



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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President Shelly approves \$1.1 million for legislative district assistants program



President Shelly signed Resolution No. CMA-8-15 on March 24 and approved \$1.1 million for the LDA program. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.— Third time’s the charm.

On the afternoon of March 24, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed Resolution No. CMA-8-15 and approved FY 2015 general funds in the amount of \$1,151,811 for the legislative district assistants program.

Legislative district assistants are assigned to the 24 council delegates to provide “a wide range of legislative work of considerable difficulty in providing general support to council delegates and specifically addressing inquiries

from, and serving as a liaison to, constituents.”

“In the spirit of cooperation with the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, I have signed and approved more than \$1.1 million for the legislative district assistants program,” President Shelly said. “These funds will provide the council with assistance in constituency services.”

The president vetoed two other legislative resolutions requesting for more than \$3.5 million to fund the LDA positions.

During the FY 2015 comprehensive budget, the

22nd Navajo Nation Council took issue with politically appointed positions and said the funding for salaries would best be utilized to provide direct services to the Navajo people.

President Shelly agreed and subsequently vetoed Legislation No. CS-46-14 on Sept. 15, 2014. The legislation earmarked almost \$2 million for the LDA program, more than \$1.3 million of which was identified to fund travel expenses.

A few months passed before a second bill surfaced to fund the district assistant positions.

On Dec. 10, 2014, President

Shelly vetoed Legislation No. CN-58-14. The Navajo Nation Council proposed a \$541,946 budget for the LDA program.

President Shelly’s decision to approve the LDA program budget the third time around came after months of negotiations and discussions with members of the tribal council.

