



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation announces the Enhanced Retirement Program

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and the Department of Retirement Services are pleased to announce the implementation of the Navajo Nation Enhanced Retirement Program (ERP).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nez-Lizer Administration initiated discussions with the Department of Retirement Services to offer enhanced benefits to Navajo Nation employees who are most at risk of the Coronavirus and those seeking to retire.

“This is a challenging time and we recognize that some high-risk individuals who are employed with the Navajo Nation may want to retire sooner than later to reduce any potential risks – the Enhanced Retirement Program provides that opportunity. We are proud to recognize those who have dedicated their career to and in support of the Navajo Nation. We would like to remind all Navajo Nation employees that they are supported, valued, and they are indeed essential,” said President Nez.

On May 4, the 24th Navajo Nation Council’s Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0073-21 in support of the Enhanced Retirement Program. The Department of Retirement Services will be working with the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch employees to offer enhanced retirement benefits in recognition of their years of service.

The Enhanced Retirement Program offers an incentive of an additional three years of service when calculating an individual’s retirement benefit payment, which increases their lifetime benefit by an average of six-percent. The program is completely voluntary and is available to the following employees:

- Regular status employees who were sixty (60) years of age and have served at least ten (10) years of service as of March 31, 2021.
- Retirees whom retired on or after April 1, 2020 are also eligible if they would have met the same criteria if they had continued working through March 31, 2021.

Navajo Nation Employees interested in participating in the Enhanced Retirement Program will need to retire by September 30, 2021. Enhanced retirement benefit payments will begin on October 1, 2021. For those whom retired on or after April 1, 2020, the benefit will automatically be adjusted to reflect the enhancement beginning in October as well.

All eligible employees will receive information about the Enhanced Retirement Program and how to apply later this summer. Unfortunately, the Department of Retirement Services is unable to extend this program to certain “essential” employees such as Judges and Commissioned Law Enforcement Officers, with respect to specific retirement plans implemented within the three-branch government.

For more information about the Enhanced Retirement Program, please contact the Department of Retirement Services at (928) 871-6944 or visit: <https://www.nndrs.navajo-nsn.gov>.

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