



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Navajo Nation's telecommunication service providers take "Keeping Americans Connected Pledge" to provide internet access for Navajo students, small businesses, and residents

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Executive Director Christopher Becenti announced on Friday that the Navajo Nation's telecommunication service providers, including AT&T/Cricket, CellularOne, Choice/NTUA Wireless, Frontier, Naked Mobile, Sacred Wind, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless signed the "Keeping Americans Connected Pledge" to ensure more Navajo students, small businesses, and residents have internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has been working closely with Choice/NTUA Wireless and Sacred Wind to set-up WiFi hot spots connections for Navajo students. On April 10, Choice/NTUA Wireless installed three free WiFi hot spots at the Chinle and Dilkon NTUA District Offices and NTUA headquarters in Fort Defiance for students to use from their vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. from Monday to Friday.

"As the Dikos Nstaaígíí-19 outbreak spreads and causes a series of disruption to the economic, educational, medical, and civic life of our Nation, it is important that our Navajo citizens stay connected. Broadband and telephone connections will help people stay connected with their loved ones, health care providers, work, and ensure our children and students can continue to engage in learning," said President Nez.

The "Keeping Americans Connected Pledge" is a 60-day pledge for service providers to:

- Not cutting service to residents or small businesses that can't pay bills due to the ongoing pandemic.
- Waiving late fees incurred due to coronavirus-related hardships.
- Opening WiFi hotspot access to those who need them.

"First and foremost, we express our appreciation to all the service providers on the Navajo Nation for keeping citizens connected during this difficult time. Navajo families, students, and educators

will be relying on broadband connections to stay connected to schools, workplaces, and medical providers. As a team, we are working hard to ensure a broadband connection is accessible," said Becenti, who also stated that there would be additional remote WiFi hot spots locations for students throughout the Navajo Nation.

"Many of our Navajo families are facing financial hardships from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but as leaders, we want to ensure that our citizens can have connections and access while following social distancing guidelines. The Nez-Lizer Administration is working with partners, and we are confident that our joint efforts will help many students and families," said Vice President Lizer.

For more information, contact the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission at [\(929\) 871-7854](tel:9298717854).

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