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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, June 8, 2012

**FUNDING APPLICATION FOR PEACEMAKING AND FAMILY GROUP
CONFERRING**

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch is pursuing funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant that will enable the courts, prosecutor and Social Services to refer Children's Code cases to the Peacemaking Program for both peacemaking and family group conferencing pursuant to 9 NNC § 1003 and 1101 of the Alchíní bi Beehaz'áanii Act of 2011.

The grant will provide \$73,479 in order to fund the yeel, or fee, for community-based peacemakers to conduct peacemaking and life value engagements across all judicial districts of the Navajo Nation for three years upon court and agency referrals in cases involving dependency, children in need of supervision and delinquency.

New peacemaking guidelines are being drafted that would implement the relevant provisions of the Alchíní bi Beehaz'áanii Act and also restore the traditional teaching elements of the original peacemaking process in order to best serve families and children.

The application is now on the www.navajocourts.org site for a 30 day public comment period ending July 8, 2012. Comments may be sent to Karen Francis, judicial liaison officer, at karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov.

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