



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**President Nez approves funding for final phase of CARES Act
Hardship Program for remaining applicants and enrolled members**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CJN-35-21 into law on Friday, approving the final phase of the CARES Act Hardship Program to allow remaining applicants to receive the direct relief funding, and to reopen the application process for enrolled members who did not apply for the relief funds last year. The Nez-Lizer Administration, in coordination with the Office of the Controller, will host an online town hall and radio forum next week to provide more information.

During the first phase of the Hardship Program last year, over \$319 million in CARES Act funds was issued to approximately 308,000 enrolled members. \$41,979,377 remains unspent and will be used for the final phase of the Hardship Program.

Approximately 92,000 enrolled members have not received Hardship Program relief funds, which includes 1,865 individuals who submitted an application prior to last November's deadline, but were missing supporting documents to complete their application.

“The final phase of the Hardship Program will provide financial relief to the 1,865 individuals who submitted an application prior to last year's deadline, but they will have to work with the Office of the Controller to complete their application packet. The application process will also reopen to the 90,000 plus individuals who did not apply for the Hardship Program last year, and they will have the opportunity to submit an application. Yes, it is the peoples' money and we understand that families are facing some financial hardships. We strongly encourage our people to use the funds to help their loved ones recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said President Nez.

On June 25, the Navajo Nation Council approved legislation for the final phase of the program and included language in the resolution stating that the 1,865 individuals currently on the waiting list will receive direct financial relief comparable to the \$1,350 per adult and \$450 per minor amounts that was distributed last year. The Office of the Controller will begin contacting the 1,865 individuals to help complete their applications beginning next week.

For those who have not applied during the first phase, there will be a 60-day time period to allow those enrolled members to submit applications and based on the number of applicants received,

the remaining funds will be distributed. Details about the application process will be provided by the Office of the Controller.

“We thank the Navajo Nation Council for supporting this legislation to provide financial relief for families who have not already received CARES Act Hardship funds. Many people have questions and we will do our best to provide as much information and answers to your questions through our online town halls and radio forums. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we must remain united and focus on recovery efforts, including the physical and mental well-being of our loved ones. These funds are a blessing for our people and we strongly urge everyone to use the funds for essential needs and services,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Office of the President and Vice President and the Office of the Controller will hold an online town hall and radio forum next week to provide more information. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the 24th Navajo Nation Council and many others for their support.

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