



The Navajo Nation
Division of Social Services
Office of the Executive Director

Delilah Goodluck, Communications Manager
(928) 871-6851 | dgoodluck@navajo-nsn.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2021

DSS' COVID-19 Burial Assistance Funds Have Been Expended

Window Rock, AZ – On April 9, 2021, the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services' (DSS) Office of the Executive Director was authorized, through the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-14-21, to provide Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) burial assistance in response to the pandemic.

As of November 23, 2021, the DSS COVID-19 Burial Assistance funds have been expended and no longer available through the DSS Office of the Executive Director.

Families in need of burial assistance may apply for the P.L. 93-638 Burial Assistance, which is administered by the Navajo Family Assistance Services (NFAS), a program under the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (DSS).

The NFAS' P.L. 93-638 Burial Assistance provides up to \$2,500 towards the funeral costs, up to \$1,000 for a "Native Traditional" Funeral, or up to \$1,300 towards the cost of cremation.

Assistance is provided to indigent decedents who meet eligibility criteria according to the payment standards established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The decedent must have been: a resident of the Navajo Nation, including Alamo and To'hajiilee, or in a Near Reservation Designated Community; an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and meet the income eligibility as provided by 25CFR, Section 20.100.

To apply for NFAS' P.L. 93-638 Burial Assistance call your nearest NFAS office for the application process. **Window Rock, AZ** (928) 871-4664; **Chinle, AZ** (928) 674-2039; **Dilkon, AZ** (928) 657-8171; **Gallup, NM** (505) 726-2699; **Shiprock, NM** (505) 368-1522.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) COVID-19 funeral assistance is still available. FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020, under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. To apply for FEMA's COVID19 funeral assistance call, 844-684-6333, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (MDT).

###

The Navajo Division of Social Services (NDSS) is under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation's three-branch government. Under the leadership of the NDSS Executive Director, NDSS programs and Departments provide social services and human services, consistent with professional social work ethics and values, and human services in accordance with Navajo cultural values to help reduce and alleviate hardship.

www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov | nndss.info@navajo-nsn.gov | (928) 871-6851