



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation Business and Artisans Economic Relief Grant Program to begin accepting applications on September 7th

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are pleased to announce that the newly-created Navajo Nation Business and Artisans Economic Relief Grant Program will begin accepting applications on Sept. 7, 2020, to assist Navajo businesses, entrepreneurs, and Navajo artisans facing financial hardship and/or business interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$60 million that will be used for the program was part of the \$475 million CARES Act funding package in Resolution CJY-67-20, which was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council on Aug. 6 and signed into law on Aug. 16 by President Nez and Vice President Lizer.

“We’ve had business owners and Navajo artists ask about COVID-19 economic relief efforts. We know that many businesses and artisans have dealt with the economic downturn due to the pandemic and it is not just here on the Navajo Nation, it is across the country. Under the leadership of Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie, his team put together the \$60 million proposal and now they have implemented the Business and Artisans Economic Relief Grant Program. We encourage all business owners and artisans to take the initiative to apply for the funds,” said President Nez.

Navajo artisans who meet the eligibility requirements can receive up to \$5,000 for “dire financial emergencies” defined as the lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine, childcare, and food. Eligible businesses can receive as much as \$10,000 to \$60,000 depending on the demonstrated need.

“Many artisans depend on other businesses to showcase and sell their artwork and we know that many businesses had to close for periods of time due to the ongoing pandemic. With these funds, we want businesses to keep their employees on the payroll, cover some operating expenses, and hopefully create some long-term stability. As a business owner, I understand the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on operations while we try to maintain our employees as well. I encourage all businesses out there to at least submit an application,” said Vice President Lizer.

Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie said the application website will go live on Monday, Sept. 7 and will include two separate applications – one for businesses and one

for Navajo artisans. There is a two-step process, part one is the Navajo Business Certification Application and step two is the relief grant application. Applicants are required to complete their source list number in part one in order to apply for part two. All information is located at www.navajoeconomy.org. Additional information is available on the Division of Economic Development's Facebook page, along with live webinars regarding the application process.

The following general eligibility requirements apply to all businesses applying for financial assistance under this Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant:

- Business is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Business is organized for profit and at least 51% owned by an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
- Business was in operation prior to January 1, 2020
- Business has less than 300 employees as of March 1, 2020 (for the purpose of this requirement, each individual employee, regardless of typical number of hours worked, and each owner, is considered one employee)
- Business is certified or to be certified or re-certified under the Navajo Nation Business Source List as published by the Navajo Business Regulatory Department (BRD). Website: www.navajoeconomy.org

The following general eligibility requirements apply to all artists and artisans applying for financial assistance under this Navajo Artisan Relief Grant:

- Business is certified or to be certified or re-certified under the Navajo Nation Business Source List as published by the Navajo Business Regulatory Department (BRD). Website: www.navajoeconomy.org
- Organized as an artist in a medium or discipline in art or performance
- Artist or artisan is at least 18 years of age
- Artist or artisan must be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
- Artist or artisan must be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to their work, careers, and public audience for their work
- Artist or artisan is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Independently owned and operated with annual gross sales revenue of \$100,000 or less (artists or artisans who typically earn over this amount each year should look into the Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant)

"As a business owner and most importantly as an artist, I know the challenges that one's business can go through. It is also extremely difficult when you have no avenue to sell your work or are instructed to close due to a public health emergency. Therefore, when we began developing this program in May, we took into account all possible situations our business owners and artisans are facing. A lot of hours of preparation, evaluation, and determination made this possible. My team deserves all the recognition in making this possible. We are looking forward to a positive outcome for everyone," stated Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie.

Overall, the Navajo Nation received over \$714 million in CARES Act funds: \$600 million on May 6, \$86 million on June 16, and \$27 million on June 18. Approximately \$537 million in CARES Act funds has been approved and signed into law, leaving a remaining amount of \$176 million, which the Nez-Lizer Administration is proposing to use fund to directly help Navajo students, elders, families, and others impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through Legislation No. 0209-20.

For more information regarding the Navajo Nation Business and Artisans Economic Relief Grant Program, please contact the Division of Economic Development at (928) 871-6544 or send an email to navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov.

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For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



NAVAJO NATION

BUSINESS & ARTISANS ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
U.S. FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Navajo Artisans Economic Relief Grant Program Summary

Purpose: To assist Navajo Artists and Artisans facing financial hardship and/or business interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic with financial assistance for necessary expenditures. This grant is designed to provide direct relief for artists and artisans, provide for economic assistance, and promote overall economic stability to those artists and artisans facing the impacts of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Eligibility Requirements: The following general eligibility requirements apply to all artists and artisans applying for financial assistance under this *Navajo Artisan Relief Grant*.

- Business is certified or to be certified or re-certified under the Navajo Nation Business Source List as published by the Navajo Business Regulatory Department (BRD). Website: www.navajoeconomy.org/certified-navajo-businesses/
- Organized as an artist in a medium or discipline in art or performance
- Artist or artisan is at least 18 years of age
- Artist or artisan must be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
- Artist or artisan must be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to their work, careers, and public audience for their work
- Artist or artisan is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Independently owned and operated with annual gross sales revenue of \$100,000 or less (artists or artisans who typically earn over this amount each year should look into the Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant)

Amount Applicants Eligible for: Up to \$5,000 for “dire financial emergencies” defined as the “lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine, childcare, and food.” *We are aware that each artists’ needs differ, so we ask that you thoroughly and accurately consider your situation when completing application. Applicants should demonstrate a pressing and critical need for emergency support to be considered for this grant.*

Application Process: This grant is comprised of two components, (1) *Navajo Business Certification* and (2) *Navajo Artisan Relief Grant Application*.

- **Applicants must first complete Navajo Business Certification Application and acquire Navajo Business Certification Number prior to completing the Navajo Artisan Economic Relief Grant Application.**
- **Complete Navajo Artisan Economic Relief Grant Application and all required documentation must be submitted to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development by no later than October 30, 2020.**

Application and supporting documentation may be submitted online via the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Website or at an in-person application location. Additional information on application sites and hours of operation are available from the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development website: www.navajoeconomy.org. Please note that additional requests for documentation may be needed if information provided is not completed correctly or your business circumstances require additional verification.



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U.S. FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Part 1: Navajo Business Certification



*PART G OF CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

NAVAJO NATION BUSINESS REGULATORY CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

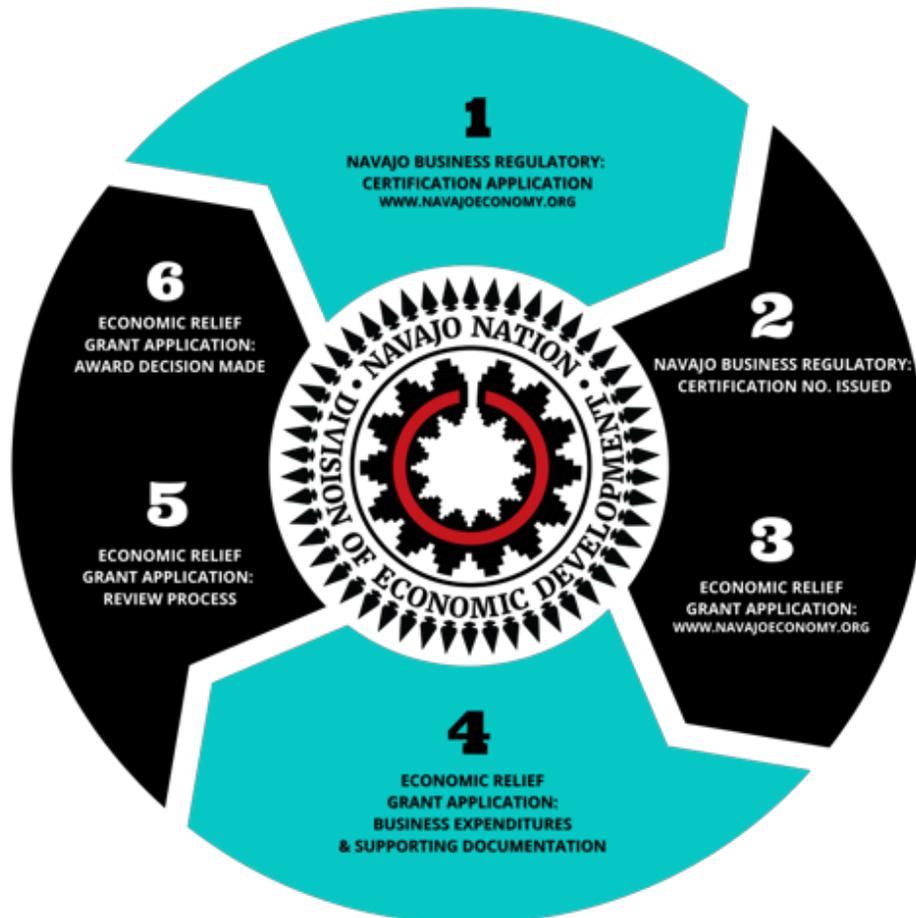
1. Navajo Business Certification Application (Parts A – H) | www.navajoeconomy.org
2. Gather Documents (Part B)
Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) AND Employer Identification Number (EIN) OR Social Security Number (SSN)
3. Past Projects Summary Sheet (Part G/Exhibit B)
4. Organization Information - To be completed by all applicants (Part G)
5. Navajo Office of Tax Commission (Navajo Nation Tax Form 100)
Available at: www.navajoeconomy.org or www.tax.navajo-nsn.gov
Any person or organization engaging in any business activity whatsoever within the Navajo Nation, must register with the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission by filing this form.
6. Navajo Nation Procurement Review Process (Where Applicable)
 - Navajo Veterans
 - Navajo Business Site Lease
 - Business Industrial Development Fund (BIDF)/Credit Services
7. Certification Application Review
8. Business Certification No. Issued by Navajo Business Regulatory Department
Required for Part 2: Navajo Economic Relief Grant Application



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Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Part 2: Navajo Economic Relief Grant Application



NAVAJO NATION ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Navajo Business Certification Application | www.navajoeconomy.org
2. Navajo Business Certification Number Issued:
Certification may be complete or in-progress prior to moving onto step 3
3. Navajo Nation Economic Relief Grant Application:
Available September 8, 2020 | www.navajoeconomy.org
4. NN Economic Relief Grant Application:
Submit business information i.e.; business expenditures & supporting documentation
5. NN Economic Relief Grant Application review process:
Documentation & information to be reviewed by independent accounting firm.
6. NNER Grant Application award decision made:
Applicant notified & provided guidance on awarding details & guidelines



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BUSINESS & ARTISANS ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
U.S. FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the Navajo Nation is providing financial assistance to eligible Navajo Artists and Artisans facing hardship during this public health emergency.
- **Who qualifies to participate within the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Certified by or whose certification is in progress with the Navajo Business Regulatory Department.
 - Organized as an artist in a medium or discipline in art or performance
 - At least 18 years of age.
 - Enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.
 - Artist or artisan is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Independently owned and operated.
 - Annual gross sales revenue of \$100,000 or less (artists or artisans who typically earn over this amount each year should look into the Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant).
- **What is a qualified participant in the Navajo Economic Relief Program eligible to receive?**
 - Eligible recipients will be provided with financial assistance up to \$5,000. The amount varies depending on eligibility criteria.
- **How long is the process to receive funds from the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Grant application and all required documentation must be submitted by no later than October 30, 2020*.
 - The deadline to expend funds to eligible recipients is December 31, 2020*.
- **What do I need to submit to receive funds from the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Part 1: Complete Business Certification Application
 - Part 2: Complete Navajo Economic Relief Program Application
- **Who do I contact with questions regarding the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development
 - Phone: 928-871-6544
 - Email: navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov
 - Online: www.navajoeconomy.org
- **I am a registered business under the Navajo Business Regulatory Department, do I need to register again?**
 - Applicant certification must be up to date at the submission of Navajo Economic Relief Program application. Please provide all necessary documentation for recertification to Navajo Nation.

*Deadline dates are subject to change.



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Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Program Summary

Purpose: To assist Navajo businesses facing financial hardship and/or business interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic with financial assistance for necessary expenditures. This grant is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their employees on the payroll, provide for economic assistance with operating expenses and promote overall economic stability to those businesses facing the impacts of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Eligibility Requirements: The following general eligibility requirements apply to all businesses applying for financial assistance under this *Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant*.

- Business is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Business is organized for profit and at least 51% owned by an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
- Business was in operation prior to January 1, 2020
- Business has less than 300 employees as of March 1, 2020 (*for the purpose of this requirement, each individual employee, regardless of typical number of hours worked, and each owner, is considered one employee*)
- Business is certified or to be certified or re-certified under the Navajo Nation Business Source List as published by the Navajo Business Regulatory Department (BRD). Website: www.navajoeconomy.org/certified-navajo-businesses/

Amount Applicants Eligible for: To be determined based upon eligible business interruption expenses and business characteristics. Maximum award amount is subject to availability and can range from up to \$10,000 to \$60,000 per business with demonstrated need. *Individuals applying for grant funding greater than \$10,000 will be asked to provide additional verification documentation.*

Application Process: This grant is comprised of two components, (1) *Navajo Business Certification* and (2) *Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Application*.

- **Applicants must first complete Navajo Business Certification Application and acquire Navajo Business Certification Number prior to completing the Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Application.**
- **Complete Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Application and all required documentation must be submitted to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development by no later than October 30, 2020.**

Application and supporting documentation may be submitted online via the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Website or at an in-person application location. Additional information on application sites and hours of operation are available from the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development website: www.navajoeconomy.org. Please note that additional requests for documentation may be needed if information provided is not completed correctly or your business circumstances require additional verification. All applicants requesting a grant distribution greater than \$50,000 will be asked to provide additional information to comply with reporting requirements required by the United States Treasury.



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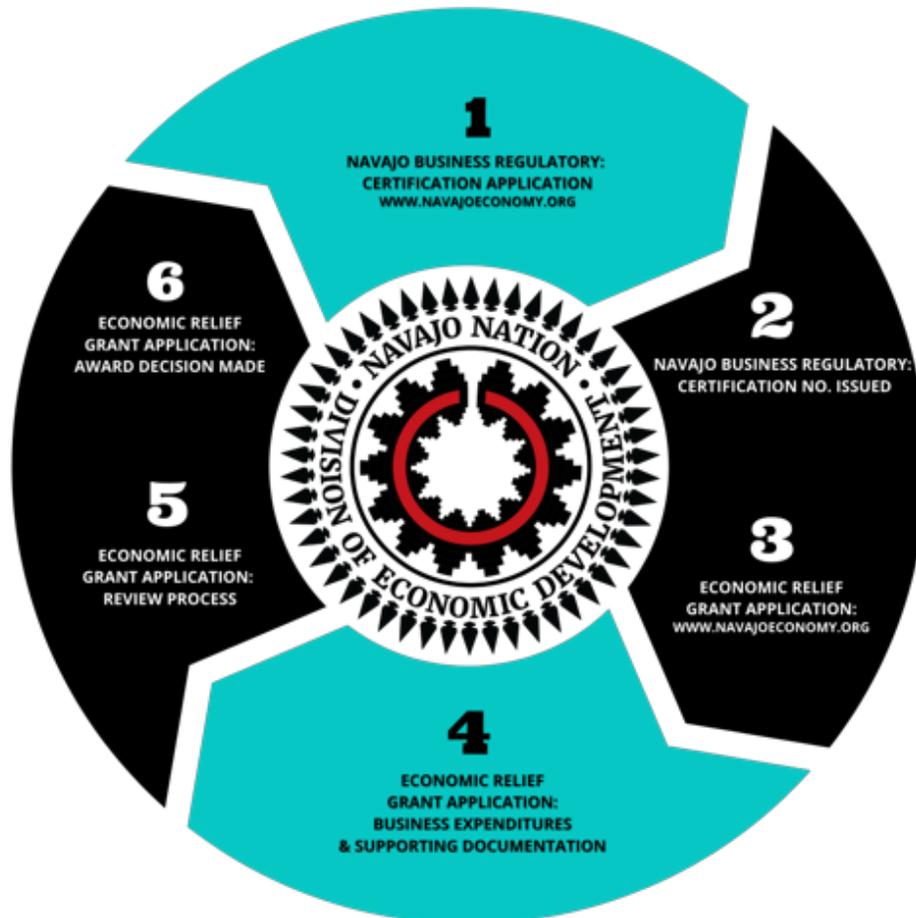
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2. Gather Documents (Part B)
Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) AND Employer Identification Number (EIN) OR Social Security Number (SSN)
3. Past Projects Summary Sheet (Part G/Exhibit B)
4. Organization Information - To be completed by all applicants (Part G)
5. Navajo Office of Tax Commission (Navajo Nation Tax Form 100)
Available at: www.navajoeconomy.org or www.tax.navajo-nsn.gov
Any person or organization engaging in any business activity whatsoever within the Navajo Nation, must register with the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission by filing this form.
6. Navajo Nation Procurement Review Process (Where Applicable)
 - Navajo Veterans
 - Navajo Business Site Lease
 - Business Industrial Development Fund (BIDF)/Credit Services
7. Certification Application Review
8. Business Certification No. Issued by Navajo Business Regulatory Department
Required for Part 2: Navajo Economic Relief Grant Application



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Navajo Business Economic Relief Grant Part 2: Navajo Economic Relief Grant Application



NAVAJO NATION ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

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Certification may be complete or in-progress prior to moving onto step 3
3. Navajo Nation Economic Relief Grant Application:
Available September 8, 2020 | www.navajoeconomy.org
4. NN Economic Relief Grant Application:
Submit business information i.e.; business expenditures & supporting documentation
5. NN Economic Relief Grant Application review process:
Documentation & information to be reviewed by independent accounting firm.
6. NNER Grant Application award decision made:
Applicant notified & provided guidance on awarding details & guidelines



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- **Who qualifies to participate within the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Business is facing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
 - Business is organized for profit and at least 51% owned by an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
 - Business was in operation prior to January 1, 2020
 - Business has less than 300 employees (all employees) as of March 1, 2020
 - Business is certified or to be certified or re-certified under the Navajo Nation Business Source List as published by the Navajo Business Regulatory Department (BRD)
 - Website: www.navajoeconomy.org/certified-navajo-businesses/
 - Must not have received assistance through other CARES Act programs:
 - Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
 - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- **What is a qualified participant in the Navajo Economic Relief Program eligible to receive?**
 - To be determined based upon eligible business interruption expenses, demonstrated need and business characteristics.
 - Maximum award amount is \$60,000 and subject to availability.
- **How long is the process to receive funds from the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
 - Grant application and all required documentation must be submitted by no later than October 30, 2020*.
 - The deadline to expend funds to eligible recipients is December 31, 2020*.
- **What do I need to submit to receive funds from the Navajo Economic Relief Program?**
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 - Email: navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov
 - Online: www.navajoeconomy.org
- **I am a registered business under the Navajo Business Regulatory Department, do I need to register again?**
 - Applicant certification must be up to date at the submission of Navajo Economic Relief Program application.
 - Certificate of good standing acceptable; business must be 51% Navajo owned.

*Deadline dates are subject to change.