



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**President Nez approves \$2 million appropriation for the  
expansion of the Cañoncito Band of Navajos Health Center**



**TOHAJIILEE, N.M.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and First Lady Phefelia Nez were joined by 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jamie Henio, To'Hajiilee Chapter officials, Cañoncito Band of Navajos Health Center, Inc., board members and staff, and community members in To'Hajiilee, N.M., on Sunday, as they signed Resolution CJY-40-21 into law, which allocates \$2 million from the Síhasin Fund for the expansion of the current Cañoncito Band of Navajos Health Center.

The Cañoncito Band of Navajos Health Center, Inc., a tribal non-profit corporation and Public Law 638 facility, offers comprehensive primary care, including dental, pharmacy, optometry, podiatry, audiology, diabetes program, and works closely with the Navajo Nation Behavioral and Mental Health Program and the Community Health Representatives.

“We appreciate the collaborative effort between the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, the To’Hajiilee community, and our Administration to support our Nation’s health care system. Together, we continue to face the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic, and we will need every advantage to fight back. The frontline warriors with the To’Hajiilee health center continue to do a great job mitigating the virus throughout the pandemic. With the expansion of the health care center, I’m confident that the staff will remain devoted to providing services to ensure the well-being of the Navajo people. We are all in this together, and this initiative is part of the bigger fight against COVID-19 and the Delta variant,” said President Nez.

Resolution CJY-4-21, sponsored by Council Delegate Jamie Henio, was unanimously approved by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council by a vote of 23-0, on July 22. The \$2 million investment will contribute to the shortfall of the health center expansion project, which is approximately 60-percent complete. The project includes a 9,200 square ft. expansion to the existing 11,500 square ft. facility. The development meets sufficient medical and operational space for more than 37 healthcare providers and the increasing number of patients.

“Rural health care centers have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic and have remained committed to ensuring local access to high-quality services, including assisting with testing, contact tracing, vaccine deployment, and humanitarian efforts. We are committed to supporting rural clinics, and investments are necessary to ensure that rural communities have access to essential health care services,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks Council Delegate Jamie Henio for sponsoring the legislation and the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for their support. The Cañoncito Band of Navajos Health Center expansion project is expected to be completed in Fall 2021.

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