



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**American Rescue Plan proposal includes funds for  
infrastructure, direct services, and hardship assistance**

**LEUPP, Ariz.** – On Friday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Division Directors met with the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Seth Damon, and Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, to further strategize for the full implementation of the Navajo Nation’s Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Navajo Nation received over \$2 billion from the U.S. Treasury. As of Friday, a total of \$411 million of the \$2 billion has been allocated to reimburse eligible defunded CARES Act allocations and appropriations that were previously funded through the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund and Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB), in accordance with Resolution CJY-41-21, which established the framework for the implementation of the funds.

During Friday’s meeting, the Executive Branch presented a proposal to allocate the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the following:

\$200 million for broadband, \$200 million for water/wastewater projects, \$160 million for powerlines, \$140 million for bathroom additions, \$80 million for housing, \$220 for chapter projects, \$80 million for educational initiatives, \$80 million for wellness centers/detox centers/senior centers/transition housing, \$80 million for social services, \$90 million for economic

<b>Initial Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Sihasin and UUFB Funds	\$78
Defunded CARES Projects	\$168
Support and Regulatory	\$165
<b>First Expenditure Bill (Infrastructure)</b>	
Broadband	\$200
Water/Wastewater	\$200
Powerlines	\$160
Bathroom Additions	\$140
Housing	\$80
<b>Second Expenditure Bill (Chapters)</b>	
Chapter Projects	\$220
<b>Third Expenditure Bill (Econ. Dev. &amp; Services)</b>	
Education	\$80
Health	\$80
Social Services	\$80
Economic Development	\$90
Tourism	\$20
<b>Enterprises</b>	
Enterprises	\$100
<b>Hardship Funds</b>	
Hardship Payments (10%)	\$207
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,068</b>

development, \$20 million for tourism, and \$100 million for enterprises. \$207 million for hardship assistance was previously approved for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation in CJY-41-21. All new proposals are subject to approval by the Navajo Nation Council.

President Nez said that while Resolution CJY-41-21 states that hardship assistance will be available in 2024, he supports amending that language to issue hardship assistance to enrolled members as soon as possible. In order to increase the amount of funding for hardship assistance, it will require the Council to amend CJY-41-21 through a new legislation.

“The comprehensive project listing compiled by the Executive Branch for the Navajo Nation exceeds \$18 billion. Clearly, \$2 billion will not meet all of the needs in our communities, but it is a start and it is an opportunity to improve the quality of life for future generations through infrastructure development and other initiatives included in the proposal,” said President Nez.

The Executive Branch also provided updates about ongoing work to expedite right-of-way approval process, hiring of personnel, and the procurement process to speed up the development and completion of infrastructure development and other initiatives.

“We will continue to work together with the Council to finalize plans and fully implement the ARPA funds. We are also working to closeout CARES Act projects by the end of the year, which also provided \$361 million in hardship assistance for our people. We appreciate the work of the Council, divisions and programs, chapters, and many others who are taking on this challenging task,” added President Nez.

The next steps will be to draft legislation to begin approving expenditure plans to allocate funding for new projects and to expedite hardship assistance. The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to work with the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council to prepare expenditure plans to be considered for approval.

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