



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## President Nez proposes solutions based on concerns from Navajo veterans



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez speaks with Navajo veterans at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Sept. 24, 2021.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Friday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez joined members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council to hear concerns directly from Navajo veterans related to veterans’ benefits, the Veterans Housing Program, oversight authority, and other issues at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

“I appreciate our Navajo veterans, our warriors, for bringing forth their concerns to leadership. At times, we need to be reminded of the issues and take the time to sit down, listen and have a

productive dialogue to work toward solutions. Our veterans have my commitment to continue meeting and addressing the issues that hinder progress,” said President Nez.

In regards to concerns raised by veterans over requirements to submit receipts for financial assistance provided by the Navajo Veterans Administration, President Nez is proposing to resolve the issues by having beneficiaries provide a signature certifying financial need and use of the funds for allowable needs.

“If a veteran submits a request for assistance, we should make the process as simple as possible and that can be done by simply requiring a signature to attest to the need for assistance and the use of the funds in accordance with the policies. This will resolve one of the major issues that was brought up by our veterans today,” said President Nez.

In regards to veterans housing, the Navajo Veterans Administration successfully advocated for changes to the Veterans Housing Program policies that were needed to advance the program. The necessary amendments to the veterans housing policy were approved last week by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee to allow the construction of homes to move forward.

“It’s been a long process to work with veterans and the Legislative Branch to develop the policy changes for the Veterans Housing Program. With the support of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the next step is to fill the positions that are needed to provide the personnel and man power to construct the homes. The Navajo Veterans Administration has a prototype of a home that is nearly complete, which serves as a model for veterans to see firsthand,” President Nez stated.

During Friday’s discussion, several veterans also spoke in support of moving the legislative oversight authority from the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee to the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee. President Nez said he will support the change if legislation is introduced and approved by the Council members.

“We are all five-fingered beings and we will continue to work together to resolve veterans issues. Once again, I thank our Navajo veterans for meeting with us today. We will continue to meet on a regular basis,” added President Nez. The Nez-Lizer Administration will continue meeting with veterans and Council members to continue discussing the issues and proposed solutions.

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