.





# Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

## 4KINSHIP fundraiser to help provide access to skateboarding for Navajo Nation children



Giuli Frendak | KOB

June 19, 2025 - 6:33 PM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Skateboarding is a sport you can do anytime, anywhere, even without a team – and kids are unstoppable once they have a skateboard in hand.

While that's out of reach for many families on the Navajo Nation, an organization is trying to change that – thousands of boards at a time.

"We're really, really excited about our kids having access to a sport that has kind of been beyond the reach for a lot of their parents and their families," said Amy Denet Deal.

Every time amateur skateboarder Victor Z. Corpuz gets on a skateboard, he says it's like a dream.

"It's still the most beautiful feeling and I get up every day to do it," he said.

Corpuz started boarding as a kid growing up on the Laguna Pueblo.

"It changed my life, it took me to places that I could have never imagined," he said.

It even landed him a business.

"We started out on the reservation when we were 15 [years old] in high school. [We] sold a bunch of burritos and got our first batch of skateboard decks to sell," Corpuz said.

Corpuz now owns Maize Skateboards in Albuquerque. One of his riders connected with Amy Denet Deal – the founder of 4KINSHIP and a firm believer in the power of skateboarding.

"This is a sport that's truly transformative," Denet Deal said. "You ask any skateboarder, 'why skateboarding?' They'll say the same thing, 'skateboarding saved my life.'"

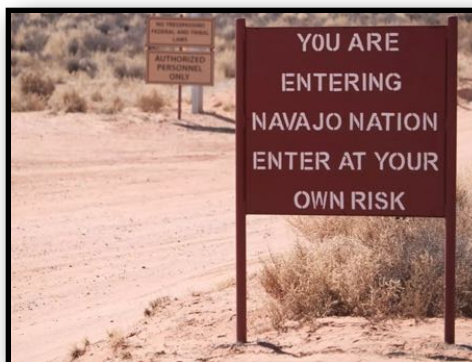
4KINSHIP is a community-driven, Indigenous-owned brand based in Santa Fe. One of her projects is the Diné Skate Garden Project. They provide Navajo Nation kids with access to skateboarding.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/40xmflT>

## Navajo Nation, EPA remediating former uranium ore mining sites in Arizona

KJZZ | By Michel Marizco

Published June 16, 2025 at 9:04 AM



Gabriel Pietrorazio/KJZZ

Only 16 operators, like Taadidiin Tours, are allowed to guide visitors through Antelope Canyon on the Navajo Nation.

Navajo tribal officials announced the first steps in restoring some land previously used for uranium ore mining on the Navajo Nation.

Cove Arizona in the northeastern part of the state is one of the Navajo sites impacted by abandoned uranium mining. Navajo President Buu Nygren said a cleanup contractor received approval to repurpose sediment to backfill and regrade two areas that underwent uranium mine remediation recently.

"This permit helps us move closer to healing lands scarred by the legacy of uranium contamination," Nygren said on social media. "We're not only remediating but restoring — and using our natural resources to do it."

Navajo officials said the contractor will rehabilitate the sites the material is excavated from through erosion control and revegetation.

The project is part of an EPA and tribal effort to restore lands of the tribe's Cove Chapter.

"We're happy at EPA that we've addressed the contamination within the community and look forward to continuing to protect that community with alleviating the issues associated with the mines," said Jacob Phipps who oversees an EPA field office in Flagstaff that opened in 2023 to address the abandoned mines.

"And so we're just going to wait and protect those areas until the reseedling has taken place to allow community members to reaccess those areas," he said.

Nygren said the excavation will yield about 14,000 tons of sediment that will be used to help remediate two so-called transfer stations, sites where uranium was once stored before it was hauled away for processing.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/4kkXwsn>



# Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltsoos Bídadiiljeehí

## Architect Tamarah Begay Creates Homes Built on Navajo, By Navajo, For Navajo

By Stan Bindell, QCBN  
June 30, 2025



Tamarah Begay, one of the few indigenous women licensed architects, is collaborating with ZenniHome to bring 160 native designed homes to the Navajo Nation by the end of the year.

About 20 are being manufactured at the factory and the first one will soon be placed in Window Rock so people can see it. Most

of the chapter houses will get at least one of these prototype homes. There are about 115 chapter houses in Arizona and New Mexico. A Navajo housing department will select who will live in these homes.

"We're doing the site work now and each of these homes will be on a foundation," she said.

The project is supported by ARPA and the funds will not be affected by budget cutbacks because they have already been allocated. Each unit will cost about \$295,000. The homes are 1,280 square feet and are considered midsize homes.

All the homes are near utilities such as water and will be all electric. Some may need septic systems.

Begay, who has owned Indigenous Design Studio and Architecture (IDSA) for 13 years, said these traditionally designed homes will provide housing and jobs for her Navajo people. The homes will incorporate many of the ideas of hogans.

"We'll include our principles of our connections with the sky and earth," she said. "Local plants, vegetation and colors will also be used."

During the colder months on Navajo, warmth is needed, so the homes will also have traditional wood stoves.

Begay said the modular units will be durable and have materials that can be purchased at nearby stores like Home Depot.

Most ZenniHomes have beds that fold out from the ceiling, but that is not traditional, so these homes will not have that. "The question is what do the people who will live in these homes want? We want to give them what's needed so we will have options," she said.

In addition, the homes will be prepped for solar in case that is an option in the future.

Begay says the intention is to bring generational value, as the homes will appreciate over time. And taxes from the homes will be used within the Navajo communities.

"This is built on Navajo by Navajos for Navajos."

She says 82% of the employees are indigenous, with 174 out of 211 employees being Native American. Most of them worked for Navajo Generating Station before it closed down.

Begay connected with ZenniHome about two years ago. "I see it as a great opportunity. I see the prospects growing. Other tribes will see this and want to use this because it redefines modular homes."

Begay wanted to be an architect at a young age and followed that dream as she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of New Mexico. She worked at non-indigenous and indigenous architecture firms before starting IDSA.

Begay's grandmother was a medicine woman who emphasized respect for the planet.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/4kkT90e>

## Young Navajo singer gains recognition for new single in Diné bizaad

Navajo-Hopi Observer

June 17, 2025

Nala Rain Nelson is recording her first song in Navajo, sharing her unique voice and cultural heritage with Diné College Warrior Radio listeners. Her debut single celebrates familial blessings.

A lifelong lover of music, Nala's singing roots began in childhood, performing during pageants and cultural events. Now, at just 12-years-old, she is gaining recognition for her dedication to preserving and promoting the Navajo language through her music.

"I love singing because it's fun and makes me feel free," Nala shared. "Recording this song wasn't just about performing; it's about sharing our culture and its beauty with the world."

Nala's talents caught the attention of Razor Salt Boy, a Navajo singer-songwriter and producer, who collaborated with her on the song.

"I knew Nala was the perfect voice for this song," Razor said. "Her natural talent and passionate



connection to her Navajo heritage brought the lyrics to life. It was a joy to guide her through the process."

This marks Nala's first time in a recording studio, an experience that helped her refine her craft. She is already planning new projects while balancing her academic ambitions.

A cross-country runner and active participant in student activities at Baker Middle School in Kayenta, Arizona, Nala aims high—not only in music but also in her dream of becoming a pediatrician.

Support for her music has steadily grown, with her single now featured on popular streaming platforms and garnering attention on social media.

"It's amazing to hear from friends that my song is trending on social media sites. I'm so happy people are connecting with it," Nala said.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/46jdxvh>



# Bulletin Board

## 'We Can't Let These Sheep Go'

Fiona Harrigan | From the July 2025 issue

A New Deal-era program nearly eradicated the sacred Navajo-Churro sheep—and still reverberates through the Navajo Nation today.

The course of Lyle McNeal's life changed in 1972.

Then a professor in California Polytechnic State University's Animal Science Department, McNeal led the college's Boots and Spurs club on a weeklong trip to the state's agricultural Salinas Valley. The group visited a ranch whose owners, a father and son duo, provided horses to Hollywood productions. A few sheep who were there to graze the land caught McNeal's eye.

They turned out to be Navajo-Churro sheep. The descendants of animals brought to North America by the Spanish in the 1540s, Navajo-Churro sheep are of deep importance to the Navajo—and of great use to their keepers. Their fine wool comes in many colors and can be spun for use in weaving and other crafts, and they produce desirable meat and milk. They also make "dang good mothers," in McNeal's words, lambing twice a year and often yielding twins.



After the trip, McNeal began to look into the breed. He learned that they were sacred to the Navajo people—and he learned that fewer than 450 of the animals were left. "I said, 'This sacred sheep is similar and almost equivalent to what the bison was,'" he recalls.

"I thought, 'I can't let this happen,'" recounts McNeal. "A few years later, after I got some land on campus to graze, it was in 1977, I asked the rancher up there in Salinas if he would be willing to either donate or sell some ewes and some rams to me to start a nucleus flock to start bringing them back."

The rancher agreed, letting McNeal pick six breeding ewes and two rams. With the help of some students, McNeal spruced up an old poultry facility for the sheep on campus. "That's kind of how it got started," he says—that is, the Navajo Sheep Project, a decadeslong, ongoing effort to breed Navajo-Churro sheep and return them to the Navajo Nation.

Some estimates say that Navajo-Churros numbered in the millions at their height. How did this breed dwindle to just a few hundred in the space of a few decades?

The answer lies in a New Deal-era conservation program that purported to save the Navajo Nation from itself. Ordered by Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier, the 1930s Livestock Reduction Program led to the removal of half the tribe's sheep.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/3la0r9K>

## DCD Says Farewell to Brandon Brieno

We're saying goodbye to Brandon Brieno from the CPMD IT team and want to give a big thank you for

everything he's done while he was with us.

Brandon jumped right in—organizing data, updating important info, training chapters on their websites and keeping our computers in great shape. He also played a big role in clearing out extra equipment, which made room for more team members.

His fresh ideas and past experience made a real difference, and he was a great part of the team.

We'll definitely miss having him around. Wishing him all the best in his next chapter and lots of success ahead!





# Bulletin Board

Tsineeshjii' Naaltssoos Bidadiiljeehi  
Tsineeshjii' Naaltssoos Bidadiiljeehi

## Survey seeks to gauge how many households on Navajo Nation lack piped water

Kathleen Hennessy  
Published Summer 2025

Travelers in the vicinity of Navajo Nation, the largest tribal nation in the U.S., may notice an unusual feature of many vehicles: large-volume water tanks, filling the entirety of a truck bed, headed to homesteads far and wide. "Water hauling," as it is known, is a long-standing practice born out of necessity for many residents of Diné Bikéyah who either do not have piped water or need to supplement their supply for both the people and livestock in their care.

The ubiquity of water hauling raises a basic question: How many households on Navajo Nation do not have piped water? Until recently, the answers were speculative; estimates ranged anywhere from 15% to 40% of households and lacked the specificity needed to assess the contributing factors and related health concerns.

Enter the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health's Diné Household Water Work team, which has, for the past four years, systematically collected missing water access data and, in the process, gathered powerful testimony from community members.

"What I've come to learn through this study is that tribal communities [focus] on their resilience and cultural strengths rather than deficits," says Ashley Thacker, a Diné tribal member and community principal investigator for the study. "Those are the stories we're hearing repeated by a group of people who have learned generation upon generation how to adapt and work with neighbors, with relatives, and with partners to ensure their households have adequate water."

The importance of water access for health, Thacker says, had been evident in the center's long-standing work on childhood obesity prevention, but it was COVID-19 that highlighted the urgency. That's when the center leveraged partnerships plus funding from the Osprey Foundation and private donors to conduct a pilot survey of water access and quality in the Fort Defiance Agency, the largest of Navajo Nation's five agencies.

Thacker and project manager Reese Cuddy knew that a full door-to-door household census was not logistically possible, given the vast expanses, largely unpaved roads, and informal home addresses. Spanning parts of Arizona and New Mexico, Fort Defiance Agency has a population of over 42,000 residents and comprises 27 chapters or local governance units.

Using Google Earth Pro and publicly available satellite data, the research team randomly selected households to ensure a representative sample of the full agency. In the summer of 2022, a group of interns and local Hopkins team members embarked on the herculean effort of verifying satellite data and physically reaching hundreds of selected households with the survey and water test kits.

READ MORE: <http://bit.ly/3I5yQXi>



## Bringing power to Navajo Nation

ALEXANDRIA, Minn. — Minnesotans in Arizona in April are hardly novelties.

But Mike McGrane and Bob Steidl, journeyman lineworkers from ALP Utilities in Alexandria, Minnesota, were hardly there on vacation.

Although if you ask them if they'd ever go back, they'll tell you "yes" before the question is completely out of your mouth.

In April, they went to work bringing electricity to families on the largest Native American reservation in the country: 17.5-million-acre Navajo Nation, which includes land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

A total of five volunteers from three Minnesota communities joined a team of employees from Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), including Steidl and McGrane from Alexandria, and volunteers from Detroit Lakes Public Utilities and Westbrook Public Utilities. And they joined over 300 volunteers from 44 utility companies across the country to take part in a project called "Light Up Navajo."

Some 13,000 households living on the Navajo Nation's reservation have no electricity, according to the US Department of Energy's Office of Indian Affairs. In fact, Navajo households make up most of the 17,000 Native American tribal homes without electricity across America. Light Up Navajo is a collaborative project launched in 2019 by the

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and the American Public Power Association. According to MRES, "Every year from April to August, volunteer lineworkers from public power utilities across the U.S. journey to the Navajo Nation to provide power to homes without electricity."

McGrane and Steidl admit they volunteered for the project without knowing a lot about what it was.

"I guess when we were first asked about it, we didn't really know what we were really getting into — what it was all about," says McGrane. "I didn't know what the Navajo Nation even was."

So in April, McGrane and Steidl loaded up their own truck with their own tools (which proved to be a smart decision in hindsight) and headed south to Window Rock, where they would start their work in the Fort Defiance Utility District along the Arizona-New Mexico border.

"There's 10,407 families that don't even have power



there yet. And this is 2025" Seeing for themselves that there are places in America where people don't have electricity was an unwelcome surprise.

"That's crazy," says McGrane, shaking his head. "There's 10,407 families that don't even have power there yet. And this is 2025."



# PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD Open Postitons

Naanish ʔʔ'idaat'éhigíí

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b><u>Administrative Service Centers</u></b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Rock, NM	\$31,257.36	7/2/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, NM	\$31,257.36	7/18/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Church Rock, NM	\$31,257.36	7/11/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Torreon, NM	\$31,257.36	7/11/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Whitehorse Lake, NM	\$31,257.36	7/11/2025
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$31,257.36	7/11/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Shiprock, NM	\$44,098.56	7/14/2025
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Manuelito, NM	\$44,098.56	7/14/2025
<b><u>Capital Projects Management Department</u></b>			
Project Manager (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$51,364.80	7/2/2025
<b><u>Community Housing &amp; Infrastructure Department</u></b>			
Construction Inspector	Fort Defiance, AZ	\$47,105.28	7/14/2025
Eligibility Technician (S)	Window Rock, AZ	\$31,257.36	7/9/2025

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

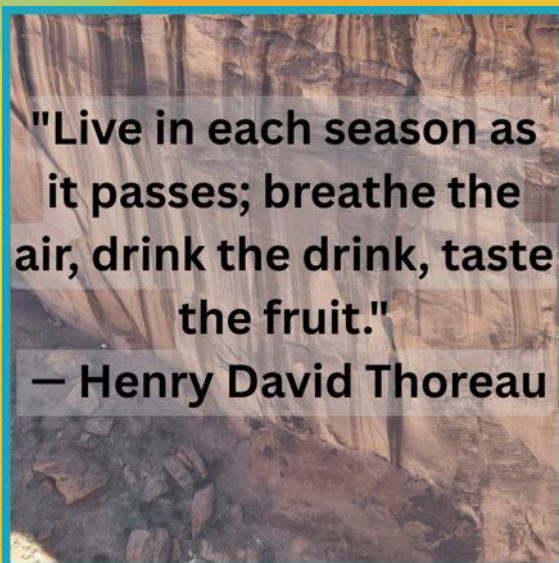
For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at  
<https://apply.navajo-nsn.gov/>

## Quote of the Month

Saad Bʔʔ  
 Nitsáhakeesigíí

## Comic of the Month

Baa Dlohasinigíí  
 Naashch'ʔʔ'





# Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

## The Fourth of July: 2025

June 27, 2025

Press Release Number: CB25-FF.06

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence severing the 13 colonies' ties with Britain and paving the way for them to become a free and sovereign nation. As we celebrate Independence Day, we're reminded that our Founding Fathers considered statistics so important they enshrined in our Constitution a once-a-decade population count to determine each state's share of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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 and economy.

Did You Know?

### **2.5 million**

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

*Source: Historical Statistics of the United States: 1789-1945*

### **340,110,988**

The nation's population on July 1, 2024.

*Source: Vintage 2024 Population Estimates*

### **56**

The number of signers of the Declaration of Independence.

It is also worth noting that:

- John Hancock, a merchant by trade, was the first signer. In 2022, more than 1 million business establishments with 17.1 million paid employees were in the retail trade industry like Hancock.  
*Source: 2022 Economic Census*
- Benjamin Franklin, who represented Pennsylvania, was the oldest signer of the Declaration of Independence at age 70. Pennsylvania had a resident population of 13,078,751 on July 1, 2024. Edward Rutledge of South Carolina was the youngest signer at age 26. South Carolina had a resident population of 5,478,831 on July 1, 2024.  
*Source: Vintage 2024 Population Estimates*

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2025/fourth-of-july.html>



### Announcing the 2030 Census Disclosure Avoidance Research Program

Planning for the 2030 Census is well underway. We're currently in a phase of researching and testing potential changes in the way we conduct the once-a-decade population count.

One key component we're researching is designing and improving the statistical safeguards we'll use to protect the confidentiality of the public's census responses. These safeguards, known as disclosure avoidance, are critical in helping us meet our [legal obligations](#) to keep the data that we collect confidential, while also ensuring the quality and usability of the statistical products we publish.

In this blog, we highlight these 2030 Census disclosure avoidance research objectives; provide background on the process used to select them; and discuss our timeline for researching, selecting, designing and implementing our 2030 Census Disclosure Avoidance System.

Perhaps most importantly, we identify how you can engage with us throughout this process.

[Click here to continue.](#)

### Older Adults Outnumber Children in 11 States and Nearly Half of U.S. Counties

The U.S. population age 65 and older rose by 3.1% (to 61.2 million) while the population under age 18 decreased by 0.2% (to 73.1 million) from 2023 to 2024, according to [the Vintage 2024 Population Estimates](#) released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The data show the population continued to age, with the share of the population age 65 and older steadily increasing from 12.4% in 2004 to 18.0% in 2024, and the share of children declining from 25.0% to 21.5%.

Ongoing growth among the older population, coupled with persistent annual declines in the population under age 18 has reduced the size difference between these two age groups from just over 20 million in 2020 to just below 12 million in 2024. From 2020 to 2024, the older population grew by 13.0%, significantly outpacing the 1.4% growth of working-age adults (ages 18 to 64), while the number of children declined by 1.7%.

"Children still outnumber older adults in the United States, despite a decline in births this decade," said Lauren Bowers, chief of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Branch.

[Click here to continue.](#)

July 1, 2025

Volume 25 Issue 12

### 2025 Product and Event Calendar

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

### Geography and the American Community Survey

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

**Time: 2:00 PM EST – 3:00 PM EST**

Geography is central to the work of the Census Bureau, providing the framework for survey design, sample selection, data collection, tabulation, and dissemination. This webinar explains how the popular geographic areas, such as block groups, census tracts, and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are used to present American Community Survey (ACS) data.

### Persistently Poor, Left-Behind and Chronically Disconnected

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

**Time: 1:30 PM EST – 2:45 PM EST**

Join our presenter as he explores how commuting patterns at the local and tract levels reveal the extent to which a place is disconnected from the progress of its neighboring areas.





## Upcoming

### Business Trends and Outlook Survey

The Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS) measures business conditions on an ongoing basis. BTOS experimental data products are representative of all employer businesses in the U.S. economy, excluding farms. The data allow greater insight into the state of the economy by providing continuous, timely information for key economic measures. Data are released biweekly and are available by sector, state, employment size and the 25 most populous metropolitan statistical areas.

### An Aging Nation: U.S. Median Age Surpassed 39 in 2024

The U.S. median age — the age at which half the population is aged above and the other half below — has increased by 0.6 years from April 2020 to July 2024 when it reached 39.1, according to U.S. Census Bureau [population estimates](#).

Given that nearly 294 million people (86% of the U.S. population) lived in one of the nation's 387 metro areas in 2024, many metro areas saw an increase in their median ages, too.

Median ages in metro areas in 2024 ranged between 26.4 and 68.1, with 192 metro areas having a median age higher than the nation's.

Many of the metro areas with the highest median ages were in Florida and Arizona, both popular retirement destinations.

Metro areas with the lowest median ages tended to have one of two things: a relatively high proportion of young adults, often due to the presence of a college/university or large military installation; or a relatively high proportion of children. Some had both. [Click to continue.](#)

### 2023 County Business Patterns Now Available

The U.S. Census Bureau today released [the 2023 County Business Patterns \(CBP\)](#). CBP provides annual subnational economic data for businesses with paid employees.

The number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll are provided for nearly 1,000 industries, as defined by the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The data are available at the national, state, combined statistical area, metropolitan/micropolitan statistical area, county, congressional district, and ZIP code levels. In addition, the data are presented by legal form of organization (U.S. and state only) and employment size of the establishment.

[Click to continue.](#)

### The Fourth of July: 2025

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence severing the 13 colonies' ties with Britain and paving the way for them to become a free and sovereign nation. As we celebrate Independence Day, we're reminded that our Founding Fathers considered statistics so important they enshrined in our Constitution a once-a-decade population count to determine each state's share of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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# Average Annual Pay Per Employee

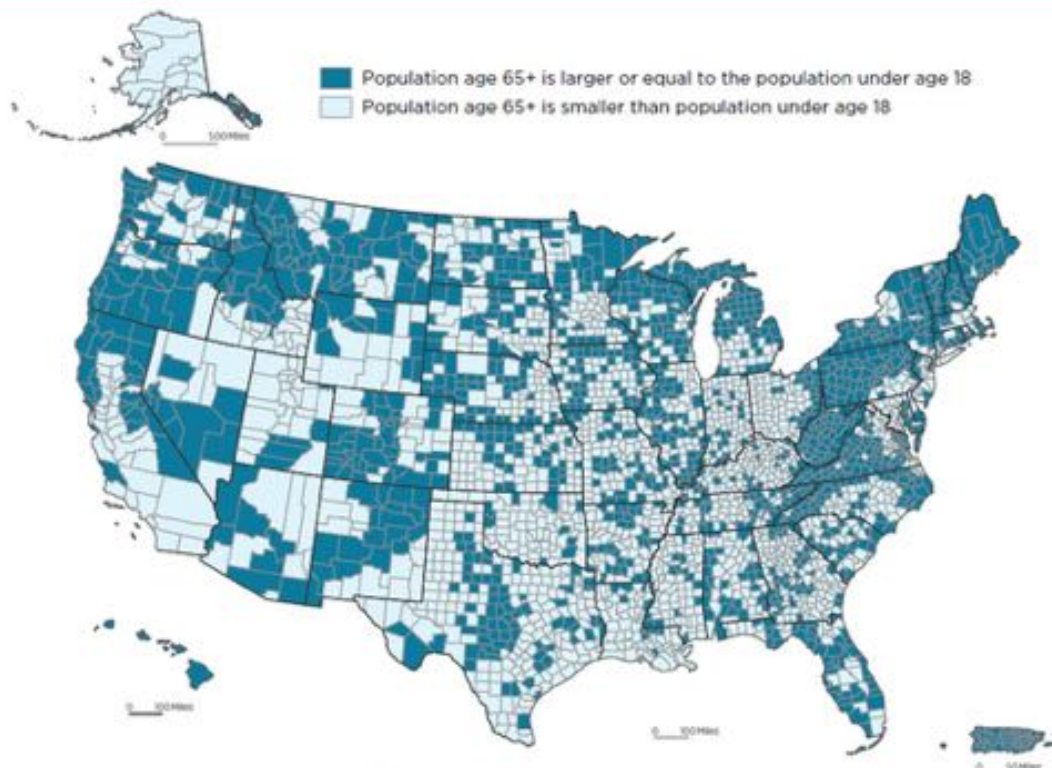


Average  
for all sectors  
**\$68,342**



Note: The economic sectors shown reflect 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) definitions. Rankings may vary slightly due to nonsampling error and disclosure avoidance methods used to protect the confidentiality of the data. Number of employees is for the pay period including March 12. Average annual pay per employee for all sectors includes data for establishments where industry classification is unknown. For more information on methodology including disclosure avoidance methods, visit [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cb/technical-documentation.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cb/technical-documentation.html).

## Older Adults Outnumber Children in Nearly Half of U.S. Counties in 2024



Note: In four counties, the population age 65+ equals the population under age 18.





NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# Get Ready, it's here!

## COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING WEBSITE!!



### What does the website entail?

- Community land use planning orientation video - you can now watch the orientation video virtually!
- Community land use planning documents:
  - Community Assessment Surveys
  - CLUPC Requirement listings
  - Title 26 of the NN Code, Section 2004; Community Based Land Use Plan; Land Use Variations
- Resources
  - Census 2020 Website
  - Map Request
- Community Land Use PowerPoint
- Technical Assistance Request link



Scan me!

# Ya'iishjááshchilí 2025



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

**NEWSLETTER TEAM:**

Norbert Nez, Editor

Denise Copeland, Assistant Editor

Sylvia Jordan, Design Editor

Tia Yazzie, Contributing Writer

Brandan Brieno, Contributing Writer



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