



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Elders to receive new senior center in Nazlini with finalization of grant agreement



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Nazlini Chapter President Lee Bigwater, chapter staff, and community members during the agreement signing ceremony at Nazlini Chapter on September 10, 2021.

**NAZLINI, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., community members, Nazlini Chapter President Lee Bigwater, and chapter staff on Friday as he finalized a grant agreement between the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, Capital Projects Management Department, and the Nazlini Chapter to construct a new senior center in Nazlini, Ariz.

“The approval of the agreement inspires renewed hope and vision within the communities and our precious elders. Today, we celebrate a milestone for the community of Nazlini. This new senior center will not only provide services, but it will also be a place of healing, unity, and connection. We were taught to take care of our parents, grandparents, and elders, and those are the teachings we must pass on to our young people. I congratulate the community of Nazlini for

working together to develop improvements for their people. This initiative took many years of hard work and perseverance to be where we are today,” said President Nez.

The former senior center was ordered to close due to deficiencies in the structure of the facility. The new 3,915 square ft. senior center will provide a cafeteria, kitchen, office space for staff, and a paved parking lot with ADA handicapped accessibility.

“The prayers of the Nazlini community have finally been answered! Ahee'hee', President Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for supporting and approving the long-awaited senior center replacement. Our senior center staff can now operate from comfortable offices and provide comfort and services for our elders. We are forever grateful,” said Delegate Begay.

The project is funded through the Síhasin Fund at a cost of approximately \$1.9 million. The senior center will provide direct services to Nazlini and other surrounding community elders. On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we commend the collaboration among all the key partners.

“Not only does this project symbolize hope, but it exemplifies the resiliency of our Navajo people. During a worldwide pandemic and public health emergency, we have local leaders who continue to move our communities forward and inspire hope for future generations. Thank you to the past leaders for their support and approval of the project in 2018,” added President Nez.

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