



# COMPREHENSIVE REPORT 2024

Prepared by the  
**OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT**





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## WELCOME MESSAGE

Yá'át'ééh, and welcome to *To'Nanees'Dizi*, Navajo Nation employees, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, division directors, local officials, visiting dignitaries, and members of the general public. Thank you all for coming to our 2<sup>nd</sup> People's State of the Navajo Nation address.

I am Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation. I am Red Running into the Water Clan, born for the Southern Vietnamese people. My maternal grandfather is the Bitter Water people, and my paternal grandfather is Southern Vietnamese.

I am proud to introduce my wife, the First Lady of the Navajo Nation and the new Apache County Attorney Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren. Jasmine has been my anchor and my rock through my first two years as your Navajo Nation President. She was just appointed as the Apache County attorney last month. She brings to this new job her experience as an Arizona State Representative, and her intelligence, compassion and strength to rebuild the morale in the office and bring justice to the people of Apache County.

It's been two years since I took office. In my first year, my Administration focused on recovery and rebuilding after the COVID pandemic, discovering the problems keeping the Navajo Nation in a holding pattern with 2,000 Navajo Nation job vacancies and the need of the people to receive the services they need and have been asking for. This second, year I focused on finishing projects from the last Administration, while also providing direct services to our people. I expect a lot from everyone who works in the Administration because the Navajo people have many needs.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Revitalizing the Economy

Under my administration, we have taken bold steps to strengthen our financial foundation, create new jobs, and uplift our entrepreneurs. From supporting small businesses with critical relief funding to launching ambitious development projects, 2024 has been a turning point – one that signals our unwavering commitment to forge a prosperous future for every Navajo family.

### ARPA Small Business Artisan Relief

One of our most impactful achievements was the ARPA Small Business Artisan Relief program. This program brought **more than \$6.26 million** in essential funding to **541 Navajo businesses**. These include sheepherders, ranchers, and weavers. Individual awards ranged from **\$5,000 to \$60,000**. That provided a much-needed lifeline to those who form the backbone of our local economy. This infusion of capital helped sustain countless enterprises through ongoing challenges, safeguarding livelihoods and preserving the cultural art forms that define our identity.

Small Business Grants				Artisan Grants			
Agency	Applicants	Distribution	\$ Awarded	Agency	Applicants	Distribution	\$ Awarded
Chinle	20	20%	\$735,177	Chinle	116	26%	\$580,000
Eastern	21	21%	\$1,020,793	Eastern	107	24%	\$535,000
Ft. Defiance	20	20%	\$795,000	Ft. Defiance	81	18%	\$405,000
Shiprock	22	22%	\$804,996	Shiprock	63	14%	\$315,000
Western	17	17%	\$708,362	Western	74	17%	\$370,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>\$ 4,064,329</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>441</b>		<b>\$ 2,205,000</b>

### Goulding’s Lodge Acquisition

Next, I’m proud to report the successful acquisition and relaunch of **Goulding’s Lodge**. This is projected to generate **\$7 million** in annual revenue beginning February 2025. The Navajo Nation will receive its first payment of \$3.5 million this month. We expect a second payment in June 2025. This single project has created more than **300 jobs** for our people to showcase our ability to attract

and manage strategic investments that directly benefit local communities. Goulding's Lodge is now a symbol of our Nation's economic resilience and our commitment to harness tourist destinations for Navajo prosperity.

### **Navajo Small Business Credit Initiative**

To empower our entrepreneurs, the **Navajo Small Business Credit Initiative** secured **\$26 million** in initial funding and plans to disburse the first **\$7 million** in loans. This program will deploy over **\$88.7 million** over three tranches within a decade. That will ensure small businesses have ongoing access to capital. By tapping into these funds, Navajo owners can seize opportunities to expand, hire new employees, and strengthen the economic fabric of our communities.

We finalized contracts with U.S. Treasury and received the **first tranche of \$26 million in 2024**, finalized a contract with **Change Labs and will disburse the first \$7 million**. Our first loans will be going out in February through Change Labs. We are currently building our internal management team with the hiring of our NSBCI manager Patricia Slim and recruiting several financial institutions to help us manage this \$88.7 million program over the next 10 years.

The (NSBCI) is actively advancing its program to support small businesses by improving access to capital. The program offers loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$20 million and is currently focused on the following key areas:

- Tranche 1 for \$26,189,941. We must deploy 80% of tranche 1 (\$20,951,953) in the form of loans to small businesses and nonprofits within three years to unlock Tranche 2.
- Tranche 2 for \$31,274,799. Again, we must deploy 80% of tranche 2 (\$25,019,829) in the form of loans to small businesses and nonprofits within three years to unlock Tranche 3.
- Tranche 3 for \$31,274,799. Again, we must deploy 80% of tranche 3 (\$25,019,829) in the form of loans to small businesses and nonprofits within three years and completely expend \$88,739,540.

### **Hotel and Resort Developments**

Our ambitious hotel development projects emphasize DED's commitment to fuel local economies. Ongoing or planned ventures in **Shonto**, **Shiprock Pinnacle**, and **Horseshoe Bend** will add hundreds – if not thousands – of jobs and generate vital revenue for our Nation:

#### **Shonto Hotel**

Estimated **\$250,000** in annual revenue and **30 new jobs**. The hotel is slated to open in February of this year. The hotel is awaiting NTUA Wi-Fi and water meter hookups. The Navajo Nation contributed \$17 million through the Permanent Trust Fund, DED Sales Tax Fund, Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Funds, and ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds to get this hotel up and running. The Nygren Administration adopted this unfinished and unfunded project from the previous administration and is proud to complete it.

### **Shiprock Pinnacle Hotel**

The project broke ground around Navajo New Year on October 3, 2024. This project is managed by Navajo Hospitality Enterprises. It is estimated to bring **40 new jobs** when complete. Ground was broken for this hotel under a prior administration eight years ago. We broke ground again on October 3, and this time the hotel will be constructed. Under the current schedule, construction will be completed next year, in spring 2026. It will create 40 jobs and an annual tax revenue of \$250,000. Three funds totaling over \$22 million were utilized including, Sihasin Fund, Permanent Trust Fund, and DED Sales tax.

### **Horseshoe Bend Resort**

Projected to create **3,000 new jobs** and bring in **\$14 million annually**. Our team is working with investors on this \$800 million project. We expect construction to begin this year – in 2025 – with a full buildout by 2029. These developments will boost tourism and serve as catalysts for further economic activity that will inject vitality into each region. I signed a resort development lease for 421 acres in summer of 2024. It has gone through a full land withdrawal, the feasibility studies, business strategy, site plans, and architectural work has been completed, but there is still much work to do such as required studies and clearances, and lease negotiations which may take a few years to complete. This multi-faceted resort development led by Navajo entrepreneurs, when built, will employ 3,000 jobs, and create a revenue stream of \$14 million annually back to the Navajo Nation in leases and taxes. This development will also create many opportunities for our Navajo entrepreneurs and enterprises who are willing to step up and create a retail, lodging, food, housing, and entertainment ventures.

These developments will boost tourism and serve as catalysts for further economic activity that will inject vitality into each region.

## Business Lease Abatements and Settlements

Recognizing the lingering economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, DED orchestrated a series of lease abatements and settlements to support struggling businesses. In 2024, **10 businesses** received relief under this initiative. That helped them preserve jobs and maintain critical services for our communities. Our proactive approach has brought much-needed stability to the businesses at the heart of our local economies.

The collaboration between the Regional Business Development Office (RBDO), the Real Estate Department (RED), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has played a key role in supporting businesses severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, five (5) businesses successfully reached settlements through the combined efforts of these divisions, and by 2024, this number grew to ten (10). Each settlement addressed unique challenges, requiring individualized attention to ensure fair outcomes. These settlements provided businesses with the opportunity to reset their financial and operational foundations, positioning them for growth and long-term sustainability. This progress reflects the effectiveness of cross-departmental collaboration in fostering economic resilience, supporting Navajo businesses, and contributing to the overall economic development of our communities.

## Redevelopment of Former Navajo Generating Station

One of the most pivotal moments of the year is the planned **redevelopment of the former Navajo Generating Station** site. By transforming this location into a **thriving manufacturing hub**, we will demonstrate our forward-looking vision: shifting from dependence on single industries to a diversified model that welcomes new job opportunities and modern infrastructure. Although the specific number of jobs is still being determined, the potential impact is enormous. It marks a bold step toward long-term economic sustainability.

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

These achievements were guided by our **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**. This plan shows our dedication to responsible, inclusive growth where every region of the Nation shares in our prosperity. It sets forth a clear roadmap for sustainable development that focuses on everything from job creation and small business support to infrastructure and tourism.

These initiatives are more than mere economic tactics. They are a promise to our people that we will uphold our responsibility to create a vibrant, self-sustaining Nation, one that harnesses the ingenuity of every Navajo entrepreneur, the natural beauty of our lands, and the timeless strength of our cultural traditions.

### Tax Revenues: Building a Stronger Navajo Nation

I am proud to report that in 2024 the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission delivered one of our most remarkable achievements bringing in **\$140.7 million in tax revenue for the Navajo Nation**. This exceeded projections by **26%**. That’s a difference of nearly **\$29 million** above what was anticipated. This is one of the highest annual collections in the Tax Commission’s history, and that’s a testament to our economic vitality and the dedication of those who serve our Nation.

	1st Qtr '24	2nd Qtr '24	3rd Qtr '24	4th Qtr '24	Total	FY 2024 Projection
Sales - Non Retail	16,663,874	17,387,174	16,562,182	20,515,379	71,128,610	49,000,000
TPT	27,392	50,404	37,303	43,758	158,857	300,500
PIT	8,958,819	298,024	9,279,861	-	18,536,704	23,000,000
SEV	1,536,183	1,415,239	1,980,680	4,333,378	9,265,481	4,500,000
BAT	2,720,807	1,521,649	2,590,657	2,681,244	9,514,358	7,000,000
FET	3,289,064	3,039,253	3,306,908	3,610,332	13,245,558	13,000,000
HOT	466,599	394,191	275,314	502,223	1,638,327	600,000
Sales - Retail	3,601,638	3,729,243	3,188,618	3,998,745	14,518,245	12,500,000
Junk Food Tax	594,948	545,252	771,765	692,029	2,603,994	1,680,000
Alcohol Tax	15,359	19,217	17,611	16,866	69,052	95,000
	37,874,683	28,399,648	38,010,898	36,393,956	140,679,184	111,675,500

Much of this success is linked to the resurgence of our tourism sector. The **Hotel Occupancy Tax** alone soared **173%** above initial estimates, reflecting the incredible comeback of travel and cultural tourism across our Nation. This growth did not happen by chance. It is a direct result of my administration’s collective efforts to rebuild the economy, promote visitor engagement, and highlight all that the Navajo Nation has to offer.

These record revenues are more than numbers. They stand for the resources we will invest in programs that benefit every Diné. Our communities rely on essential services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This financial milestone helps ensure we can continue funding them at the levels our families need and deserve.

From Sales Retail and Junk Food Tax to the Hotel Occupancy Tax and more, each tax category plays a vital role in fueling our progress. By making the most of these revenues, we fortify our government’s ability to serve you—strengthening our roads, supporting our schools, and investing in our shared prosperity.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to the ONTC staff and the many partners who have worked tirelessly to uphold and improve our tax administration. Your dedication is fueling the steady growth of our economy and helping us chart a course toward a more prosperous future. Let this achievement inspire us to continue working together, so that the Navajo Nation remains an example of resilience, opportunity, and cultural pride for generations to come.

### **Flagstaff and Cosnino project**

More than half of our population now lives off our Nation in cities including Phoenix, Albuquerque and border towns like Flagstaff. We hold significant private lands near several of these towns which we have moved on to create new housing and development opportunities. For example, my Economic Development team worked this past year with Navajo Housing Authority to begin organizing a development project on 360 acres at the Cosnino Interchange, 5 minutes from Flagstaff. Our team is moving forward with a land purchase from NHA, the fee-to-trust application, and various master planned development components that will include housing and development to create jobs, a place to live, and revenue for our Nation.

### **Business site leases and jobs**

The Division manages five regional small business development (RBDO) programs, each offering assistance at all phases of the small business development process from guidance to a prospective entrepreneur to helping with business plans, securing a business site, financing, startup, managing the lease, business retention, and growth. From 2022 to 2024, the Small Business Development Office, and agency offices have created 773 jobs, conducted 220 workshops across the Navajo Nation, assisted with 267 business site lease/land withdrawals/ land-use permits, assisted 219 clients across the Navajo Nation with business plans, and helped 326 clients apply for outside funding sources.

Total visitation comparison data shows an increase in the Navajo Nation becoming a Prime Destination for travelers.

Visitation Data	2023	2024
Canyon De Chelly	333,349	346,283
Monument Valley	504,492	524,722
Lake Powell	1,042,886	1,093,037
Four Corners	17,242	18,645
Tseyi campground	25,000	32,231
Little Colorado Gorge	8,993	12,364

## NAVAJO GAMING ENTERPRISE

One of our proudest achievements in 2024 was the signing of the Lower Highway-89 Warranty Deed, which brings some new land into trust for the Navajo Nation for use by the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise (NNGE). This land is along U.S. Highway 89 near Flagstaff. The Horseman’s Lodge is located on this land. NNGE will be installing new gaming machines in addition to reopening the restaurant. Once fully operational, there will be approximately 100 new jobs for our urban Navajos living around the Flagstaff area. Currently, NNGE’s workforce is 85 percent Navajo and 5 percent from other tribal members. Every dollar of rent paid to the Navajo Nation from NNGE’s lease with the Navajo Nation will go directly into the Diné Relocatee Fund. NNGE expects Horseman’s Lodge will be fully operational in 2026.

## HOUSING

When I came into office, I launched the **1,000 Homes Initiative**, an ambitious effort that brings together nearly every segment of our Nation—Executive Branch divisions, tribal employees, chapter officials, the Navajo Nation Council, the Indian Health Service, our enterprises like NTUA and NHA, our local school systems, and many others. It’s a monumental task, but it reflects our commitment to ensuring that every Navajo family can live with dignity under a safe roof. We are currently at 928 homes either planned, under construction, or already completed. Through collaboration with our school systems, NTUA, NHA, General Services, NNVA, and the Division of Community Development we expect to fully complete our 1,000 home initiative in 2026.

To ensure our communities have access to healthcare we have worked very closely to ensure hospitals such as the Tuba City Regional Health Corporation and the Echo Cliffs Healthcare facility in Bodaway Gap have housing available for Doctors, nurses, and administrative staff.

At the Tuba City Regional Corporation Hospital they began construction in February to construct 48 additional homes. There could potentially be another 42 homes with future funding. At the Echo Cliffs healthcare facility they are currently in the design phase to complete 92 homes for staff.

This year, we've made great strides. I am proud to report that we have finalized **474 contracts** for housing work orders using **ARPA funds**. These contracts span several key programs:

- **74 homes** through the BIA Housing Improvement Program (HIP)
- **360 homes** under the Community Housing & Infrastructure Department (CHID)
- **84 homes** facilitated by the Navajo Hopi Land Commission (NHLC)

Each of these units represents a new beginning for a family who has waited far too long for a secure place to call home.

Our commitment to the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) is especially meaningful, given the historical restrictions that once prevented families from building or renovating their homes. On May 8, the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of **six new homes** in that region. Community members gathered to mark an important step forward reclaiming and revitalizing lands that had been unjustly frozen for decades.

According to a report from NHA they have 126 housing units in progress in Mariano Lake, Ojo Amarillo, Crownpoint, and through scattered site projects.

Meanwhile, we allocated **\$10.8 million** to build **84 homes** for **families living in the Navajo Partitioned Land**, the Former Bennett Freeze Area, and areas designated for relocatees, including Nahata' Dziil. Each home will feature three bedrooms, measuring between 1,000 and 1,100 square feet, at an average cost of **\$128,323**. Beyond the numbers, these dwellings promise to bring hope and stability to families who have faced generations of hardship.

For the upcoming year, the **Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office** will also continue to work to use the Diné Relocation Funds to assist applicants in purchasing items to renovate their home. **Thirty (30) clients** are being processed at this time. **Nine (9) clients** have successfully secured

quotes and their purchase orders have been processed; the home repairs are in active repair status. **Twenty-one (21) clients** are obtaining price quotes or in the phase of getting their homes assessed by the NHLCO. The Diné relocatee funds has seen a \$76,000 increase since 2024 with funding of \$188,000 set for 2025. The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office does not have any funding at this time for labor due to the ongoing Continuing Resolution the Navajo Nation is operating under, but we hope to address this in the next budget that is passed.

Under the **BIA Housing Improvement Program**, we've completed renovations for **six homes** in Shiprock, Rock Point, Lukachukai, Pinon, and Dilkon—doubling last year's renovation efforts. In **2023**, only three homes were renovated in Rough Rock, Coppermine, and Indian Wells, underscoring just how much progress we've made. Moreover, using HIP's ARPA funds, we've **delivered seven manufactured units** to Kayenta, Coyote Canyon, Kinlichee, Red Valley, and Sweetwater. An additional **ten homes** are currently under processing for our second work order.

Every new home constructed or renovated is more than just a building—it is a foundation for education, health, and prosperity. As we continue to advance our **1,000 Homes Initiative**, I ask for your continued support and cooperation. Working hand in hand, we can ensure that every Diné family has a safe and sturdy place to call home, honoring our sacred obligation to care for one another and strengthen our Nation for generations to come.

Under the **Navajo Nation Veterans Administration**, we have contracts with the Southwest Indian Foundation, Bitco, and the Sparrow Group. Using these contracts we have **built 13 homes** and have **renovated 3 over the last year** for some of our veterans. We have hosted four key-turning ceremonies while the remaining homes await connectivity from our utility providers. **Twenty-three (23)** homes are currently under construction, and we have **one (1) home renovation in progress**. Plans are in the works to build 170 homes.

We have allocated tens of millions of dollars in other housing projects. The **Division of Community Development (DCD)** has **three (3) work orders to build 360 modular or manufactured homes** across the Navajo Nation **using \$55.1 million in ARPA funds**. Each modular unit will be a three-bedroom, 1-to-2-bathroom unit ranging from 900 to 1,400 sq. ft. Each home installation includes skirting, site development, leveling/grading, compaction, gutter systems, and delivery.

Under the **Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID)**, housing production will begin this month and we expect a **production rate of 24 homes per month. In this year alone – 2025 – we expect 272 homes to be produced.** Looking forward into 2025, CHID plans to continue assisting housing renovation applicants using general funds. CHID is reviewing over 100 applicants to assist with home renovations. CHID will also continue monitoring new housing construction and delivery of homes to eligible applicants under ARPA housing, until all funds are spent.

Under BIA HIP, we have over **\$9 million in annual funding** and **\$3.5 million in ARPA funds** to build **104 homes**. HIP is federally funded and based on the number of applications received each year. Some of these individuals have applied consistently over 10 years to receive a home.

Under the BIA HIP program, **870 applications were received** showcasing the tremendous need for housing. Out of 104 applications, 5 will receive renovations while the rest will receive new homes

Last year, the **Arizona Department of Housing** awarded a \$2 million grant to a Utah non-profit - Yee Ha'ólní Doo – to address housing needs on the Navajo Nation. This is the first time the state's housing trust fund has been allocated to a nonprofit group. Grant money will cover repairs and improvements to homes for at least one hundred Navajo families. We look forward to the home repairs this organization will bring.

Our **Navajo Employee Housing and Airport Maintenance** offices have collaborated to address housing maintenance issues for our tribal employees living in employee housing. Both programs began tackling move-out renovations on several homes that were in need of minor repairs and maintenance. Both programs working collectively were able to turn around **32 rental units** and get them ready for occupancy over the 3-month period.

## Looking Forward

CHID plans to continue assisting housing renovation applicants using general funds. CHID is looking at over 100 applicants to assist with home renovations. CHID will also continue monitoring new housing construction and delivery of homes to eligible applicants under ARPA housing, until all funds are spent.

In 2025 NECA will be working with Navajo Housing Authority to implement improvements to their lagoons, streets, fencing, and drainage areas.

The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office is working to use the Diné Relocation Funds to assist applicants in purchasing items to renovate their home. **30 Clients** are being processed at this time. **Nine clients** have successfully secured the three (3) quotes, and the PO has been processed; the home repairs are in active repair status. There are 21 Clients working to obtain price quotes or in the phase of getting their homes assessed by the NHLCO. The Diné relocatee funds has seen a \$76 thousand increase since 2024 with funding of \$188 thousand set for 2025. The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office does not have any funding at this time for labor due to the ongoing continuing resolution, but we hope to address this in the next budget that is passed.

### **Homesite leases**

We approved about 75 percent more homesite leases than last year. In 2024, we approved about 1,200 homesite leases – this is an increase from 700 in 2023.

### **Ensuring Indoor Bathrooms for Our Elders and Families**

Before I took office, I spent years working in some of our most remote communities and saw firsthand the daily hardships our families face—especially when it comes to housing and basic utilities like electricity and water. One of the most glaring examples of this challenge is the absence of indoor bathrooms. In far too many rural homes, families still rely on outhouses located several feet away, an especially difficult reality for our elders and those who rely on wheelchairs or walkers. I simply cannot imagine my grandmother or grandfather braving the freezing cold to reach an outhouse, or struggling to step over door frames in the dark of night.

Recognizing this need, my administration has made bathroom additions a top priority. For many years, some organizations wouldn’t even run waterlines to a house until the home’s bathroom infrastructure was already built. To address this gap, we have expanded the use of **cistern systems** in areas without waterline connections, ensuring families can still use their bathrooms and maintain a decent quality of life.

In partnership with the Division of Community Development (DCD) and the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA), we have made significant progress. **Twelve (12) work**

orders have been issued to NECA to construct **449 bathroom additions** for families in need. Of these, **321 are in progress**. I am proud to report that, as of December 2024:

- **251 bathroom additions** are currently under construction.
- **128 bathroom additions** are fully completed—an impressive leap from just **27** completed projects by the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2024.

During our efforts, we encountered several families whose homes already had bathroom facilities but required renovations to bring them up to a safe and functional standard. To better serve these families, on October 31, 2024, the Navajo Nation Council passed **Resolution CO-41-24**, amending the expenditure plan of **CJN-29-22**. This crucial change allows us to include **renovations** of existing bathrooms under our bathroom additions program, and it also streamlines the approval process by waiving certain Council authorizations.

Each bathroom built or renovated means greater dignity, safety, and comfort for our elders, our children, and every family member in between. We will continue to fight for these fundamental improvements—no matter how remote the community—because having a warm, accessible bathroom is not a luxury, but a basic necessity for all Diné.

## Water Infrastructure

This past year, we made historic strides in addressing the challenge of access to water. Navajo Engineering Construction Authority (NECA) reported that **258 homes** received **water and wastewater systems**, while another **850 homes were serviced** through a lift station replacement which reduces failures and improves services for these homes.

Through the dedicated work of the Department of Water Resources, **754 windmills** were repaired across the Navajo Nation, providing vital support for our ranchers and farmers. While this marks a slight decrease from the 1,135 windmills repaired the previous year, the **Department remains on track to meet its ambitious goal of repairing 700 windmills in 2025**, ensuring these critical resources continue to support our communities.

Our commitment to expanding access to municipal water was equally impactful. In 2024, the Department of Water Resources oversaw the **construction of 26 miles of water pipelines**, spread across six projects throughout the Navajo Nation. This represents a **37% increase compared to**

**last year's construction of 19 miles of waterlines.** Looking ahead, the Department is setting its sights on doubling this progress, with a goal of constructing 53 miles of pipelines in the coming year.

We also celebrated the groundbreaking of the **Beacon Bisti Water Project**, a transformative \$7 million investment that will bring clean, reliable water to over 6,800 Diné residents in eight communities, including Coyote Canyon, Tse'ii'ah, Nahodishgish, Crownpoint, Little Water, Becenti, White Rock, and Lake Valley. On October 25, community members from across the region gathered to witness the start of this 46-mile water pipeline, which is part of the larger Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. This collaboration, led by the Bureau of Reclamation and supported by the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation, City of Gallup, NTUA, IHS, and NECA, underscores the power of partnership in achieving meaningful change.

Another major accomplishment was breaking ground on the \$20 million Tohajilee waterline project, which impacts 1,600 residents within the community. This project builds out a 7.5-mile pipeline to treat water from the Jicarilla Apache Nation and connects Tohajilee to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility. Construction is expected to be completed this fall meaning residents will no longer have to depend on the failing well system.

NTUA saw some major progress as well. NTUA:

- Extended waterlines and septic systems to the homes of **109 Navajo families**,
- Completed **29 water cistern and septic systems** for homes of Navajo families;
- Completed **1 major wastewater project**;
- Completed **40 major water infrastructure projects** (26 water distribution systems were improved serving 26 regional communities);
- Replaced **7 water distribution lines** that were in danger of being washed out and lowered by utilizing directional drilling equipment to avoid future washouts;
- Replaced and **upgraded the Dilkon Waterline Booster Station**;
- **Refurbished 2 water storage tanks**; and
- Placed in service the **Lower Greasewood Water Treatment Plant**.

In addition, construction started in 2024 for three (3) wastewater treatment plants in Kayenta, Chinle, and Shiprock communities, and for nine (9) major water projects including the Aneth water

treatment arsenic removal system, a water loading station, and two new deep-water wells in Chilchinbeto and Tsaile.

In 2025, NTUA will continue its efforts to:

- provide water service and septic systems to the homes of **575 Navajo families**;
- install **water cistern and septic systems for 201 homes**;
- continue with the **major construction of 3 wastewater treatment facilities**; and
- proceed with the construction of the **water treatment plant in Chinle**.

*Tó éí iiná* (water is life), and these accomplishments reflect my administration's commitment to ensuring every Navajo family has access to the resources they need to thrive. Let us continue to work together to build a stronger, more resilient future for our Nation.

## Electricity

One of the pressing challenges we face today is ensuring every household on our Nation has access to reliable electricity. Far too many families have spent generations living in homes without lights, refrigeration, or the most basic conveniences that most of the world takes for granted. I am proud to say that, in 2024, we made meaningful strides to change this reality and bring our communities into a brighter future.

In 2014, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) provided electric service to the homes of **407 Navajo families**, set up **one (1) home with a residential solar** off grid unit, **extended electricity to 380 homes** to the NTUA electric system; and used ARPA funding to **connect 26 families** to the electric systems of neighboring utilities.

To stretch the NTUA grant resources as far as possible to provide electric service to as many homes as possible, **177 families of the 263 families were connected using ARPA funds** under the **Light Up Navajo V** and **Mutual Aid In-Training initiatives**, which dramatically reduced the construction costs of providing service to each home.

Through these programs almost **58 miles of new powerline were built** with the assistance of 44 outside utilities that paid the labor of their crews to extend electric powerlines. In 2025, NTUA plans to connect 523 families to the electric grid, complete house wiring for 250 homes, and install 125 off-grid residential solar systems to Navajo homes. NTUA also plans to upgrade or build seven

substations while working on transmission line projects in Nenahnezad, Newcomb, Tohatchi, Cudei, Lechee, Gap, Indian Wells, and Dilkon.

Meanwhile, our Division of Community Development began by conducting careful **assessments of twenty-two (22) homes in Thoreau**, identifying the specific wiring and equipment each family needs to secure safe, dependable power. These inspections might seem like a small step, but they are crucial in making sure we have the right infrastructure in place for the long term.

We also turned our focus to projects in places like **Naschitti**, where seven homes are now a step closer to having electricity—an accomplishment made possible by a **\$240,000 agreement** that ensures families in remote areas finally receive the assistance they deserve. We also launched a new powerline expansion in Indian Wells, supported by a Notice to Proceed issued in November 2024, which will help meet not only residential needs but also the growing demand for commercial development in that region.

Our progress does not stop there. In **Dilkon**, a project worth over **\$1 million** is connecting **twenty-three (23) households**, while in **Greasewood**, a similar investment is bringing electricity to sixteen (**16**) more. These figures might seem like mere data points, but I want everyone to envision the real human impact: young children able to study under electric light at night, families using modern appliances to cook and store healthy foods, and elders finally enjoying the comfort of air conditioning and heat.

In November, DCD closed out a **HUD grant with a leftover amount of \$302,734** which HUD authorized to be **used for the Aneth scattered Powerline project**. This project is planned to service **thirteen (13) homes** and has **until December 29, 2026 to be completed**.

This year, we also closed out a major federal award, combined with matching funds from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and our local chapters, to serve a total of one hundred fourteen households across eight communities. Spanning fifty-one miles of new electrical lines, this accomplishment stands as a testament to our commitment to seeing every corner of the Navajo Nation share in the promise of modern infrastructure.

In **Leupp, Grand Falls, Indian Wells, Standing Rock, and beyond**, families that once lived completely off the grid are experiencing the transformative power of electricity. In **Standing Rock**,

for example, **nine (9) homes** were hooked up in July, forever changing the day-to-day lives of the families who call that area home. In Mexican Springs, five (5) households gained access to power in September, **with an additional five (5)** following soon after through Capital Outlay funding—fulfilling a vision that the late Senator Pinto championed during his lifetime.

In Dennehotso, we worked hand-in-hand with the Capital Projects Management Department and NTUA to bring **electricity to five (5) more homes** as part of a broader plan to connect twenty-seven total customers. These milestones aren't just about installing wires and utility poles—they are about preserving health, bolstering education, and cultivating opportunities for small businesses.

While most of our endeavors focused on traditional powerline installations, we are also embracing renewable innovations. We celebrated an important agreement with Source Global to deploy solar-powered “hydredo” panels, offering a sustainable alternative in locations where standard grid extensions are difficult.

Additionally, through an **\$8 million** grant, we partnered with Native Renewables and the U.S. Department of Energy to bring solar energy solutions to thousands of Navajo and Hopi families, ensuring that even our most remote communities do not get left behind in the clean energy revolution.

Finally, NTUA secured a \$100 million dollar loan from the US Department of Agriculture to install solar with battery at three locations and solar only at six other locations. All the locations will provide power to NTUA to serve its customers. What is exciting is that 60% of the loan is eligible for forgiveness when all the projects are completed.

The three solar with battery storage projects will be in Cudei Chapter, Ganado Chapter, and Round Rock Chapter. The six solar only projects will be located at the Fort Defiance Headquarters, in Dilkon Chapter, in Crownpoint Chapter, in LeChee Chapter, and two in Chinle Chapter.

These initiatives illustrate how we are steadily bridging the infrastructure gap—one powerline at a time, one solar panel at a time—so that every Navajo household can share in the progress of the twenty-first century. I see these achievements not just as promises kept, but as a shared victory for all of us: for the children who will now grow up studying under electric light, for the elders who

can rely on a heated home in winter, and for the entrepreneurs ready to open new businesses that will spark growth in our chapters.

We have much more work ahead, but each electrified home brings us closer to our goal of uplifting every Diné family, strengthening our economy, and honoring the legacy of our ancestors who dreamed of a brighter tomorrow.

## **Farms and Ranches**

Last year, we spoke with Bashas' leadership about how our people can gain access to local foods and to address the food desert situation on Navajo. To date, **we only have 13 grocers on the Navajo Nation**. We asked that they help us figure out how to purchase from local farmers and ranchers. We shared our efforts to innovate creation of smaller grocery stores in small communities. In response, Bashas' Family of Stores hosted its **first-ever grocery vendor summit hosting 50 attendees**, focused on connecting with local businesses, grocers, producers and suppliers with the potential to have their products sold in their stores or develop ideas into viable businesses. As a result, Bashas' is working with several small businesses to get products in their stores. There is one success story with "**Rez Meets Urban Zesty Salsa**," which is the name of the company and the product name. This was released on January 1 in five of the Diné Markets at Window Rock, Shiprock, Kayenta, Crownpoint and Chinle. Another example is "**Bidii Baby Foods**," which is very close to launching. Two more are in the works: "**Jinjee Coffee**" and "**Blue Ron's Tree and Firewood Services**." Bashas' is also working with a lamb & mutton producer/supplier.

Bashas' also developed a smaller footprint grocery store concept that has the potential to serve more remote communities across the Navajo Nation, providing critical food access. These stores would include the same key departments found in a larger format store, providing fresh and healthy grocery essential items, along with a small selection of convenience items and services. Our Division of Economic Development is in talks with Bashas to discuss how to launch the small grocer initiative.

## **Wool and Mohair Purchasing event**

Our elders have taught us respect for the land and animals. This year, the Department of Agriculture, Diné College, and the USDA revived the wool and mohair program after 30 years,

and hosted purchasing events. The event offered \$0.70 per pound from the Navajo Nation and additional incentive payments from the USDA based on wool and mohair quality. Over four days, 641 producers brought nearly 150,000 pounds of wool and mohair to earn \$118,000.

### **We resumed the feral horse program**

We reinstated the equine reward program to manage feral horses, which number over 80,000. The USDA will open an office in Window Rock this fall to streamline services for Navajo farmers and producers.

### **New Veterinarian Hired**

The Navajo Nation Hired **Dr. David Manuelito** to be our permanent **veterinarian**. I welcomed Dr. David Manuelito last February, the **Navajo Nation's first Veterinarian in over two years**, to the Navajo Nation Veterinary Management. I am so excited that we finally have a Navajo veterinarian familiar with our land and the needs of all our animals. The Navajo Nation Veterinary Management Program has needed a veterinarian since 2022, hindering the program in offering complete veterinarian services specific to the animal owners of the Navajo Nation.

Dr. David Manuelito graduated from New Mexico State University Animal Science Program and Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Manuelito also has over 15 years of experience working at Thal Equine Regional Equine Hospital and Cedar Animal Medical Center.

In 2023, I signed a memorandum of agreement with the University of Arizona to reward seven (7) eligible Navajo veterinary students with a full scholarship, with its funding shared between the Navajo Nation and the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine. I hope to bring more veterinarians home.

The Brand Management program (inclusive of the livestock custody fund) issued 1,150 livestock inspections that consisted of approximately 9,200 cattle. The livestock inspection ensures that all livestock going to market are legally transported to off-reservation sale yards to prevent livestock theft.

### **NNEPA: Gold King Mine spill**

The San Juan River Mitigation Fund Expenditure Plan received administrative review approvals to proceed with legislation, Resources Development and Budget and Finance Committees need to

approve this expenditure plan.

FY 2025 is first of a 3-year Gold King Mine Plan to use \$1,500,000 to cleanup the Many Devils Wash watershed trash dumps in Shiprock, NM.

NNEPA Completed a fish tissue study of the San Juan River and metals source tracking study in the San Juan watershed using WIIN Act grant funding that ends September 30, 2024. The final report is forthcoming.

## NAVAJO PARKS AND RECREATION

Visitation to the Navajo Nation Tribal Parks and the Navajo Nation Museum is up almost 30% from last year. We had over 1.9 million visitors to the Navajo Tribal Parks last year. This is up from 1.5 million visitors in 2023. The majority of visitors are to Lake Powell Tribal Park.

The good news is that for the region around Tuba City, we believe the Little Colorado River Gorge has most potential for development. We do need to work on getting more amenities in the region. The Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Division of Economic Development on getting more hotels, RV parks, and roadside rest areas within the Navajo Nation. We also believe that tourism to Monument Valley can increase with more promotion.

### Tribal Parks Visitation and Revenue Report

<b>Parks 2024</b>	<b>Visitation</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Lake Powell Tribal Park	1,042,762	8,410,176
Monument Valley Tribal Park	485,978	4,140,749
Four Corners Monument	239,363	1,914,904
Chinle Cottonwood Campground	47,030	240,632
Navajo Welcome Center	56,192	379,142
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,871,325</b>	<b>15,058,603</b>
Navajo Nation Museum	57,388	199,439

<b>Parks 2023</b>	<b>Visitation</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
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Lake Powell Tribal Park	991,365	7,951,023
Monument Valley Tribal Park	414,477	3,533,343
Chinle Cottonwood Campground	37,536	194,528
Navajo Welcome Center	27,068	296,312
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500,643</b>	<b>12,227,368</b>

### 2024 Project Update

	<b>Park</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project Information</b>	<b>Contractor</b>
1	Four Corners Monument	Restroom Demotion	\$345,653	A new facility was constructed without adequate soil testing. Major foundational issues caused unstable foundational shifting. Building was unsafe, required demolition.	All Nations Environmental
2	Four Corners Monument	Three (3) Phase Powerline	\$901,470	A powerline extension from Teec Nos Pos community to Four Corners Monument. Six miles of powerline extension brought for community and park use.	Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
3	Four Corners Monument	Utility connection into park administration building	\$693,209	NTUA provided utility line to park boundary and a contractor was hired to connect the utility line to the tribal park Administration Building	Rock Gap Engineering, LLC

4	Four Corners Monument	Sixteen Section Modular Restroom Neutral Facility, funds available	\$1,212,500	Bid has been awarded for this project to construct a sixteen-unit modular restroom facility located at the demolished restroom facility location southeast of the monument. <a href="#">Construction is to begin 2025.</a>	Rock Gap Engineering, LLC
5	Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park	Two Waterless Restrooms for two locations, funds available	\$862,647	This contract has been signed and awaiting a contract number to begin construction for two, six-unit waterless restroom facilities to be placed at John Fords Point and Navajo Code Talker Point. <a href="#">Construction is to begin 2025.</a>	Keyah Construction, Inc.

**Sovereignty**

**Clark v. Haaland Litigation (10th Circuit):** This case involved a collateral attack by non-Indians on the Nation’s San Juan water rights. We won this case at the federal district court level, and received a favorable decision in November of 2024, affirming dismissal of the case based on the Nation’s sovereign immunity. This was an important win protecting the Nation’s sovereignty and affirming our water rights.

**Bears Ears**

The Nation filed briefs and participated in preparation for oral argument regarding Bears Ears, also pending in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit. This is comprised of two consolidated two separate lawsuits challenging the Biden Monument. One case was filed by the State of Utah and two Utah counties. The second case was filed by several individuals who claim to have been negatively affected by the Biden Monument. The Nation, along with three of the other four Bears Ears Coalition tribes, successfully moved to intervene in the case. A group of NGOs also intervened which were denied. We then filed motions to dismiss the complaints. The Federal District Court of Utah dismissed the

complaints on August 11, 2023. The plaintiffs appealed the ruling almost immediately. We are awaiting the appeal decision in this case.

### **Opioid Litigation**

The Nation has participated in the Nation-wide opioid litigation. As of December 1, 2024, the Navajo Nation received \$63,068,854.73 in 2023, and two payments in 2024 of \$14,178,708.88 and \$3.7M. The Navajo Nation further expects to receive an additional \$84,709,381.68 in 2025 through 2036, for a grand total of \$166,443,313.53.

### **Water Rights**

Finally, when I came into office, one of my highest priorities was securing our water rights—because without secure water rights, we cannot have a thriving economy. Last year, we introduced two major water rights bills in Congress: the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act. Although we made significant progress on both bills last Congress, we ran out of time before Congress adjourned, and neither bill passed. We were not alone - there were about a dozen Indian Water Rights bills overall, and Congress failed to pass them before the end of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. We are working with our delegation to reintroduce both bills this year.

Despite these challenges, I am pleased to report that Congress has ensured the construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) will continue. Congress included language in the Continuing Resolution that increases the “cost ceiling” of the NGWSP. As a result of Congress’s action, yesterday Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton announced \$120 million for the uninterrupted construction of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project. I am very proud of this because I educated our various Congressional Delegations about the need to ensure the language was included in the Continuing Resolution. I spoke with Representative Ciscomani who serves on the Appropriations Committee, days before Congress passed the Continuing Resolution. I thanked Representative Ciscomani, Senator Heinrich, Senator Lujan, and Representative Leger de Fernandez for their advocacy.

Beyond the NGWSP, my administration remains focused on advancing our two essential water rights settlements: the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and the Navajo Nation Rio San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act. These measures will resolve

longstanding disputes over water allocations, ensuring the Navajo Nation has equitable access to vital water resources. It is worth noting that we have secured significant bipartisan support for our settlements, including our Arizona settlement. Senator Kelly, then Senator Sinema, Representative Ciscomani, Representative Crane, then Representative Gallego (now Senator Gallego), Representative Grijalva, Representative Schweikert, and Representative Stanton all sponsored our Arizona settlement in the last Congress. I am not aware of any other time when these members sponsored the same bill. We have strong support for our bill.

Securing these rights will have transformative effects on public health, economic development, and our cultural traditions. When families have safe, reliable water supplies, they can invest in agriculture, housing, and businesses—building stronger local economies. Most importantly, water is sacred to the Diné people, integral to our cultural practices and way of life. By securing our water rights, we protect our sovereignty and ensure that future generations inherit a Nation where they can thrive.

Together, we will continue to work tirelessly in Congress and beyond to fulfill these promises. *Tó éí iiná* (water is life), and we are taking bold steps to safeguard it for every Navajo family—now and for the future.

## **EDUCATION**

In 2024, my administration, alongside the Department of Diné Education (DODE), has made significant progress in enhancing the educational experiences of Navajo students. Together, we have prioritized improving facilities, expanding opportunities, and addressing student safety and well-being.

### **Investing in Academic Infrastructure and Opportunities**

A key achievement this year was the \$5 million funding approval for the expansion of Utah State University's academic facility in Monument Valley, signed on February 12. This project represents a powerful investment in the future of our students, equipping them with state-of-the-art resources and academic opportunities. Additionally, groundbreaking ceremonies at Tohatchi High School, Crystal Boarding School, and Many Farms Lobo School demonstrate our focus on providing safe, modern learning environments. The Navajo Nation assists these schools and others in ensuring

that the funding for these projects is timely provided. In addition to these schools, we have supported other schools like Greasewood.

At the high school level, we helped fund a \$10 million dormitory at Navajo Prep. We celebrated the grand opening on this building on August 7<sup>th</sup>. This 13,724-square-foot facility now houses 32 students this school year. A big amenity for the students is the addition of washers and dryers. Around 65% of the student body currently resides on campus and often have to travel to laundromats on the weekend to wash their clothing before the school week starts again.

### **Enhancing Early Childhood Education**

In March, we successfully **converted 163 Head Start-Preschool slots into Early Head Start-Toddler slots**, expanding access to quality education for our youngest learners. These efforts were complemented by the **\$24.2 million secured in September** to replace playground equipment at 16 childcare centers, creating safe and engaging spaces for our children.

### **Fostering Youth Development**

The **opening of the Crownpoint Youth Center** marks a milestone for youth engagement, offering programs for personal development and recreation. Meanwhile, the **Chinle Land Withdrawal Award for 30 acres** paves the way for dedicated youth program spaces, enriching opportunities for growth and learning.

Shortly after my inauguration in January 2023, I met with the Office of Dine Youth (ODY) to discuss his initiative to build more Youth Centers on the Navajo Nation. The Office of Dine Youth shared with me that there are Youth Centers in the Shiprock, Crownpoint and Fort Defiance communities. The communities that need youth centers are Chinle, Tuba City and Dilkon. My team started to work with the ODY team to start planning new youth centers in Chinle, Tuba City and Dilkon. As the President's team started working on the plans for the new centers, there was a new Youth Center that was in the final construction phase which was the Crownpoint Youth Center that opened in September of 2024. After a tour of the Crownpoint Youth Center, my vision is to incorporate similar architectural drawings and aesthetics for the other proposed Youth Centers.

The Chinle Youth Center land withdrawal for 30 acres was signed and approved on December 12, 2024. This was accomplished after many meetings between the Office of Dine Youth, the General Land Development Department, OPVP representatives, Vikki Shirley and Rena Dodson, and Council Delegates, Shawna Claw and Otto Tso. Chinle Youth Center project timeline is August 1,

2025, to August 1, 2027, for the Archaeological clearances, environmental and biological reviews, geotechnical survey and engineering, design plan and construction. The project cost estimate is \$20 million for the same design as the Crownpoint Youth Complex.

The Tuba City land withdrawal for 2.3 acres was signed and approved on February 28, 2024, by the General Land Development Department to proceed with the Youth Project. The next step for Tuba City Youth Center is to secure a project team from the Division of Community Development, Capital Project Management Department (CPMD). We have had numerous meetings with the General Land Development Department (GLDD) on developing maps and scope of the project.

I have appointed Mrs. Virginia Nelson, Interim Department Director of ODY, as the Project Lead. Assisting Mrs. Nelson are the ODY Program Supervisors, Aljerino Tsedah in Chinle, and Roy Williams of Tuba City. We are also working closely with Delegate Shawna Claw and Delegate Otto Tso.

### **Preserving Language and Culture**

Cultural and language preservation remains a cornerstone of my efforts to ensure the survival of our sacred language. The establishment of Diné Bizaad Teachers Day on October 18 celebrates the vital contributions of language educators, while assessments of 466 students and 53 teachers in Diné language proficiency signify strides in revitalizing our language. My executive order affirming students’ right to wear traditional regalia during graduations further highlights my dedication to honoring and integrating Navajo heritage in education.

I signed an executive order on January 14, 2025 that all written government documents shall include at least one word or phrase in Diné Bizaad and all of the Executive Branch is directed to immediately begin investigating opportunities for non-Diné Bizaad speaking Navajo Nation staff to learn Diné Bizaad, and look for ways to learn and teach Navajo.

### **Advancing Student Achievement**

In 2024, we shifted our focus from compliance to cultivating a culture of continuous improvement. By restructuring DODE operations, we aim to better support Tribally Controlled and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-operated schools, implementing new high-stakes assessments to enhance accountability and collaboration. Consultations with 82 school districts and charter schools ensure that federal education funds are strategically used to address the unique needs of Native American students.

### Supporting Youth Employment

To support youth employment, \$2.2 million was allocated. I also settled an outstanding bill to 4-H youth for released cattle and signed an MOU to expedite tribal membership determinations for Navajo children in state custody cases.

### Building Strategic Partnerships

My signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Johns Hopkins University in May symbolizes our commitment to innovative educational research and programs, positioning our students for success in a rapidly evolving world.

Through these accomplishments, we are driving real progress in education for the Navajo people. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students, empowering them to achieve their full potential while strengthening our Nation’s cultural and educational foundation.

### E-Rate and the Navajo Nation: Bridging Connectivity for Schools and Libraries

#### ERATE number for special construction (NRC) per year and per service provider

Funding Year	Committed Total Cost	Total Authorized Disbursement
2020	\$46,603,199.23	\$26,046,654.47
2021	\$18,191,169.08	\$978,108.15
2022	\$4,866,722.34	\$0.00
2023	\$5,601,195.15	\$0.00
2024	\$5,718,644.95	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$80,980,930.75	\$27,024,762.62

	Committed Total Cost	Total Authorized Disbursement
NTUA Wireless, LLC	\$15,255,502.56	\$7,140,386.02

Oso Internet Solutions, LLC	\$2,106,798.00	\$2,001,458.09
Smith Bagley, Inc.	\$20,901,762.46	\$0.00
SWC Telesolutions, Inc.	\$42,716,867.73	\$17,882,918.51
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$80,980,930.75</b>	<b>\$27,024,762.62</b>

**ERATE numbers for recurrent cost per year and per service providers**

Year	Committed Total Cost	Total Authorized Disbursement
2020	\$3,083,231.76	\$76,500.00
2021	\$3,234,060.00	\$828,311.71
2022	\$3,412,352.00	\$1,310,506.84
2023	\$3,583,269.94	\$1,441,138.81
2024	\$3,422,296.92	\$0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$16,735,210.62</b>	<b>\$3,656,457.36</b>

	Committed Total Cost	Total Authorized Disbursement
NTUA Wireless, LLC	\$13,070,612.50	\$3,082,110.15
Oso Internet Solutions, LLC	\$285,888.00	\$191,919.60
Smith Bagley, Inc.	\$426,650.00	\$0.00
SWC Telesolutions, Inc.	\$2,952,060.12	\$382,427.61
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$16,735,210.62</b>	<b>\$3,656,457.36</b>

**ERATE number for C2 (networking internal) per year and per service provider (one vendor award given in 2022)**

Year	Committed Total Cost	Total Authorized Disbursement
2022	\$2,194,489.34	\$1,865,315.94
Grand Total	\$2,194,489.34	\$1,865,315.94

With funding from the FCC’s E-Rate program, the Nation connected 16 Chapter houses and 11 Head Start programs to a fiber internet connection – the best internet connection available. This year, dozens more chapter houses will be connected and upgraded with millions of dollars in E-Rate funding. It’s important to keep our students connected, and our crews are working hard alongside Sacred Wind Communications and the Navajo Nation Land Department to install the technologies necessary to connect our communities so that our students can succeed.

Our goal in 2025 is to, work with SWC & NNLD to ensure 27 additional chapters and 11 Head Starts have fiber construction completed by June 30, 2025.

**Financial Assistance**

We have had many of our Navajo families encounter unforeseen circumstance that require immediate financial assistance. Our Financial Assistance Unit within the Division of Children and Family Services continues to strive and provide the following financial assistance to eligible individuals and households.

Type	Agency	Amount -FY23	Amount - FY24
<b>Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program</b>	Crownpoint	\$790,200.00	\$212,300.00
	Shiprock	\$446,907.00	\$161,300.00
	Tuba City	\$2,000.00	\$301,200.00
	Chinle	\$344,400.00	\$215,000.00
	Ft. Defiance	\$742,600.00	\$157,900.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$2,326,107.00</b>
<b>School Clothing</b>	Crownpoint	\$297,000.00	\$486,200.00

	Shiprock	\$190,500.00	\$386,400.00
	Tuba City	\$56,250.00	\$641,850.00
	Chinle	\$238,250.00	\$607,500.00
	Ft. Defiance	\$211,000.00	\$607,550.00
	Off Reservation	\$257,500.00	\$694,300.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,250,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,423,800.00</b>
<b>Burial Assistance</b>	Crownpoint	\$264,500.00	\$1,414,500.00
	Shiprock	\$261,500.00	\$1,023,000.00
	Tuba City	\$186,555.00	\$1,092,500.00
	Chinle	\$239,055.00	\$1,393,821.00
	Ft. Defiance	\$262,500.00	\$1,076,500.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,214,110.00</b>	<b>\$6,000,321.00</b>
<b>Community Service Block Grant</b>	Crownpoint	\$108,675.00	\$46,575.00
	Shiprock	\$78,246.00	\$27,945.00
	Tuba City	\$52,164.00	\$37,260.00
	Chinle	\$65,205.00	\$31,671.00
	Ft. Defiance	\$130,410.00	\$42,849.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$434,700.00</b>	<b>\$186,300.00</b>

**Facilities Maintenance**

The Facility Maintenance department **spent \$2,069,950 on HVAC replacements for Navajo Nation buildings.** A total of **28 HVAC units** have been **replaced** by various contractors over the past year. The Facility Maintenance Department is currently waiting for the passage of a

comprehensive budget to begin the next phase of HVAC replacements for 12 additional locations. This includes the monitoring of the current HVAC and replacing the aging DODE boiler.

### **Internships:**

This past year, my administration took a significant step toward securing the future of the Navajo Nation by investing in our youth and preparing them to lead with purpose and vision. As an example, in 2024, the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) launched its second Summer Internship Program, a transformative initiative aimed at fostering the next generation of leaders for our Nation.

The **program welcomed eight (8) promising interns**, including three Navajo students and others deeply committed to tribal affairs. Over the course of eight weeks, these young leaders gained hands-on experience in federal policymaking, legislative advocacy, and strategic communication. They honed their research and analytical skills, engaged directly with members of Congress and federal officials, and developed policy portfolios that addressed some of the most pressing challenges facing the Navajo Nation.

What set this program apart was its emphasis on leadership development through experiential learning and mentorship. These interns did not just observe—they actively participated in congressional hearings, advocacy sessions, and high-level negotiations. They were guided every step of the way by NNWO staff, including Executive Director Justin Ahasteen and Communications Officer Marlena Forster, who ensured the interns connected their professional aspirations with their cultural heritage. This mentorship reinforced the importance of integrating Diné values into their work and helped them grow as leaders deeply rooted in their identity.

The success of this program has already captured national attention. Schools across the country are eager to partner with NNWO, recognizing the program's unique ability to blend professional development with cultural enrichment. This growing interest is a testament to the program's impact and its potential to shape a pipeline of leaders ready to tackle tomorrow's challenges.

For the interns, this was more than a summer job—it was a transformative journey that deepened their connection to their Diné identity and strengthened their commitment to serving our

communities. These young leaders emerged from the program not only with skills and knowledge but with a renewed sense of purpose and pride.

As a Nation, we must continue to invest in education and leadership development. Programs like this ensure that we are preparing the advocates, policymakers, and visionaries who will amplify the Navajo voice in Washington, D.C., and beyond. Together, we are building a brighter future—one where the leaders of tomorrow are prepared to protect our sovereignty, advance economic development, and uphold the values that make us Diné.

Through leadership from former Attorney General Ethel Branch the **Navajo Nation Department of Justice** was able to **recruit at minimum 11 interns** from various colleges. Over the summer we gave each of these students a place to live and experience rotating through the Water Rights Unit, the Litigation Unit, Natural Resources Unit, the Finance Unit and more.

This allowed each of these students to experience the different aspects of law on the Navajo Nation and allowed them different experiences in various capacities so looking forward they can decide which area of law to specialize in.

**Two interns have accepted jobs with the NNDOJ**, with others to have expressed interest when they graduate from law school.

Each summer the **Office of the First Lady** has taken on **one intern to experience how her office advocates against social ills** across the Navajo Nation and undertakes initiatives to strengthen families. Last year, her office organized a march against the transportation or uranium, hosted coat drives for homeless individuals and celebrated the birth of all Navajo Babies born in the past year by sharing resources and education at the first ever Welcome Baby event.

We also celebrated Kassie John being crowned Miss Indian World. To celebrate her accomplishment and her future work as an ambassador we co-hosted a Pow Wow at the Shiprock High School.

This is how we secure the legacy of our Nation: by focusing on education today to prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### New Jails, Substations and Field Offices

I'm pleased to announce that we have taken significant steps forward in improving our law enforcement facilities and expanding our police presence.

First, on October 24 and December 11, 2024, we **replaced the Window Rock and Shiprock detention centers with two new 60-foot-by-100-foot jail modulars**. The previous facilities, built in the early 1950s, were riddled with structural and environmental issues that endangered both inmates and staff. By installing these modern, safer structures, we're ensuring that our detention centers meet basic health and security standards—upholding the respect and dignity of all who enter these facilities.

We have also seen an increase in criminal activity in some areas of our Nation, likely due to the limited police services available. To address these concerns in the Utah/Navajo communities, the **Navajo Police Department established Northern Area Field Operations** using an unoccupied Aneth Chapter facility. This office will house commission personnel dedicated to patrolling and responding to emergency calls, enhancing our law enforcement reach in communities that have long felt underserved.

In the Eastern Navajo Agency, **our Division of Public Safety created an Eastern Field Office** at the Dzil Nahoodilii (DZ) NPD Substation near Nageezi, New Mexico. This initiative marks the first step toward the District 8 police operation under the Navajo Police Department. By the end of the third quarter in Fiscal Year 2025, we intend to have this district fully staffed with police commanders, patrol officers, and administrative support. This increase in personnel will bolster public safety, provide faster response times, and offer greater peace of mind for our families.

### Strengthening Emergency Management and Community Resilience

Under the leadership of Director Sharen Sandoval, the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) took significant steps to enhance our Nation's readiness and response capabilities. One key accomplishment has been improving relationships and processes with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has resulted in better coordination for reimbursements on disaster declarations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah dating back up to a decade.

In 2024 alone, DEM secured **\$275,697.57** in reimbursements for local chapter houses—funding that bolsters the capacity of these communities to recover from emergencies. DEM also provided urgent emergency resources to **17 chapters** across our lands, assisting **40,539 people**. Beyond local chapters, DEM extended critical support to the legislative and executive branches, distributing resources to **10 departments** and countless employees who work tirelessly on behalf of our citizens.

A pivotal part of DEM's ongoing mission involves training to ensure our chapters and agencies are well-prepared for crises. In 2024, DEM continued to host Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) trainings for **40 chapters** across all agencies. By equipping our leaders and responders with these essential skills, we cultivate a stronger, more unified approach to emergency preparedness.

This year's progress reflects a dedication to safeguarding every family and community. DEM will continue to work closely with federal, state, and local partners to improve disaster response, secure reimbursements where needed, and deliver critical services swiftly and effectively. These strides solidify our commitment to a future where no one is left unprotected or unprepared in times of crisis.

### **Advancing Rural Addressing and NextGen 911**

Over the past two years, the Division of Public Safety made remarkable strides in rolling out the Rural Addressing and NextGen 911 initiative, supported by **\$35 million** in ARPA funds. About **\$3.9 million** of that budget has already been invested in consulting, project management, hardware, software, and essential outreach to bring modern emergency services to the Nation.

This project began with a clear vision: to reduce emergency response times and ensure that even the most remote homes could receive help when it is needed most. Early on, the emphasis was placed on setting up strong project management and carefully developing the necessary contracts and requests for proposals. That groundwork resulted in nine awarded contracts—five of which went to Navajo-owned businesses—and the encumbrance of almost the entire project budget, a sign of how seriously this administration takes the responsibility of upgrading public safety.

Over the course of 2024, the initiative reached a new phase, focused on chapter outreach and data collection. Forty chapters showed formal support through resolutions, and field teams traveled more than six thousand miles of highways, gathering thousands of address and reference points. Behind the scenes, NTUA and Motorola worked on refining the network design so that future 911 calls would be transported more efficiently via the NextGen 911 process. At the same time, equipment orders were placed to consolidate dispatch operations and strengthen coordination among emergency responders.

This major undertaking will **continue until December 4, 2026**, ensuring every part of the project receives the resources and attention it deserves. Once completed, shorter response times and modern 911 capabilities will benefit families living in distant areas, elders who cannot make long trips, and those with urgent medical or safety needs. Better-trained dispatchers—hired at competitive salaries—will be on the other end of each call, offering a renewed sense of security. The administration's focus on this initiative, from planning through implementation, stands as a testament to the determination to protect and uplift the communities who rely on emergency services every day.

### **Elevating Fire Protection Under Strong Leadership**

Over the course of my administration, the Navajo Nation made tremendous progress in strengthening its fire and rescue services—a transformation that would have seemed impossible just a few years ago. Back in **2017, only eight (8) dedicated officials** were stationed across the vast expanse of our lands. **By 2023**, that number had more than doubled to **twenty (20)**, and **increased by six (6) in 2024**. To date, we have **twenty-six (26) fire officials**. Each addition represents a crucial commitment to safeguarding homes, families, and businesses in communities that once faced long waits in times of danger.

**Ojo Amarillo** now has **five (5) skilled firefighters** on duty, while **Shiprock, Newcomb, Fort Defiance, and Chinle** each have **three (3)**. **Window Rock's** team has grown to **four (4)**, **Tuba City** now operates with **three (3)**, and **Twin Arrows** is staffed by **two (2)** dedicated professionals. The significance of these numbers is measured not merely in statistics but in the lives that can be saved when a fully equipped and properly trained crew is ready to respond.

Beyond these current stations, discussions are underway to bring Monument Valley and Aneth Utah under the umbrella of Navajo Fire and Rescue Services. Final negotiations are still in progress, and the Navajo Nation Council will consider legislation to utilize the unappropriated fund balance alongside the Fire & Rescue Sales Tax—a move that would secure the funding necessary to establish and maintain additional fire stations.

This growth did not happen overnight. It required a vision of what true safety should look like for our communities, followed by determined advocacy and thoughtful allocation of resources. Under this leadership, the Nation has taken bold steps to ensure that no matter where people live, help will be there when seconds count. By investing in personnel, infrastructure, and future expansion, we are protecting not just property, but the very lives and well-being of our citizens. It is a testament to the collective effort of our government, chapters, and first responders who are united in one purpose: to build a safer, stronger, and more resilient Navajo Nation.

The Administration would also like to acknowledge and **thank our Navajo Scouts**, who answered the call to help fight and protect the millions of people in Los Angeles County who are fleeing their homes from the five active fires that has charred over 27,800 acres to date. Our Navajo Scouts, a dedicated team of 23 members, including a courageous female wildland firefighter, are highly trained and available to combat fires like these for ten months out of the year. May we all pray for their safe return home after aiding our relatives in Southern California during this challenging time.

### **Police efforts – a decline in police officers, a call on all Navajos**

Police officer recruitment continues to be one of the biggest challenges our Nation faces. Over the last two years, there were **201 officers** serving in our seven districts; today, that **number has dipped to 178**, distributed among Crownpoint, Dilkon, Kayenta, Shiprock, Chinle, Tuba City, and Window Rock. While **19 new recruits graduated in 2024**—showing promise for the future—it is still not enough to address the ever-evolving safety needs of our communities.

My administration calls on more young people to consider a career in law enforcement, but the call extends beyond sworn officers. Those who prefer not to go through full police training are encouraged to become citizen police officers. Every individual who steps forward strengthens the bond between local agencies and the families they protect.

Part of improving law enforcement is ensuring that officers receive the support and recognition they deserve. By the end of this year, the Department of Public Safety aims to boost community engagement and streamline hiring practices. A clear plan is being developed to simplify the application process, increase salary rates, and bolster ongoing training, so that officers can be more visible and accessible, especially in remote chapters.

Plans are also in motion to secure a lease agreement for the former Navajo Generation Station in Page, Arizona. This site would become the Navajo Regional Training Center for fire, corrections, police, and EMS programs, as well as a field office for criminal investigations. Establishing this center marks another step toward equipping law enforcement with state-of-the-art facilities and advanced training opportunities.

Every effort taken to recruit officers, train them effectively, and provide them with robust resources strengthens public safety across the entire Nation. Ultimately, these accomplishments speak to a promise of security—one in which families feel safer, elders trust the uniformed officers who patrol their roads, and the next generation witnesses law enforcement as a path of honorable service.

## **Prosecutions**

During my administration, we have made measurable progress in improving case management across our 14 prosecution programs. From 2021 to 2024, we've seen a consistent reduction in case backlogs—an accomplishment that reflects our commitment to strengthening the Navajo Nation's justice system and ensuring that crimes are addressed both swiftly and fairly.

Reducing these backlogs is more than just clearing old files; it's about delivering justice that aligns with our values of fairness, respect, and accountability. As one of our prosecutors said, "When we address the backlog, we honor our responsibility to the Navajo people. The community deserves a system they can trust to work for them."

The data tells a compelling story:

- **Total Cases Handled per Year:** In 2021, we handled over 36,000 cases, which dipped in 2022 but began to rise again by 2024, demonstrating our responsiveness to changing demands.
- **Average Cases per District:** While average cases received per district showed a slight decline over the years, the average number of cases closed has seen a significant increase—particularly in 2024—highlighting improvements in how we allocate our resources.
- **Improved Efficiency:** The notable rise in closed cases during 2024 shows that our initiatives to boost efficiency and streamline processes are paying off.
- **Variation Across Districts:** Some districts handle more cases than others, underscoring the need for continued focus on resource distribution and targeted interventions.

This steady progress is an encouraging sign that our justice system is evolving for the benefit of our people. By prioritizing the timely resolution of crimes and responsibly managing new and existing cases, we’re building greater confidence in our legal system and ensuring the safety of our Diné communities.

We recognize that more work remains, but these achievements provide a clear roadmap for future improvements. Under my leadership, we will continue to refine our processes and maintain our commitment to justice—ensuring that every Navajo community feels protected and respected in accordance with our traditions and values.

### Forestry Department

The Forestry Department **patrolled 40,801 miles** of forest roads and surrounding highways. They patrol for Forest/Woodland Product Trespass Violation and Trespass investigations.

<b>2024 Key Result Areas Wildlife Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Number of hunters/fishermen contacted 4,000	3,710
Number of critical wildlife habitat patrols completed 300	898
Number of natural resource user contacts 600	2,348
Number of decoy operations conducted 03	8

Number of hunt patrols 1,200	1,618
Number of wildlife check points 05	13
Number of violations investigated 100	164
Number of creel reports completed 250	764
Number of wildlife data sheets completed 100	161
Number of Hunter Education courses and Range Days 06	10
Number of education/outreach contacts 500	1,448
Number of wildlife depredation complaints responded	47

**Cross-Commission Agreements**

We have taken significant steps to ensure that our communities remain safe and secure by establishing strong partnerships with surrounding law enforcement agencies. Currently, we have seven agreements in place with agencies including Apache County, McKinley County, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Socorro County, San Juan County in Utah, the State of Utah Department of Public Safety, and the City of Page. These agreements help eliminate jurisdictional gaps, ensuring that crimes are addressed swiftly, no matter where they occur.

In addition, we have completed negotiations with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo County, and we are actively working on agreements with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Coconino County, and the City of Gallup.

- Apache County 2004 Agreement was executed on February 6, 2004
- McKinley County 2007 Agreement was executed on November 30, 2007
- New Mexico Department of Public Safety 2012 Agreement was executed on August 30, 2012
- Socorro County New Mexico 2009 Agreement was executed on January 16, 2009
- San Juan (Utah) 2012 Agreement was executed on December 17, 2012
- State of Utah Department of Public Safety 2022 Agreement was executed on April 6, 2022 and expires on April 6, 2026.
- City of Page 2024 Agreement was executed on March 8, 2024

## Safety in Schools

In October, we launched **Operation Diné School Safety (ODSS)**—a comprehensive initiative to enhance safety across schools within the Navajo Nation. Featuring a dedicated website, hotline, anonymous threat submission forms, and trauma support resources, ODSS helps ensure that our students and educators can thrive in secure environments.

The safety of our children is a sacred responsibility, and I am proud to highlight the steps we've taken to strengthen school safety across the Navajo Nation. This year, the Department of Diné Education (DODE) partnered with the I Love You Guys Foundation and other safety experts to hold critical meetings focused on enhancing the security and preparedness of our schools.

One of the key outcomes of these discussions was the approval of a proposal by the DODE Board of Education to gather baseline data on school safety. This initiative will allow us to better understand the unique challenges faced by our schools and develop targeted solutions to address them.

This collaboration marks an important step in creating safer learning environments for our students, teachers, and staff. By working with respected organizations and committing to data-driven approaches, we are building a foundation for long-term improvements in school safety.

As we continue these efforts, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that every Navajo child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a secure environment. Our children are the future of our Nation, and their well-being will always be our top priority.

NDEM, in partnership with American Red Cross and the School Safety Task Force, are offering a School Safety-Emergency Preparedness course for students K-2.

The courses are free and can be found on the American Red Cross website at [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) by searching, "Prepare with Pedro." These are 30-to-45-minute preparedness education program for grades K-2 that teaches students how to BE PREPARED and TAKE ACTION for either home fires or a local hazard.

Dr. Ferlin Clark will eventually bring "Prepare with Pedro" to all schools on the Navajo Nation, beginning with kindergarten, first grade and second grade.

### Animal Control

This year, we brought on **two (2) additional animal control officers**, expanding our team to a **total of nine (9) dedicated officers**. These **officers travel more than 400 miles daily** to cover vast areas of our Nation, from Fort Defiance to Kaibeto, Leupp, Tohajiilee, and Alamo.

Our **three (3) operating animal control centers**—located in **Fort Defiance, Shiprock, and Tuba City**—are critical resources for addressing animal-related issues across the Navajo Nation. These centers are the backbone of our efforts to maintain public safety and protect both our communities and animals.

Looking to the future, I’m excited to announce that **construction will begin this summer on a new animal control facility in Crownpoint, New Mexico**. This project, made possible by the renewal of our contract with CPM, a construction company based in Albuquerque, is set to be completed in 2026. This facility will expand our capacity to manage animal control needs in the Eastern Agency and provide improved services for surrounding areas.

Additionally, we are taking steps to modernize the Animal Control Program by implementing a new data entry system at the shelters. This system will allow animal control officers to log data on impounds, stray animals, and animal attacks more accurately and efficiently, improving our ability to track and address these issues. We will continue to prioritize the resources and infrastructure needed to support our animal control officers and ensure they can effectively serve our people.

<b>Animal Control Statistics</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of Animals impounded	6216	10533
Number of Community Enforcements (Dog Sweeps)	6	163
Number of Bite Cases Investigated	60	176
Number of Animal Control citations Issued	210	563
Number of Animals rescued to off-reservation org	546	1111
Number of Rabies Clinics conducted	99	82
Number of Unwanted animal drop-offs	26	118

In 2023, rabies clinics conducted was higher because of an unknown balance that hadn't been charged in 2022. The Animal Control office couldn't continue providing the vaccine until they paid off the unknown balance from 2022, so they started the clinics later in the year for 2024 after paying off the unknown bill.

## VETERANS

### ARPA Housing

The Navajo Veterans Administration has successfully **encumbered its ARPA allocation of \$50 million** for new housing construction, which will benefit the neediest of veterans.

Navajo VA **secured three (3) housing contracts** including Southwest Indian Foundation for 60 total homes and BITCO **for 95 homes**, and the Sparrow group for an **additional 15 homes** for a **total of 170 homes**. In previous negotiated contracts, we found that 50 homes were to be built for \$50 million using FRF funding. As President, these outrageous prices seemed unfair to our people, so we came back to the table brought on additional vendors and negotiated the price down with each vendor. Costs vary for stick-built homes, modular, and mobile homes. As President, I am ensuring we get the most homes at reasonable costs for our people.

Using these contracts, **we have built 13 homes** and have **renovated 3 over the last year**. We have **hosted four key-turning ceremonies** while the **remaining homes await connectivity from our utility providers**. **Twenty-two (22) homes** are currently under construction, and we have **one (1) home renovation** in progress.

As President, I have tremendous respect for our Navajo Code Talkers, who used our language to help win World War II. In appreciation of their service and their dedication to expanding the Navajo language, I wanted to ensure they were taken care of by our veterans administration. Last year, we were able to **remodel Navajo Code Talker John Kinsel's home**. After Mr. Kinsel came home from the war, he built this home with logs he hauled from the Chuska Mountains. He dedicated his life to the education of thousands of Navajo children and this remodel is just one small token of appreciation for his service.

### Veterans Healthcare

One of the accomplishments I'm most proud to share with you is the progress we've made in honoring and supporting our Navajo veterans. These men and women have given so much in

service, and our administration is committed to ensuring they receive the care and respect they deserve.

This year, the Navajo Veterans Administration (Navajo VA) partnered with the Northern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System to **reopen Veterans Administration Healthcare Clinics** within the Indian Health Service Hospitals in **Chinle and Kayenta**. By bringing these vital services closer to home, we are addressing a long-standing need and making it easier for our veterans to access the healthcare they've earned.

In another important step, the Navajo VA collaborated with mental health experts, including a partnership with specialists in Tel Aviv, to **introduce innovative approaches to mental health care**. Through talking circles, our veterans are finding spaces to connect, share, and heal. These circles address the challenges of post-traumatic stress, loneliness, and other burdens carried by those who have served. They provide not only resources but also the sense of community and support that is so essential to healing.

We also made strides in reconnecting veterans with traditional practices that are central to our identity as Diné. The **Fort Defiance Agency VA successfully secured a grant for traditional healing ceremonies**, which will soon be available for our veterans. These ceremonies offer more than just spiritual renewal—they remind us of who we are and help our veterans restore balance and harmony in their lives.

These efforts reflect a simple but powerful truth: our veterans deserve not only respect but care that honors their service and their identity as Diné. By blending modern healthcare with traditional practices, we are ensuring that their needs are met holistically—mind, body, and spirit.

My administration remains committed to doing more. We are listening to our veterans and their families, identifying where we can improve, and taking action. Together, we are building systems of care that reflect our values and truly serve those who have served us.

### **Administration Benefits**

With the help of our accredited Veterans Services officers, over 80 veterans have been deemed eligible for 100% disability service-connected compensation within the past 12 months.

Such disability ratings entitle many veterans to a monthly compensation ranging from \$4,000 to \$5,000 depending on the service-connected needs.

## Burial Assistance

As we continue to honor and support our Navajo veterans, I want to highlight an important way the Navajo Veterans Administration (Navajo VA) is fulfilling its responsibility to those who have served.

This past year, the **Navajo VA provided over \$20,000 in burial assistance** to ensure that our veterans are laid to rest with the dignity and respect they have earned. This support helps families honor their loved ones in accordance with our cultural traditions and military customs. It's a small but profound way to express our gratitude and ensure that every veteran's sacrifice is remembered and respected.

In addition, the **Navajo VA allocated over \$15,000 to honor guard details**. These funds support the ceremonial duties that honor guards perform at veterans' services, including flag presentations and salutes. These ceremonies are a vital expression of respect, paying tribute to the service and commitment of our warriors in a way that reflects the values of the Diné people.

These actions show our dedication not only to caring for veterans during their lives but also to honoring their legacy in their passing. Through these efforts, we ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten and that their families feel the support of their Nation during times of loss.

## Trust fund

I am also proud to share how my team have utilized the Veterans Trust Fund to directly support our veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers. These resources are critical in ensuring that those who have given so much receive the assistance and respect they deserve.

Through careful allocation and management, **\$4,149,633** of the **\$5,773,796 allocated** was spent in 2024 to benefit our Navajo veterans. We have provided substantial financial support across all five agencies of the Navajo Nation:

- **Western Agency** received \$1,089,703, with \$758,927.64 already paid to veterans. This leaves a remaining balance of \$330,775.36, reflecting an expense rate of 70%.

- **Central Agency** was allocated \$825,595, and \$535,307.70 has been distributed to veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers, leaving a balance of \$290,287.30 and an expense rate of 65%.
- **Eastern Agency** was allocated \$1,178,185, with \$860,914.41 paid out and a remaining balance of \$317,270.59, achieving an expense rate of 73%.
- **Fort Defiance Agency** was allocated \$1,429,613, and \$1,164,932 has been paid, leaving \$284,681. This agency leads with an expense rate of 80%.
- **Northern Agency** received \$1,250,700, with \$829,552 distributed and \$421,148 remaining, reflecting an expense rate of 66%.

These payments represent more than numbers—they are a testament to our commitment to serving those who have served. By ensuring timely and meaningful financial assistance, we are helping veterans and their families meet their needs and find stability.

Whether it's addressing housing, healthcare, or day-to-day expenses, these funds are making a difference. They demonstrate that the Navajo Nation stands firmly behind its veterans, their spouses, and the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As we move forward, my team will continue to prioritize transparency and efficiency in the use of these funds, ensuring that every dollar serves its purpose: to honor and support those who have given so much to protect our people and our way of life.

## **Housing Assistance Fund**

I would also like to announce that our administration has **identified \$4.2 million** from the **Housing Assistance Fund** to **provide critical housing support for 75 Navajo veterans in 2025**. This effort represents a significant step in addressing one of the most pressing needs for our veterans—safe and stable housing.

For too long, many of our warriors have faced challenges in accessing the homes they deserve. This funding reflects our commitment to ensuring that their sacrifices are honored not just with words but with meaningful action. These funds will go directly toward improving housing conditions, offering much-needed security and stability to those who have served our Nation.

## GOVERNMENT

### **Federal Engagement:**

During my administration, we have made great strides in strengthening our relationship with federal leaders and holding them accountable to the needs of the Navajo people. I have been committed to ensuring that our voices are not only heard but that our challenges are understood and addressed at the highest levels of government.

One of the most impactful moments this past year was facilitating the visit of Acting Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer. When our team stood alongside him at the site of our condemned public safety facilities in Window Rock, it was clear that the state of these structures tells a larger story about the systemic neglect we have endured. While the Department of Justice does not directly fund such facilities, I made it clear to him that their partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs must translate into meaningful action. We need investments in safe, modern infrastructure for our public safety systems—not just promises.

When Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez visited the Red Water Pond Road Community, my team was proud to stand with our people as they shared the devastating impact of uranium contamination on their lives. For decades, our communities have borne the brunt of environmental injustice, and I emphasized to the Congresswoman that federal cleanup efforts have fallen short. This is not just an environmental issue; it's a matter of justice and health for our families. I demanded that the federal government not only expedite cleanup efforts but prioritize the safety and relocation of affected families.

In Tuba City, I joined Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su as she announced \$13 million for job training and workforce development. While this funding is a step forward, I stressed the systemic barriers we face—such as the lack of financial institutions and restrictions on leveraging trust lands for economic growth. These barriers must be dismantled if we are to unlock the full potential of our workforce and provide real economic opportunities for our people.

One of the more symbolic moments of this year was celebrating Code Talkers Day alongside Lieutenant General Michael S. Cederholm of the U.S. Marine Corps. As we honored the legacy of our Navajo Code Talkers, I was reminded of the resilience and service of our people. The

relationship between the Navajo Nation and the Marine Corps is a bond forged in history, and I am committed to ensuring that the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten.

These federal visits were not just symbolic—they were opportunities to demand action. They reinforced our administration's commitment to accountability and our relentless pursuit of justice and equity for the Navajo people. Under my leadership, we are ensuring that every federal leader who steps foot on our Nation understands their responsibility to honor their trust obligations and deliver real results.

Together, we are building a foundation for a stronger, more prosperous Navajo Nation. With every visit, every meeting, and every engagement, we are sending a clear message: the Navajo people will no longer be an afterthought in federal policy. We are here, we are strong, and we will hold this nation accountable to its promises.

Additionally, through seven congressional testimonies this year, I had the honor of standing before Congress to amplify the voices of our Nation. On veterans' affairs, I shed light on the systemic challenges Navajo veterans face—challenges that are unacceptable. These brave men and women, who answered the call to serve, often find themselves traveling hundreds of miles to access VA healthcare services. I called on Congress to take immediate action by expanding mobile VA units, enhancing funding for rural outreach programs, and strengthening partnerships with Indian Health Services (IHS) to provide equitable care for Native veterans.

In testimony on appropriations, I emphasized the dire need for sustainable federal investment in our Nation's infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Chronic underfunding has left too many Navajo families without clean water, quality healthcare, or reliable roads. I demanded long-term solutions—not just temporary fixes—so that the Diné people can finally access the services and opportunities they deserve.

Water rights advocacy was also central to our legislative efforts. During my testimony, I urged Congress to pass critical legislation like the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act. I spoke on behalf of families who still haul water over long distances, living without the fundamental resource of clean drinking water. Our call to Congress was clear: expedite water

infrastructure projects and resolve longstanding water rights disputes to honor the promises made to our people.

The legislative accomplishments of NNWO extend beyond my own testimony. Executive Director Justin Ahasteen has been instrumental in advancing my priorities. In his testimony on tribal economic development, he brought national attention to the systemic barriers our Nation faces in fostering economic growth. Whether it's the inability to use trust lands as collateral for loans or the lack of financial institutions in rural areas, these challenges have long stifled our potential. Director Ahasteen's advocacy has pushed for critical reforms to create jobs, attract investments, and build a resilient economy for the Navajo Nation.

Director Ahasteen also testified on the importance of preserving AM radio access in rural communities. For many of our families, AM radio remains a lifeline, delivering news, emergency alerts, and culturally relevant programming in areas where broadband access is still a distant reality. His testimony highlighted the importance of this medium, urging Congress to protect it for the benefit of our Nation.

In addition to congressional testimonies, NNWO submitted over 28 tribal consultation comments to federal agencies this past year, ensuring that our priorities shape federal policies. These consultations addressed key issues, including housing, healthcare, and environmental justice. For example, NNWO's advocacy on revisions to the Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG) program ensured that our housing needs—such as addressing overcrowding and substandard conditions—were reflected in federal funding decisions. These consultation comments are developed with collaborative teams across the Navajo Nation to ensure that the needs of the Navajo Nation are being shared with the federal government.

NNWO's influence extended to healthcare access, particularly for Navajo veterans. By pushing for streamlined processes in the Veterans Affairs and IHS reimbursement agreement, we are ensuring that our veterans can access care without bureaucratic delays. NNWO also held federal agencies accountable for the environmental consequences of energy projects on our lands, demanding greater transparency and justice for our communities impacted by uranium mining and coal extraction.

The work of NNWO under my leadership reflects our administration’s commitment to real progress for the Navajo people. These efforts are not just about policies—they are about justice, equity, and creating a future where the Diné thrive. Through its tireless advocacy, NNWO ensures that our voices are heard and that our Nation remains a respected and powerful force in shaping federal policy.

Together, we are proving that the Navajo Nation is not just participating in the legislative process—we are leading it. Our actions this year have set a foundation for a stronger, more equitable future for the Diné people, and I remain steadfast in my commitment to this mission.

## **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

### **ERP**

The Navajo Nation has partnered with Arctic IT to implement an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to enhance its organizational operations and services. The ERP will address the need for a more integrated and efficient management system to streamline various administrative processes, including finance, procurement, Human Resources, and other crucial departments within the Navajo Nation. This represents a significant step in modernizing the Navajo Nation’s infrastructure, empowering its governance, and ultimately improving services for the community members it serves. In 2025 the DPM IT team will complete the implementation of the Human Capital Management (HCM) system in coordination with Dayforce. These services support the Nygren Administrations’ economic priorities by creating jobs and strengthening the workforce, streamlining the hiring process and improving efficiency in managing its human resources operations.

### **Cybersecurity**

The Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology made huge strides in securing the Navajo Nation's cyber infrastructure. This began with the Multi-Factor Authentication roll-out for the Nation’s email server. This system helps route traffic and control the number of servers in operations with no downtime. This cyber project was one of two projects implemented with the \$6 million ARPA allocation secured by NNDIT.

In 2025, NNDIT is in the process of securing additional funding to enhance the Nation’s network. Maintaining our network security and firewall for roughly 5,000 users is a collective effort by our administrators and legislators, and this effort will see an additional \$1.5 to \$2 million in fixed costs over a period of 4 years.

**Online Portal to Address Employee Vacancies:**

The Department of Personnel Management (DPM) went live with the online application portal on September 12, 2024. The development of this portal was completed in-house and included a newly developed internal database to adapt to the new application process. In 2024, **2,992 job vacancies were posted** and **7,557 applications were received**. Of these, **753 positions were filled**.

The Online Application Portal is an online platform designed to streamline the job application process for individuals seeking employment with the Navajo Nation. Since its launch in September, **2,355 Online Applications were received** in this new system which offers a user-friendly interface where applicants can search for available jobs/positions, submit applications, track the status of their applications, and update their personal and professional information. The portal stores important documents and sends automatic notifications about job updates, deadlines, and application status changes and provides applicants with important information on job requirements, the hiring process, and other resources to help them succeed in their applications.

Type of Action – FY 2024	Total
Job Vacancies Posted	2,992
Application Received	7,557
Online Applications Received as of 9/12/24	2,355
Qualification Assessments Completed	4,962
Qualified Applicants Referred	3,160
QA Trainings Held - Divisions	5
Positions Filled	753

Branch	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total
Executive	107	191	197	203	698
Legislative	2	12	4	9	27
Judicial	3	2	9	14	28
Total	112	205	210	226	753
Branch	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Total
Executive	138				138
Legislative	5				5
Judicial	6				6
Total	149				149

The new internal database allows for the qualification assessments to be completed in a timely manner with automated notification and system generated documents for the **hiring program and applicants to be completed** within a timeline of **five (5) days**.

### Safe workplace

In ensuring a safe workplace for our tribal employees, the Facility Maintenance and Safety Loss Control Program has been working together to address many of the concerns submitted by Navajo Nation employees. It the program’s goal to maintain clean and safe facilities. The program received 1,578 work orders over the past year. This is roughly six (6) work orders per day for the year. Nearly 494 work orders directly address safety-related concerns. In 2024, FMD document 36 closed offices building due to NOSHA and/or OEH orders.

As part of Facility Maintenance’s goals for this upcoming year, the program is seeking contractors to help address the closed offices. These would be ‘turnkey’ options that the Navajo Nation could procure. A mobile office complex is part of a temporary fix until funds can be requested from the Navajo Nation council. We will be requesting \$160-\$180 million in supplemental funding to address our building situation.

# NAVAJO GAMING REGULATORY OFFICE

## Government Efficiency

The year 2024 marked a period of significant progress and modernization for the Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office (NNGRO). The year began with a focus on streamlining internal processes. The implementation of a new qualification assessment system for job applicants drastically reduced hiring times, showcasing the office's commitment to efficiency. This was followed by the successful launch of a long-awaited "One Badge System" for all Navajo casinos, a project that not only simplified operations but also resulted in substantial cost savings, exceeding \$60,000 annually.

NNGRO also took the initiative to expand its influence and visibility. Hosting the Annual Arizona Tribal Gaming Regulators Alliance (ATGRA) Training Academy was a resounding success, providing an invaluable opportunity to showcase the Navajo Nation's unique cultural landscape and its vast resources to gaming regulators from across the state. The inaugural Leadership Roundtable with the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) further solidified partnerships, fostering crucial collaboration and mutual understanding.

Throughout the year, NNGRO's commitment to regulatory compliance shone through. Both the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) and the New Mexico Gaming Control Board conducted their annual compliance reviews, resulting in overwhelmingly positive outcomes with no major findings. This success underscores the office's dedication to maintaining the highest standards.

Looking towards the future, NNGRO has ambitious plans. A complete overhaul of the Navajo Nation Tribal Gaming Regulations is underway to address outdated and conflicting sections. A revised violation reporting system will enhance precision and compliance with regulatory mandates. The creation of a comprehensive procedures manual will ensure consistency and transparency across all departments.

Furthermore, the office is focused on modernizing its technology infrastructure, with a complete overhaul of its website in progress. The development of regulations for small bingo games and raffles, and the creation of a much-needed problem gambling program, highlight NNGRO's commitment to responsible gaming and community welfare. Finally, improvements to data

reporting practices are underway, which will enhance the office's ability to accurately track its work, identify trends, and effectively plan for the future. In short, 2024 was a year of substantial accomplishment, demonstrating NNGRO's dedication to efficiency, collaboration, regulatory compliance, and future growth.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Navajo Nation Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission

The Navajo Nation Broadband Office (NNBBO) and the Navajo Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (NTRC) have been working tirelessly to connect our Navajo people to modern broadband services. Last year, **I appointed four Commissioners to the NTRC**, all of whom bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in the broadband industry. These Commissioners will guide regulatory decisions to help bridge the digital divide across the Navajo Nation. Learn more about the NTRC's work on their new website: [NNTRC.NAVAJO-NSN.GOV](https://www.ntrc.navajo-nsn.gov).

In 2024, the NNBBO created the Navajo Nation Broadband Infrastructure Expansion Plan, which will enhance telecommunications infrastructure by constructing 78 new towers and extending 1,526 miles of fiber network. These efforts will help cover 35,000 unserved and underserved households, with an estimated project cost of \$271 million.

Using ARPA funds granted by the Navajo Nation, one of our service providers upgraded 33 sites from 2 and 3 G service to 4G, moving Navajo advancing broadband users to modern technology that supports better quality voice calls, texts, and emails. The upgraded 4G LTE service can be up to 50X faster than 3G, allowing users to stream, hotspot, video call, game, and participate in many other features that today's society expects from a mobile broadband experience. These upgrades also set the foundation for advancing the latest technologies, such as 5G. With these awards, the Nation has taken a big step toward having current and relevant technology to access more of the mobile amenities needed for our daily lives.

Looking ahead to 2025, the NNBBO plans to secure additional funding, including approximately \$200 million from BEAD funding from Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Collaborative efforts will continue with the Land Department, the NTRC, and the Division of Natural Resources to

improve wireless regulations, standardize broadband deployment, and acquire more spectrum, a natural resource that allows us to expand wireless connectivity.

Complete the BEAD application and work with service providers to execute a plan that will cover over 35,000 unserved and underserved households as per the BEAD program objective.

While fiber connections are being developed, the NNBBO is bridging the gap with the "Connecting the Diné People: LEO Satellite and Chapter Connectivity Plan." This initiative has already connected six locations—Burnham, Jeddito, Coppermine, Tolani Lake, Ojo Encino, and the Red Rock Senior Center. In 2025, the NNBBO plans to invest \$528,000 to connect over 50 additional chapter locations currently identified as unconnected ERATE locations using Low Earth Orbit satellite technology.

The NNBBO has also secured funding to keep our colleges connected. Over \$3 million in broadband funding has been allocated to Diné College and Navajo Technical University to ensure students have the connectivity they need for academic success.

The Digital Equity initiative, in collaboration with the NNBBO and all stakeholders, is working to develop and implement the Navajo Nation Broadband and Telecommunication Plan. This effort ensures that every step we take toward connectivity prioritizes equity and access for all our people. Together, we are working to make this plan a reality and ensure no one is left behind in our pursuit of modern communication services.

We understand the critical importance of connecting our students, entrepreneurs, elders, and all Navajo people to broadband services that meet their needs. Reliable internet access enables our communities to build businesses, pursue education, resolve legal issues, connect with loved ones, and create art to share with the world.

While we strive to connect the Nation, I encourage everyone to maintain a balanced relationship with technology. Take daily breaks to connect with the natural world and ensure the tools we use improve our lives rather than distract us from what matters most.

Our broadband teams are working hard to connect the Navajo Nation. Together, we can amplify the benefits of technology while staying true to our values.

<b>Strategic Deployment of ARPA-Funded Broadband Projects- NNBBO</b>		
<p><b>ARPA Award to SBI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 33 sites upgraded from 2G/3G to 4G LTE.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SBI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded \$21M to SBI for 40 site upgrades.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SBI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete project by 1Q 2025</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARPA Award to OSO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 450 Household connected via Fiber.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SBI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded \$5M to OSO to connect 600 homes with fiber to the home connectivity</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SBI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete project by 1Q 2025</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARPA Award to SWC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10% of project related engineering and permitting was completed</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SWC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded \$12.5 million to delivering FTTH services, constructing middle-mile fiber, and providing (DIA) to healthcare facilities</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to SWC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expected to complete 50-70% of the project by end of 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ARPA Award to Diné College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed Phase 1 that includes 50 indoor and 10 outdoor access points.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to Diné College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded \$1.59 million to improve the local area network</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to Diné College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete project by 1Q 2025</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed 70% installation of 34 modular housing units</li> </ul>	<p>infrastructure at the Tsaile campus</p>	
<p><b>ARPA Award to NTU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Management RFP completed.</li> <li>- Engineering and Permitting in Progress</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to NTU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded \$1.8 million to deploy community wireless systems across multiple sites to support academic use and enhance connectivity for students and faculty</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARPA Award to NTU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete project by 3Q 2025</li> </ul>

## ENVIRONMENT

### EPA

In 2024, our Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (Navajo EPA) took large steps toward safeguarding our environment and upholding the well-being of our families. Under my administration, we focused on environmental remediation, regulatory advancements, and stronger community engagement—efforts that have already produced tangible results.

One of the most significant achievements this past year was the time-critical **removal of asbestos at the Navajo Forest Products Industries site**, completed in September 2024. This rapid response demonstrated our EPA’s commitment to tackling environmental threats head-on. Soon after, another historic milestone followed: the listing of the Lukachukai Mountain Mining District on the Superfund National Priorities List. This designation opens the door to federal funding that will drive long-overdue cleanup efforts in an area deeply affected by mining contamination.

Throughout these initiatives, Navajo EPA has upheld its dedication to proactive environmental stewardship. A reorganized Superfund Program streamlined operations, while new air quality regulations marked a shift toward greater tribal control over our natural resources. At the same time, the agency took important steps to pursue EPA primacy for both air and water quality programs—a move essential for reinforcing our sovereignty. Rigorous compliance reviews, with minimal findings, underscored Navajo EPA's discipline and commitment to the highest environmental standards.

Looking ahead to 2025, Navajo EPA has set an ambitious agenda. The agency will prioritize securing funding for critical cleanup projects and continue the pursuit of EPA primacy for air and water programs. These initiatives will build on the progress we have achieved to protect our homeland. Through proactive planning, collaboration, and community involvement, we will ensure that our sacred land and precious resources remain safeguarded for generations to come.

This past year's successes remind us that environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility—one that unites our government, our communities, and our partners. Together, we will keep driving forward in our commitment to preserve the health of our land, air, and water for the future of the Diné people.

### **Defending Our Land Against Uranium Transport**

One of the most urgent issues we faced this year was the illegal transportation of uranium across Navajo lands. I spoke forcefully on this matter—reminding officials of our tragic history with uranium mining, which left a devastating legacy of cancer, contamination, and heartbreak. Despite our 2012 ban on uranium transport, one mining company continued hauling uranium through our homelands, using highways under state and federal jurisdiction. Because these roads do not fall under tribal control, our own laws could not be enforced, making the health and safety of our people an afterthought in the face of outside interests.

Our stance sparked a critical response from the State of Arizona and Energy Fuels Inc., culminating in a transportation agreement that finally acknowledged our concerns. Moreover, this struggle led to the updating of several Navajo Nation laws—reinforcing our sovereignty and clarifying legal protections for our communities. Yet the deeper issue remains. We must demand that federal regulations respect and align with tribal laws, especially within our own boundaries.

As President, I will continue pushing federal agencies to uphold their trust responsibilities, protect our families from further harm, and ensure that no more radioactive materials are moved across Diné lands without our express consent.

NNEPA and NNDOJ developed and implemented amendments to the Radioactive Materials Transportation Act and new Interim Regulations to address transport of uranium ore across the Navajo Nation. I signed CAU-37-24 on August 29, 2024. Since August 15, 2024, we have held 7 meetings with Energy Fuels Resources, Inc. to develop an Agreement for uranium ore transport. NNEPA continues to coordinate with Division of Public Safety and the Chapters along the transport route on uranium transport preparedness planning and regulatory program development

### **Natural Heritage Program**

Our Natural Heritage Program spent 486 hours monitoring 17 rare species. In addition, 251 golden eagle nest sites were monitored and checked for eaglets. Over 9,000 acres of active Gunnison Prairie Dog colonies were assessed for suitability of Black-footed Ferret reintroduction. This program also completed acoustic monitoring of bats across Navajo Nation (25 sites). This is beneficial to the Navajo Nation because of the protection of our animal relatives and how they impact our natural and cultural resources. The activities undertaken by the Natural Heritage Program provide multiple benefits to the Navajo Nation and its people:

#### **Cultural Connection**

Many species monitored, such as the golden eagle, hold significant cultural and spiritual importance in Navajo traditions. Protecting these animals strengthens cultural identity and practices.

#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stability**

Monitoring and protecting rare and keystone species helps maintain healthy ecosystems, which are vital for sustaining other wildlife, plants, and the overall environment.

#### **Food Security**

Healthy ecosystems support a diverse range of wildlife that can be important for subsistence hunting and gathering, contributing to food security for the community.

### **Natural Resource Management**

Assessing species and their habitats informs better management of natural resources, ensuring sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

### **Environmental Education**

These monitoring activities serve as educational opportunities for younger generations, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of local wildlife and ecosystems.

### **Community Engagement**

Involving community members in conservation efforts empowers them and strengthens stewardship of the land and its resources.

### **Research and Conservation Strategies**

Detailed data collection allows for informed decisions regarding conservation policies and practices, ensuring the long-term survival of both rare species and their habitats.

### **Economic Opportunities**

Healthy wildlife populations and natural resources can enhance ecotourism prospects, providing potential economic benefits for the community through outdoor activities and cultural experiences.

Overall, these efforts not only protect the natural world but also ensure that the values, traditions, and livelihoods of the Navajo people are preserved for future generations.

### **NN Fish and Wildlife invest funding back into their fish hatchery**

The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife secured \$1.1 million for a new hatchery project, supplemented by a \$3 million federal grant.

### **Diné Native Plants Program**

Our Diné Native Plants Program produced 19,700 plants at its greenhouse facility and 80 seed collection events were held for DNPP seed bank. The Diné Native Plants Program offers several benefits to the Navajo Nation and its people:

### **Cultural Preservation**

Many native plants are integral to Navajo traditions, ceremonies, and daily life. Cultivating these plants helps preserve cultural heritage and practices.

### **Ecosystem Restoration**

Native plants play a crucial role in maintaining local ecosystems. They support wildlife, improve soil health, and help with water retention, which is vital in arid climates.

### **Food Security**

Some native plants are edible or provide resources for traditional foods. This can enhance food sovereignty and reduce dependence on non-local food sources.

### **Economic Opportunities**

The program can create job opportunities in horticulture, seed collection, and education. Additionally, selling native plants or seeds can provide income for the community.

### **Education and Awareness**

The program serves as an educational platform for the community about the importance of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation.

### **Climate Resilience**

By promoting the use of native plants, the community can better adapt to climate changes. Native species are typically more resilient to local conditions than non-native species.

Overall, these initiatives contribute to the physical, cultural, and economic well-being of the Navajo people.

## **URANIUM CLEAN UP**

On March 15, 2024, US EPA officially announced the listing of the Lukachukai Mountain Mining District (LMMD) in Cove, AZ as the first site on the Navajo Nation to be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). NNEPA and various parties/stakeholders participated in the Press Event of announcing the Lukachukai Mountain Mining District in the National Priorities List of USEPA Superfund sites ceremony at Cove Chapter House in Cove, AZ. In the past, no site on the Navajo Nation would qualify to be placed on the NPL due to the criteria set forth in the Hazard Ranking System (HRS), per Title 40 CFR Part 300.

The placement of the LMMD on the NPL will address the approximately 800,000 Cubic Yards of mine waste material. The USEPA will use additional federal resources to conduct cleanup activities and require potentially responsible parties to conduct or fund the required work. The LMMD will have to go through the Superfund Process beginning with the remedial investigation and feasibility study. There is a potential for employment opportunity for local individuals by placing the LMMD on the NPL.

NNEPA-CED has been actively participating with the Navajo Department of Emergency Management by amending current emergency management Plan of Operation and Policies. To establish a stronger working relationship at the local level and to discuss unforeseen circumstances of any incidence relating to the hauling of the uranium ore. We're helping to implement a working policy relating to uranium hauling. NNEPA-CED will continue to be a part of the discussion to implement safety procedures with the transport of uranium ore from the Pinyon Plain Mine to its designated disposal site. The Pinyon Plain Mine is located about 6 miles southeast of the Town of Tusayan, near the Grand Canyon. All the departments involved are discussing the health risks this hazardous contaminant can cause over time, safely transporting the uranium ore, hauling routes and starting date are the topics of discussion.

NNEPA-CED has been actively keeping in contact with Navajo Nation First Responders departments, those responders that work along the designated route of the Uranium Hauling. Our departments are making recommendations to all Navajo Nation First Responders and their departments to actively review their policies and procedures with Hazardous and Radioactive Training.

### **Environmental Remediation Fund – Healing Our Lands**

Honorable Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez of the 25 Navajo Nation Council sponsored Legislation 149-24 to establish the “Environmental Remediation Fund”. The fund will assist in cleaning up former or abandoned facilities such as Navajo Forest Products Industries (NFPI) site located in Navajo, New Mexico. Sites of concern, such as the NFPI, will have to qualify for the fund based on criteria outlined in a ranking system. The original legislation was to request an amount of \$5,000,000 from the Sih Ha Sin Funds, but the direction was changed during the Spring Council Session to the Environmental Remediation Fund. However, the passing of the Legislation will obligate 2% of the Navajo Nation General Fund to go towards remediation of former or abandoned facilities that pose a threat to human health and the environment. The fund will address sites of concern based on the criteria in the ranking system. The 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council passed the Legislation 149-24 with a vote of 10 in favor and 3 opposed. The

President of the Navajo Nation signed the legislation into law on November 7, 2024, at the Red Lake Chapter House (adjacent to the former NFPI site) in Navajo, New Mexico.

## ELDERLY

### Senior Centers

Each of these is integral to providing services such as delivering meals to homebound individuals across several communities, providing community for elders, and a place to receive items such as reading glasses, or a place for mobile clinics, and CHR outreach. We are opening senior centers and renovating current ones.

On June 28, 2024, the **Tselani/Cottonwood Senior Center** was opened. The Tselani-Cottonwood Chapter Senior Center Building was a **\$3,269,274 project** and spans an impressive **4,000 square feet**. It includes a meeting room, reception area, spacious waiting area, separate men's and women's restrooms, storage facilities, electrical/mechanical rooms, two office spaces, a pantry, a generously sized kitchen, and an inviting outdoor patio. This facility will **serve over 380 community members** from Cottonwood, Whippoorwill, Pinon, Blue Gap, and Low Mountain.

A total of **\$184 million** has been allocated from the **Sihasin Funds to address infrastructure improvements and upgrades** to senior centers across the Navajo Nation. DOH finalized 87 budgets for \$148 million of the \$184 million and we are waiting on OMB to create the budgets.

DOH has conducted category assessments for 15 major construction projects and has completed minor renovations for 64 projects.

Our goal for 2025 is to continue to make our senior centers safe. We want to use the \$184 million Sihasin Funds to implement 64 renovation projects and address ADA compliance in senior centers by mid-2025. We also want to hire additional project managers and accountants to streamline project execution and financial oversight. We'd like to establish a senior-friendly transportation program and enhance dining services across all senior centers by late 2025.

For 2025, we have a number of ongoing construction projects. They include:

- **Tuba City Senior Center** – the total cost of the project is **\$4.97 million**. To date, 65 percent of the project is complete. The project is scheduled to be **completed by April 15, 2025**.

- **Gadii'ahi Complex** – the total cost of the project is **\$10,427,567**. To date, 95 percent complete. The completion date is **August 6, 2025** due to utility right of way and utility construction schedule. Overall, the buildings are scheduled for a pre-final in mid-February with no final identified by general contractor.
- The **Manuelito Senior Center** is in the planning and design phase. This part of the project is 100 percent complete. The design and construction documents have been completed with available funding and the Chapter is in process of securing funding for the building construction.
- The **Nageezi Senior Center** was allocated \$6.2 million for construction is in the planning and design phase. As of January 8, 2025, CPMD has received the 90 percent of the designs and construction documents for review and approval. Our proposed project schedule is to begin the procurement process in March 2025, following the completion of all final reviews by the utility provider and CPMD. This year, DALTCS will complete the procurement process to ensure **construction begins by October 2025**.

One year ago – on January 18, 2024 – the Pueblo Pintado Senior Center hosted a Grand Opening of their new building/facility. The **Pueblo Pintado Senior Center**, which serves an average of 81 senior citizens each day. This senior center was funded with \$2.8 million from New Mexico's Capital Outlay funds, administered through the Navajo Nation Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS), this project aims to offer crucial assistance to elderly residents. In May 2023, the Ganado community broke ground for the **Ganado Chapter Senior Center/Veteran Center**. In July 2024, a grand opening was held for this \$3,877,365 facility. The building will house the senior center, which will include a multi-purpose space, office space, meeting rooms, and examination rooms for veterans. Both of these projects are in full operation to date.

We have **many ongoing renovation projects this year in the State of New Mexico**. Through the 2024 New Mexico House Bill 308, the State of New Mexico approved

- \$1.5 million for renovations to the Tohajilee Senior Center
- \$112,000 to purchase vehicles for the Tohajilee Senior Center
- \$223,000 for renovations to the Baca Prewitt Senior Center
- \$1.15 million to plan, design, construct, and equip the Breadsprings Senior Center

- At Chichiltah Senior Center, \$14,000 went to purchase meal equipment, \$29,000 to install equipment, meet code compliance, and improve the senior center, \$87,000 to plan, design, construct, and equip the senior center
- \$3.6 million to plan, design, construct, and furnish the Ramah Senior Center
- \$95,000 to purchase vehicles for the Pueblo Pintado Senior Center,
- \$95,000 to purchase vehicles for the Whitehorse Lake Senior Center,
- \$115,000 to renovate the Alamo Senior Center,
- \$600,000 for improvements and equipment for the Beclabito Senior Center,
- \$80,000 to purchase vehicles for the Crystal Senior Center
- \$120,000 to improve and buy equipment for the Hogback Senior Center
- \$50,000 to improve the Lake Valley Senior Center
- \$90,000 to purchase vehicles for Lake Valley
- \$1.59 million went to improve the Naschitti Senior Center and purchase vehicles
- \$560,000 to renovate the Newcomb Senior Center
- \$349,000 for the purchase of vehicles, and planning and implementation of renovations to the Lower Valley Senior Center in Fruitland,
- \$811,000 for the purchase of vehicles and improvements for the Sheep Springs Senior Center, and
- \$709,000 to purchase and make improvements to the Upper Fruitland Senior Center.

We also have three senior centers that are currently being renovated and expected to be completed in 2025, including Standing Rock Senior Center and Nahata'Dzil Senior Center. Nahata Dzil Senior Center ceiling and floor tiles in one office was completed in the month of November 2024. The center will have the sidewalk near the front entrance repaired, the estimated date of completion is March 31, 2025. Jedito Senior Center's roofing has been completed this month.

The Chichiltah Senior Center is estimated to cost \$980,089 in renovations. Indian Wells, Mexican Springs, Smith Lake, Thoreau, and Tsaile Senior Centers all have ongoing renovations through the year.

In addition, DOH distributed 1,500 wellness kits to seniors, including masks, hand sanitizers, and vitamins. We conducted senior housing assessments for 500 individuals to identify structural or safety improvement needs.

## Elder Festivities

The Elderly Festivities during fair season was a resounding success. Thank you to DALTCS staff, sponsors and volunteers, for their dedication, planning, and teamwork. The Navajo Nation provided a total of \$11,095.20 at Western Agency; **\$17,960 at the Navajo Nation Fair, \$9,560 – Chinle, and \$25,894.94 at Shiprock Agency.**

This year, DALTCS proudly hosted **581 elderly participants**, a notable 10% increase from last year. **Twenty-five (25) Tuba City DALTCS staff members** and **29 DALTCS staff from other agencies** joined forces to provide a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where everyone could celebrate, reconnect, and enjoy. Thanks to sponsors, such as Navajo Nation Business Regulatory, NTEC and others, some elders went home with sheep, bales of hay, loads of wood, and other prizes. The oldest female attendee at age 101 and the oldest male attendee at age 98 were also honored. Each received a Pendleton blanket, symbolizing warmth, protection, and respect.

## Nursing homes

DALTCS' is in the early stages of developing its Caregiver Support Program. Until the program has been fully implemented, DALTCS will begin to research and seek funding for a Nursing Home. DALTCS is aware there are facilities in Rough Rock, AZ and Bird Springs, AZ that are not being utilized. For DALTCS, that will be starting point, if assigned.

**Other Goals include** expanding nutrition-focused meal programs to all senior centers by mid-2025, launching a mentorship initiative pairing seniors with local youth for cultural knowledge exchange, and establishing a virtual activity program for seniors with mobility challenges.

## ADA Compliance

Our Facilities Maintenance Department was **allocated \$16 million four years ago** to make Navajo government facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant. We started spending these funds in 2023 and will continue completing projects in 2024. The department was able to **secure two contractors to begin work in Chinle, Fort Defiance, and the Shiprock areas.** The **total cost for the ADA upgrades is \$4,139,782.** The total for 7 locations in Chinle total \$104,940; 12 locations in Fort Defiance total: \$276,819; and 75 additional locations will cost \$3,758,023. The first two are complete, the last project is still in progress.

Going into 2025, our Facility Maintenance department will work to spend an additional \$12 million in funding for ADA projects. It has issued additional RFPs for the upcoming year to address additional concerns. This request was, not chapter houses. We will be requesting to amend the legislation to include all 110 chapters as the need is great for accessibility. I feel like this was in last years report.

## URBAN RELATIVES

### Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF)

For our Urban Diné relatives, my administration worked on assisting you throughout the Homeowners Assistance Fund. We were initially given \$58.5 million to benefit our Navajo homeowners. In 2024, we **assisted homeowners with \$1,885,225.46** in funds. I understand there were many families and individuals who did not receive help or who continue to go through a difficult process in getting assistance. I am not proud of the initial leadership behind the project but since have moved HAF under the Division of Children and Family Services with Thomas Cody, **DCFS aims to increase expenditure by \$20 million for 2025** so we can get back on track with the goal to help our Navajo homeowners.

### Cosnino Project

More than half of our population now lives off our Nation in cities including Phoenix, Albuquerque and border towns like Flagstaff. We hold significant private lands near several of these towns which we have moved on to create new housing and development opportunities. For example, my Economic Development team worked this past year with Navajo Housing Authority to begin organizing a development project on 360 acres at the Cosnino Interchange 5 minutes from Flagstaff. Our team is moving forward with land purchase from NHA, fee to trust application, and various master-planned development components that will include housing and development to create jobs, a place to live, and revenue for our Nation.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELLNESS

### New Healthcare facilities

In February, we broke ground on a \$200 million plus Echo Cliffs Healthcare Center in Bodaway-Gap, in Western Navajo. After approving the 44-acre surface lease in March, I mandated agencies to expedite water line installation to avoid costly delays. This facility will provide healthcare services, including 92 homes, and have a \$1 billion economic impact. It's set for completion by 2026.

We finalized site selection for the new Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gamerco after years of delays. We also invested \$8.1 million in the Chinle Airstrip to improve emergency transportation and employed local Navajos for the asphalt work.

### Food Distribution under DOH

In 2024 the Department of Health kept busy distributing nutritional and traditional foods for the health of our people. In fact, DOH distributed 29,220 food packages to our community members throughout the year, including items like blue corn and Navajo tea. These food packages had 20% more fresh produce than last year, which was a result of DOH partnering with 15 local farmers. DOH purchased four new food trucks to distribute food in our communities, and they implemented a new inventory management system that will reduce waste by 10%. In the year ahead, DOH will leverage its partnership with USDA to feed 5,000 more people than last year and will reach deeper into Navajo lands with mobile units to serve our isolated community members. They will also provide nutrition assistance to 3,000 households in 2025, helping to educate Diné families about how to nourish our bodies for the healthiest life.

### WIC Program

We are proud of our WIC program, which **served 12,000 families**, distributing **\$4 million in benefits**. This program also provided breastfeeding **support to 2,000 Navajo mothers** through workshops and one-on-one counseling. In their nutrition education program, our WIC team introduced culturally tailored traditional Navajo foods for the health of our people. This team plans to increase participation in its breastfeeding program by 20%, and to collaborate with schools to introduce nutrition workshops for parents. The WIC staff will use its recently

purchased truck to offer services to remote communities, and they also plan to develop an online platform for WIC participants to access resources and track benefits.

### **Community Health Representative (CHR) Program**

In 2024, our Community Health Representative Program staff was busy taking care of the Navajo people. Last year, they **conducted 24,882 vital sign checks** and **served 11,000 individuals across 110 chapters**. CHR staff trained **50 CHRs** in advanced chronic disease management techniques and delivered **5,000 diabetes prevention kits**, including monitoring devices and educational materials. In 2025, the CHR program will increase its workforce by 30% to serve even more Navajo people.

They will also establish telehealth CHR support hubs to provide remote monitoring services and **expand elder care visits by 15 percent over the next two years**. We are very thankful for our CHR team and the work they do to take care of our elders and those of us struggling with health-related issues. Taking care of each other is one of the most important things we can do, and the CHR teams make it their life's work, and we are grateful.

### **Special Diabetes Program**

Last year, the Special Diabetes Program **hosted 1,200 diabetes prevention workshops, engaging 8,000 Navajo participants**. They also launched community fitness challenges, enrolling **1,500 individuals in physical activity programs** and distributed 500 glucose monitoring kits to at-risk families. In the coming year they will develop mobile health units equipped for diabetes care and expand healthy cooking demonstrations to hopefully reach 10,000 participants this year. The Special Diabetes Program staff will also be collaborating with schools this year to incorporate diabetes education into school curriculums. Through teaching and learning from each other we can learn to cook healthy meals and exercise together to live healthy, happy lives.

### **COVID-19 Response**

In 2024, the Department of Health continued to protect our people from COVID by **administering 50,000 vaccinations through 100 clinics** and outreach programs, including partnerships with tribal schools to provide on-site vaccination and education sessions for students and staff. The DOH staff also distributed over 1 million PPE items last year, including masks,

gloves, and face shields. This year, the DOH staff will increase vaccine awareness campaigns, aiming for 95% population coverage. They will also conduct a comprehensive review of the Navajo Nation's COVID-19 response and develop localized pandemic preparedness plans for each chapter. While we pray for the health of our Nation, we also prepare for the next big sickness so that we know how to stay safe if it comes.

### **Treatment Facility Purchase**

In 2024, Navajo DOH, in collaboration with Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services (DBMHS) and other Navajo Nation programs, secured the purchase of a facility in Phoenix, Arizona, to offer services to Navajo citizens living in the metro area. The acquisition is nearing finalization, marking a significant milestone in expanding behavioral health infrastructure. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been publicly advertised to subcontract behavioral health/integrated care services for a residential treatment program for our relatives struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders. The goal is to have the facility accredited, fully staffed, and operational, providing comprehensive services by 2026. Our DOH staff has done a great job with this acquisition, and they have big goals to fund the expansion of long-term care services and telehealth capabilities. In the coming year they will also strengthen partnerships with local, state, and federal entities to address chronic health disparities within the Navajo Nation. This team has the mission of "Navajo Healing Navajo", which they will continue to do by fostering innovative health programs, integrating traditional healing practices, and prioritizing community-driven solutions. We are proud of the work the DOH is doing to care for the mental health of our people.

### **Behavioral Health and Mental Services**

Our behavioral health and mental services (BHMS) team worked hard last year to provide outpatient and residential clinical services including crisis response, prevention, and education services. In fact, our BHMS teams **delivered 1,198 clinical (outpatient and residential) services** to clients last year and conducted outreach programs **reaching 33,419 participants**. They also facilitated **1,729 prevention outreach activities/services** to address mental health awareness and early intervention. Additionally, they provided **traditional services to nearly 500 clients**, offering smudging, prayers, and cultural education. For those who needed further spiritual guidance, our BHMS team referred clients to faith-based services and local spiritual

organizations for further support. In the year ahead the BHMS team will enhance traditional and cultural services by increasing the number of certified Traditional Practitioners across the Nation. They will expand outreach programs to reach 50,000 participants next year and develop partnerships with faith-based organizations to provide comprehensive support for clients. They will also increase the number of crisis response teams available to serve remote communities by 2026.

## Opioid Plan

In 2024, the Department of Health **treated 2,000 individuals for opioid use disorder across 15 chapters**. To help save Navajo lives, DOH distributed **10,000 Naloxone kits** to first responders, healthcare workers, and community members. They also partnered with tribal law enforcement to incorporate Naloxone training into annual safety protocols. In their prevention efforts, DOH established three opioid recovery peer support groups, with an average **attendance of 150 individuals per session**, and conducted 25 community education workshops on opioid misuse prevention, **reaching over 5,000 participants**.

In 2025, DOH will launch two new treatment facilities, one in a rural chapter and another in an urban area. In an effort to decrease opioid-related fatalities, DOH will introduce culturally relevant recovery support programs and will expand Naloxone availability to include all schools and chapter houses by mid-2026. DOH will also increase awareness of opioid dangers through media campaigns targeting 50,000 Navajo Nation residents by 2026. Every Navajo life matters, and we don't want to lose any more relatives to opioid use. This is a monster we can fight together.

## Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Families

The Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families Program provides outpatient mental health therapy for children impacted by childhood trauma. In 2024, they **served 9,214** community members, contributing over **\$1.3 million worth of treatment and services to the Navajo economy**. The Center provided direct services to 1,504 clients including family and **conducted 7,710 people participated in preventative education sessions**. This represents a significant increase over 2023, including over 100 new clients and over 4,900 additional preventative education sessions. The Center expects to build on this success by increasing the

number of contacts by 20% in 2025, continuing its vital role in improving the well-being of Navajo children and families.

**Data: 2024 Accomplishments**

- The Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families served 9,214 clients and families in 2024 and contributes an approximate value of treatment and services worth \$1,313,626.28 to the Navajo economy.
- 1,625 clients served
- 5,880 prev. education
- 166 Intakes
- 1,045 Treatment Hours
- 2,584 Case consultation hours

**Data: 2023 comparison**

- 1,523 clients served
- 963 prev. education
- 151 Intakes
- 1,347 Treatment Hours
- 3,119 Case consultation hours

In 2025 We intend to increase number of contacts by 20% in FY 2025

**Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act Program**

The Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act (NICWA) Program was established to watch after every Navajo child who is located off the reservation and subject to removal from their parents for placement in foster care or adoptive homes. The first preference is to reunite them with their families, but when this is not possible, the NICWA Program seeks to find Native American homes who will help raise our children in a way that honors their culture and identity.

In 2024, the **NICWA Program** was able to **help 699 Navajo children across 372 cases nationwide**. The states with the most cases were **Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, California,** and **Colorado**, but the **Nation intervened in cases in 25 additional states** as well. This represents a

slight decrease in the number of cases from 2023. The NICWA Program continues to intervene in almost every state case involving Navajo children, and their goal is to continue to intervene to help Navajo children in every state case and to build a strong working relationship with the states that handle the largest number of Navajo cases.

**Data: 2024**

- Arizona- 303 children were helped of 162 cases
- New Mexico- 158 children were helped of 81 cases
- Utah- 87 children were helped of 42 cases
- California- 45 children were helped of 23 cases
- Colorado- 21 children were helped of 13 cases
- Other 25 states- 85 children were helped of 51 cases

**Data: 2023**

- Arizona- 375 children/196 cases
- New Mexico- 144 children/72 cases
- Utah- 78 children/35 cases
- California- 50 children/ 30 cases
- Colorado- 38 children/19 cases
- Other 27 states- 88 children/52 cases

In 2025 ICWAP intends to respond to every state case that include Navajo children, will begin outreach to states with high cases, and will increase native home placements.

**Department of Child Care and Development funds - DCCD**

Navajo Nation Department for Child Care & Development (DCCD) provides Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) services in the form of financial assistance to low-income families to access childcare so they can work or attend a job training or educational program. DCCD strives to embody the values of T'áá hwó ájit'éego and K'e by fostering safer and healthier communities for future generations.

In 2024, **DCCD provided over \$470,000 in subsidy payments and served a total of 567 children**, with an average of 330 children attending tribally operated childcare centers. DCCD also **invested nearly \$9.5 million in direct services**, contributing substantially to the Navajo

economy while focusing on the education and overall development of Navajo children. The number of childcare providers nearly doubled since 2023, increasing from 59 to 107, serving children in their homes or the homes of providers.

In 2025, DCCD will continue to expand its network of childcare providers, ensuring Navajo families have more options for safe and accessible childcare.

**Data: 2024 Accomplishments**

DCCD works to promote the holistic and cultural values of T'áá hwó ájít'éego and K'é, supporting individuals and families in fostering safer and healthier communities for the well-being of future generations.

- \$473,953.45 subsidy payments
- 567 children total were served by DCCD and on average 330 children were served by tribally operated childcare centers.
- DCCD paid \$9,490,999.90 for direct services which is also a contribution to the Navajo economy, as providers whether independent, relative to the child, or center staff, are concentrated on the education and the overall development of our Navajo children.
- Child Care providers has almost doubled to 247 children per month either in their homes or the homes of the providers.
- 107 Child Care Providers who cared for children.

**Data: 2023 Comparisons**

- \$353,532 subsidy payments
- Child Care Providers served an average of 128 children per month either in their homes or the homes of the providers.
- 59 Child Care Providers who cared for children.

**2025 Goals**

- DCCD will continue to expand childcare providers.
- DCCD will ensure Navajo families have more options to safe childcare as parents and guardians attend to work and/or school.
- DCCD will continue to bring childcare services to homes of relatives which has proven to be more accommodating to Navajo parents and families as they do not have to travel long

distances or leave their children with providers, they are not familiar with, thus, they are assured their children are properly supervised.

- DCCD will continue to focus their services on the development of children and does not classify themselves as babysitters. Instead, DCCD concentrates on educating children at the appropriate levels and promotes physical activity, enhancing social skills, introducing and maintaining traditional and cultural concepts and values, and addressing emotional and mental needs.

### **Department for Self Reliance**

The Department for Self-Reliance provided \$12,731,494 in monthly assistance and 21,686 families were served including 13,246 adults and 41,934 children.

DSR will continue to provide monthly assistance. DSR provides support and recognizes the accomplishments of customers who are participating in work activities to move away from dependence on welfare and who strive to become self-sufficient. The Navajo people are given the necessary resources to obtain and maintain long-term employment, to excel academically and continue advancing in their educational pursuits, and to sustain their families by providing support to their household members

### **Navajo Department of Family Services**

The Navajo Department of Family Services (DFS) helps children, adults, and the elderly who are experiencing abuse, neglect or crisis, and provides services to individuals and households experiencing temporary financial hardship in meeting their short-term basic needs.

In 2024, DFS partnered with seven facilities for residential and emergency shelter care services, investing over \$4 million in these essential resources. The department served over 7,000 clients, including over 6,000 children and 1,000 adults, and responded to 2,600 reports of abuse or neglect involving children and elders. This is a significant increase in outreach and intervention over 2023, when DFS served just over 4,000 clients.

Looking ahead to 2025, DFS will continue to enhance stability within Navajo homes by providing response, intervention, education, outreach, and prevention services.

### **Data: 2024 Accomplishments**

- The Department of Family Services has established contracts for residential care and emergency shelter care services with seven (7) facilities and paid out \$4,363,486.33 to these vendors.
- 7,216 clients (6,068 children, 1,148 adults/elders)
- Responded to 2,621 reports of abuse/neglect involving children and elders.
- 1,097 investigations into child abuse/neglect were conducted,
- In which 395 were recurring cases.
- 288 investigation cases involved child abuse,
- 718 involved child neglect, and
- 131 involved child sexual abuse.
- 175 cases were referred to the court for dependency action.

**Data: 2023 Comparisons**

- 4,246 clients, to date (2,178 children, 1607 adults, and 461 elders).
- Responded to 905 reports of abuse/neglect involving children and elders.
- 287 investigations were conducted,
- 122 were recurring cases while
- 90 involved physical abuse,
- 190 involved neglect,
- And 49 involved sexual abuse

**2025 Goals**

- The DFS is available to help the Navajo people establish stability within their homes by providing response, intervention, education/outreach, and prevention services.
- DFS collaborates with other departments and programs to address cases involving children, adults, and families with various needs, including support when recovering from trauma.
- DFS will continue to promote its services and keep the Navajo people informed of a standardized reporting system through the division's website and social media channels.
- Additionally, assessments will help streamline DFS operations and services so that improvements can guide staff in addressing customer needs.

- Partnering with shelters and service providers is also important as DFS relies on specialized programs and services throughout the Navajo Nation to accomplish its goals and objectives in preserving the family unit.

### **Advancing Environmental Justice: The Fight for RECA Renewal**

This year, my administration faced one of the most critical challenges to environmental justice with the expiration of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) in June 2024. For decades, uranium mining and nuclear testing left a toxic legacy across the Navajo Nation, resulting in devastating health impacts and environmental degradation. The federal government's failure to renew RECA not only abandoned thousands of uranium workers and their families but disregarded the ongoing suffering of our Diné people and other tribal communities.

In response, the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) spearheaded an ambitious advocacy campaign to demand justice and accountability. Through months of groundwork, NNWO secured a key legislative victory in March 2024, when the Senate passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act. This bill was a significant step forward, expanding coverage to include post-1971 uranium miners and additional downwinder communities. While the House failed to act before the program's sunset, NNWO remained undeterred, launching a week-long campaign in Washington, D.C., to reignite national attention and pressure Congress to act.

NNWO raised over \$40,000 to bring more than 50 Indigenous advocates, including Navajo, Hopi, and Pueblo representatives, to the nation's capital. I was honored to join these advocates on the front lines of this fight. Together, we marched from the Navajo Nation Washington Office to Capitol Hill, side by side with those most affected by uranium exposure. This demonstration was not just symbolic—it was a powerful statement that the leadership of the Navajo Nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its people in the fight for justice.

We held press conferences with congressional allies, and staged multi-day demonstrations featuring prayers, ceremonial dances, and personal testimonials. Their stories—of cancers, respiratory illnesses, and the loss of loved ones due to radiation exposure—captured national media attention, with over 35 outlets amplifying their voices and shining a light on the urgent need for action.

To further elevate awareness, NNWO hosted two powerful film screenings of *The Return of Navajo Boy* in Utah, connecting historical injustices to today's fight for justice. Thoughtful discussions led by NNWO staff deepened understanding and galvanized support for legislative action.

This effort is more than a policy battle; it is a deeply personal fight to honor the lives lost, support those still suffering, and ensure future generations are spared from the consequences of federal negligence.

As we look ahead, the Navajo Nation will continue to push for the renewal and expansion of RECA. Together, we will hold the federal government accountable and ensure our people's voices are heard. The fight is not over, and our Nation will not rest until justice is served.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Securing Better Roads for Navajo Mountain and Oljato

Under my administration, the Navajo Nation Washington Office achieved a major success by securing **\$2 million** in congressional earmarks for **road construction in the Navajo Mountain and Oljato chapters**—areas that have long struggled with unsafe and unreliable infrastructure. Although these funds will only become available once Congress passes the FY25 Budget, this breakthrough demonstrates the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts and our ability to deliver tangible results for the Diné people.

For too long, residents in Navajo Mountain and Oljato have been forced to travel on deteriorating roads that can take more than an hour to traverse, often made impassable by inclement weather. What should be a simple 20-minute drive to school, work, or the clinic becomes a hazardous journey that compromises access to education, healthcare, and essential services. The economic implications are also profound; businesses are deterred from operating in these areas, depriving locals of employment opportunities and critical goods.

This **\$2 million** in federal earmarks—secured through collaboration with then Congressman John Curtis (now Senator Curtis), Speaker Crystalyne Curley, the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) under Executive Director Tom Platero, and the unwavering commitment

of NNWO—marks a turning point for these remote communities. With this funding, we will construct safe, durable roads that significantly reduce travel times and enhance the overall quality of life for families, children, and elders. Students will have more consistent access to education, patients will face fewer obstacles to receiving timely care, and local economies can flourish as businesses find it easier to reach and serve these chapters.

Beyond just building roads, we are building pathways to opportunity, security, and progress. This accomplishment underscores the power of federal collaboration and the importance of persistent advocacy in addressing the infrastructure gaps that have long hindered the Navajo Nation. I remain committed to ensuring that our chapters are integrated into larger economic and social networks, so every Diné—no matter where they live—can thrive and prosper.

Related to the **N35 Sweetwater Highway**, construction completion is at 80%. Ongoing construction of drainages and fencing at this time. Paving of N35 will commence this March.

The Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP) Projects for construction in 2025 totals \$144,632,175.

	<b>TTIP Projects</b>	<b>Project Balance</b>
1	N5001 Newcomb - Toadlena	\$14,000,000
2	N12 Wheatfields Lake	\$24,000,000
3	N8066/N8065 Kitsilli to N41	\$20,800,000
4	N9073 Blue Canyon	\$24,933,000
5	N8084 Many Farms	\$12,987,00
6	N55 Alamo	\$7,462,175
7	N609 Tuba City	\$4,400,000
8	N15 Greasewood Cornfields-Burnside Phase 1	\$21,300,000
9	N13 Red Valley	\$14,750,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$144,632,175</b>

## NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION OFFICE

### Federal Advocacy

As President of the Navajo Nation, I am committed to addressing the failures of the Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) and advocating for the Diné families who have suffered under its flawed processes.

For nearly three decades, ONHIR has operated without a presidentially appointed Commissioner or a formal commission, leaving a void that has compromised its effectiveness. Under my leadership, the Navajo Nation has pressed to investigate ONHIR's neglect.

Families relocated under ONHIR have reported substandard housing plagued by structural deficiencies that render homes unsafe and uninhabitable. These failures have caused immeasurable hardship for our people, undermining the very purpose of the relocation program.

we are advancing technical amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act to address these challenges with AZ Congressional representatives. These amendments aim to extend relocation benefits to second-generation relocatees and establish a trust fund for rehabilitating the Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL). In June 2024, my administration worked with Senator Sinema's office to solidify these priorities. We will continue to work with Senator Gallego and Congressman Eli Crane to introduce these amendments, while advocating for a field hearing in the Navajo Partitioned Lands or the Former Bennett Freeze area to bring national attention to these issues.

In October, our administration achieved a significant milestone by securing a consultation with the White House and ONHIR leadership. We visited the communities most affected by relocation—Nahata Dzil, Coalmine, Hardrock, Pinon, Shonto, Teesto, Tonalena, Tuba City, and White Cone. These visits allowed us to hear directly from over **130 residents**, documenting their experiences with the relocation process. The findings revealed that one-third of relocatee families were forcibly relocated under duress, and more than half of the homes provided by ONHIR exhibited structural deficiencies within two years.

During the consultation, we presented a series of urgent action items to the White House, including:

1. The appointment of an ONHIR Commissioner to restore accountability.
2. Support for technical amendments to address systemic issues and expand relocation benefits.
3. Collaboration with the Navajo Nation to develop a comprehensive plan for transitioning ONHIR's functions in alignment with its original mandate.

My administration will continue to hold the federal government accountable for fulfilling its trust responsibilities to the Diné people.

Addressing the failures of the Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation process is about justice, equity, and restoring the dignity of those who have endured generations of hardship. Together, we will ensure that the legacy of relocation is transformed from one of hardship into one of hope and progress.

## **Housing Through ARPA and Council Funding**

**The NHLCO ARPA Project** will serve 84 families in Phase I, and 12 families will be served in Phase II in the Navajo Partitioned Land and the Former Bennett Freeze area. The (2) Community Involvement Specialist has covered the (9) Chapters impacted by the Former Bennett Freeze and the 14 Chapters impacted by the Navajo Partitioned Land; as of December 13, 2024, all site assessments have been completed, and the list of recipients has been actively refined to 84.

The NPL and the FBF area are still disadvantaged zones, and the funds from the ARPA allocated to the NHLCO are serving the neediest and making a real impact on addressing homelessness and family overcrowding in single-family house structures.

**The former Bennett Freeze area is receiving 34 three-bedroom modular homes:** 2 Bodaway/Gap, 4 Cameron, 3 Coalmine Canyon, 2 Coppermine, 2 Kaibeto, 2 Leupp, 3 Tolani Lake, 7 Tonalea, and 9 Tuba City.

**The Navajo Partitioned Land area is receiving 50 three-bedroom modular homes:** 4 Black Mesa, 3 Blue Gap/Tachee, 3 Chilchinbeto, 4 Forest Lake, 2 Hardrock, 4 Jeddito, 2 Low Mountain, 6 Pinon, 5 Shonto, 4 Teesto, 3 Whippoorwill, and 10 Whitecone.

The project manager/CIS and home builder have visited many sites to determine accessibility. The first of 84 modular homes is scheduled for production at the Albuquerque Karsten factory. It is expected to be built from January 6 through January 17, 2025. Work with the Chapters to clear the homesite and provide delivery access.

After the first of the year, the home builder will continue to build homes, which will be delivered at a rate of one new modular home every four business days. We know of possible winter conditions that could cause delays, but we will adjust as needed. We have a list of the first recipients whose sites are ready or cleared by the recipient or their Chapter. In the NPL, those homesites that are ready are:

We are also managing the \$15.5 million allocated by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council (through Legislation CJN-29-22) to purchase more modular homes. The first modular home is scheduled for completion in early January 2025.

### **Diné Relocatee Fund**

The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office is working to use the Diné Relocation Funds to assist applicants in purchasing items to renovate their home. **Thirty (30) clients** are being processed at this time. **Nine (9) clients** have successfully secured the (3) quotes, and the PO has been processed; the home repairs are in active repair status. 21 Clients are obtaining price quotes or in the phase of getting their homes assessed by the NHLCO. The Diné relocatee funds has seen a \$76 thousand increase since 2024 with funding of \$188 thousand set for 2025.

Unfortunately the NHLCO does not have funding to support labor costs under the current continuing resolution. Chapters can initiate requests on behalf of their regional constituents if relocatees urgently need home repairs. NHLCO continues to conduct outreach; however, most clients do not have access to transportation, so it isn't easy to address the transporting of clients to secure the three quotes at the nearest hardware stores.

Outreach has been conducted at the White Cone, Jeddito, and Tonalea Chapters. The Community Involvement Specialist processes most clients on a walk-in basis and follows up with them.

Once the continuing resolution is lifted, a Senior Projects Specialist and additional labor will be brought on board to manage the DRF project and enhance the turnaround in the delivery of relocation home repairs.

### **The Navajo Partition Land Project includes NPL Issuance for Grazing Permits.**

In 1972, the Navajo Grazing Permits were canceled and never reissued until efforts made by the NHLCO and the Navajo Department of Agriculture; an interview committee was established utilizing Resolution No. RDCF-20-17, approved by the Navajo Nation Resources Committee. The committee comprised one member of the NHLCO, where Director Sarah Slim Chairs the Committee and the interview proceedings, two members of the Department of Agriculture, two members of the Land Administration, one member from the BIA/NPL Office, one member from Navajo Forestry, one member from the Historic Preservation Department, and the respective NPL Grazing Officers. The Department of Agriculture organizes the interviews.

So far nineteen recipients were scheduled for interviews from Jeddito, Teesto, and Low Mountain so they could be considered to receive Navajo Partitioned Land Grazing Permits.

**Nineteen recipients were approved to receive their NPL Grazing Permit.** The BIA/NPL Office will issue the final permit, which will be handed to the approved grazing permit holders. All permittees must start with 10 Sheep Units and work with the BIA/NPL Office to implement the Range Unit and Management responsibilities within NPL Range Units: Precincts 1, 2, and 3.

Two Tolani Lake recipients were interviewed and deferred to Phase III of the Issuance of Permits in NPL because the original permittee was identified as a Relocatee. All relocatees original permits were canceled when the relocation benefits were activated.

Two recipients were deferred to Phase III, as these individuals are heirs of relocatees and are not being considered at this time in Phase II. We are requesting the Navajo Nation Council to support this initiative; families that were interviewed were very emotional, as the original permittees have deceased, and they never lived to experience their grazing permit being re-issued in their lifetime.

**The Committee has over 200 recipients pending interviews.** The interviews will commence after the 2025 Chapter Inauguration.

## **Revising NHLCO's Plan of Operation**

After 34 years operating under outdated resolutions, we have approved an updated Plan of Operation for the NHLCO. This allows us to expand our scope, beyond just NPL and FBF concerns, to address community and economic development in all areas affected by land disputes. We aim to foster housing, infrastructure, and resource management solutions that uplift the lives of every Navajo family impacted by these historical injustices.

## **John Dingell Act on Land Deselections Project**

NHLCO is working on a possible amendment to the Dingell Act to extend the deadline for the nation's completion of the Appraisal to make its land selections. The deadline for the Nation to make its selections under the Act is March 12, 2026.

The Farmington BLM office received the Navajo Nation Letter of Concurrence regarding the acreage deselected in the Black Lake Allotment of the former Paragon Resource Ranch in New Mexico. The BLM office sent their calculations two years ago, and the Navajo Nation delayed BLM's appraisal of the lands deselected as directed by John D. Dingell's Legislation until the Navajo Nation issued the Letter of Concurrence. The NHLCO has worked with the Navajo Land Department and the Attorney at National to continue moving this project forward.

BLM has ordered an appraisal of the acreage of deselected lands through the BLM Appraisal and Valuation Service Office. BLM will let our office know when it is scheduled.

## **Memorandum of Understanding with the BIA Navajo Regional Office.**

NHLCO is working with the Tuba City BIA Natural Resources to continue the education rollout for Navajo Nation Middle Managers and Division Directors on developing the Former Bennett Freeze Area Integrated Resources Management Plan.

The purpose is to develop an IRMP for the Navajo Nation's FBFA. Furthermore, the MOU defines the resources to be evaluated, identifies interdisciplinary team members from both BIA and the Navajo Nation, defines the roles and responsibilities of each party, and identifies the project time frames.

The planning area covers 1.6 million acres and 9 Chapters: Tuba City, Coalmine, Kaibeto, Tonalea, Bodaway/Gap, Cameron, Tolani Lake, Leupp, and Coppermine.

The NHLCO would like to increase staffing levels so specialized positions can address the Land Acquisitions made through the Navajo Hopi Land Settlement Act – there is potential for development to meet the economic and housing demands of the Navajo Tribe.

The Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office is looking into several thousand acres of land alongside the Division of Economic Development, and the Division of Economic Development.

### **Looking Ahead: Strengthening and Staffing**

Lastly, we recognize that effectively managing these ambitious projects calls for specialized staffing and more resources. Once our operating budget is approved, we will hire additional experts—engineers, planners, administrators—who will oversee the development and management of projects like Turquoise Ranch, Red Bard Property, and Paseo del Vulcan Property. We are determined to ensure that the acquisition and development of new lands directly benefit our communities, leading to more job opportunities, better infrastructure, and economic prosperity.

## **ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENTS**

### **Expanding Navajo Voices in Emerging Fields**

I am proud to share how our administration is advancing the protection of Navajo culture, sovereignty, and values in new and emerging arenas. One of the most significant accomplishments this past year has been the groundbreaking work of the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) in the realm of space policy.

In January, the Centaur Voyager rocket carried human remains to the Moon’s surface as part of a private memorial spaceflight. This act may have seemed insignificant to many, but for us as Navajo people, it represented a profound challenge to our values and sovereignty. The Moon, known to us as *shímásání*, or grandmother, holds deep cultural and spiritual significance. It is not merely a celestial body—it is a sacred presence interwoven with our stories, ceremonies, and identity.

Through NNWO’s efforts, we defended the sacredness of the Moon and our broader spiritual connection to the cosmos. We took a stand against private sector actions that commodify celestial

bodies, challenging practices that seek to transform sacred spaces into personal or corporate monuments. These actions directly threaten the cultural and spiritual balance we have maintained for generations.

Director Justin Ahasteen, representing the voice of our Nation, put it best when he stated:

*“To the Navajo people, the Moon is not a possession but a sacred relationship, a shared part of humanity’s collective heritage that calls for stewardship and respect. As humanity reaches for the stars, we must ask not only what we can gain but also what impact our actions will have and whom they will affect.”*

Under our leadership, the NNWO ensured that the Navajo Nation’s voice was heard on the global stage. We made it clear that the federal government, under its trust responsibility, must consult with tribal nations on decisions that affect our cultural and spiritual heritage. NNWO’s advocacy highlighted our rights under international frameworks like the Outer Space Treaty, emphasizing the prevention of harmful contamination to celestial bodies.

This campaign garnered international attention, with media outlets, educational institutions, and policymakers recognizing the importance of Indigenous perspectives in shaping space exploration. As a result, the Navajo Nation has been invited to participate in panels and discussions to influence global policies on these issues.

Our administration’s success in this area reflects our commitment to protecting the Navajo people from cultural exploitation and ensuring our sovereignty remains strong, even in spaces beyond this Earth. We are not just reacting to the challenges posed by private corporations—we are setting the standard for how humanity must engage with the cosmos.

By taking this stand, we are defending not only the integrity of our sacred teachings but also ensuring that the Diné remain leaders in global conversations about respect, responsibility, and shared human heritage. This work is a testament to our administration’s dedication to protecting the Navajo people, preserving our sovereignty, and upholding the values that guide us as a Nation.

Together, we are showing the world that the Diné teachings of balance and respect have a place in every corner of the universe. And we will continue to ensure that our voices shape the future—for our people and for all of humanity.

### **Strengthening International Relations**

This past year we also facilitated a historic cultural exchange with a delegation from Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz people have a strong bond with their land, their traditions, and their identity. Their nomadic heritage and reverence for their mountainous homeland resonate deeply with our own connection to Diné Bikéyah. This exchange allowed us to share how we balance our traditional governance with modern governmental frameworks while hearing strategies for preserving culture in a rapidly changing world.

This visit was a clear demonstration of the Navajo Nation's growing ability to engage with the world as a sovereign government. It showed that our voice matters on the global stage and that the Diné have valuable perspectives to share in addressing challenges like cultural preservation and sustainable development.

This exchange reaffirmed our traditions, values, and identity have meaning far beyond our borders. They inspire others and remind us of the strength we carry as a people.

As we continue to build these international relationships, we're not only creating new opportunities for economic growth and cultural exchange—we're showing the world what it means to lead with respect, balance, and a vision for a shared future. This accomplishment is something all of us can be proud of because it reflects the best of who we are as Diné.

## **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

### **Administration**

The purpose of the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** is to direct and manage the allocation and appropriation processes of all funds for the **Navajo Nation (NN)** and to provide management support in the areas of fiscal management, budgets, program operation and management, contracts, grants, and similar agreements. The OMB is to communicate key information necessary for decision-making using principles of sound management and general

accepted processes and procedures.

**Navajo Nation documents processed for CY 2023 and 2024**

<b>Documents</b>	<b>CY'2023</b>	<b>CY'2024</b>
2. Budget Transfers	1,631	2,309
2. 164 Review Documents	1,181	1,238
3. 164 Re-Review	288	351
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,539</b>	<b>6,310</b>

**Budget**

Services Offered to the Public: 1) Direct and coordinate the annual NN budget development process; 2) Conduct comprehensive program analysis and monitoring; 3) Communicate information regarding allocation appropriation and budgeting and 4) Present fiscal management to Budget & Finance Committee.

**Contracts and Grants**

- The current P.L. 93-638 I.H.S. Contract for Health Management Services/NDOH covers January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2024. The budget prepared by NDOH on the total

estimated funding on the Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) provided by Navajo Area Indian Health Services (NAIHS) are entered in FMIS by Contracts & Grants Section (CGS). The actual funds are allocated by contract modification during AFA year by NAIHS. The budget in FMIS must be adjusted to the actual funding which was completed on CY 2018 to 2024 AFAs.

- The CY 2025 funding proposals on all three (3) P.L. 93-638 I.H.S. Contracts were submitted to NAIHS. The Successor AFA on EMS was approved and awarded. The other two (HMS and NTCCTF) are Contract Renewal which are pending review and approval.
- There are twenty (20) P.L. 93-638 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Contracts. The CY 2025 funding proposal on ten (10) Contracts have been approved and awarded. The remaining ten are pending review and approval.
- In May 2021, the Nation was allocated ARPA funding of \$2 billion. The due date associated with that is expend/obligate the funds by December 31, 2024, and liquidate the obligation by December 31, 2026. To ensure the Nation keeps 100% of funds and not return any to U.S. Department of Treasury (DoT), CGS assisted NN FRF Office and OOC with setting up budgets on ARPA funds allocated to recipients and accounting for the funds. The financial report by OOC to U.S. DOT will show the result on the Nation's effort to expend all the funds for services to the Navajo people.

In 2025, OMB is working to incorporate a two-year budget cycle. With the implementation of the new ERP system, we want to ensure our office remains in compliance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and improve our current monitoring and compliance efforts.

OMB is also assisting our Departments and Programs move from submitting several 638 grant agreements to moving our programs under a comprehensive grant program called 477. This allows us to submit less reports, maintain our funding under the Department of the Interior, and focus more attention on services delivered.