



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee finalizes Budget Instruction Manual for Fiscal Year 2026



Budget and Finance Committee Chairwoman Shaandiin Parrish sponsored Legislation 0059-25.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On April 24, the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) unanimously approved Legislation 0059-25, finalizing the Budget Instruction Manual (BIM) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The legislation marks a significant move towards enhanced fiscal responsibility and transparency for FY 2026 Comprehensive Budget process.

“Our mission is to ensure departments and programs are moving decisively toward financial responsibility, transparent reporting, and effective use of funds to serve the Diné people,” said Budget and Finance Committee Chairwoman Shaandiin Parrish. “When departments mismanage funds, it’s the people, not just the government, who are impacted. Our focus remains on building a government that wisely invests every dollar into the future of our Nation.”

The BIM sets operational policy guidelines, a clear budget development timeline, and the planning base amounts for each of the Navajo Nation’s three governmental branches. Initially, the base amounts for FY 2026 were set at \$185 million and were later amended to \$238.8 million.

Base Planning Allocations for FY 2026:

- Fixed Costs Allocation: \$33,518,886
- External Fund Cash Match: \$8,000,000
- Executive Branch: \$102,831,000

- Legislative Branch: \$16,000,000
- Judicial Branch: \$14,000,000
- Chapters (Non-Administrative Costs): \$14,000,000

During the approval of the FY 2026 BIM, the BFC passed three amendments to strengthen fiscal management, ethical budgeting practices, and funding for direct services to the Diné people. Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie introduced an amendment to establish mandatory guiding principles for budget preparation, emphasizing integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty introduced the third amendment to update the Fixed Cost exhibit. In addition, the amendments provided planning amounts for several priorities include funding for MMIP Unit, higher education, veterans' hardship payments, homeownership support, youth employment, Judicial Branch repairs and maintenance and public health IT infrastructure.

Updated Fixed Costs reflected:

- NN Police Dept. Missing Murdered Indigenous Person Unit / Victim Advocates \$5,000,000
- Summer Youth Employment for FY 2026: \$1,000,000
- Navajo Homeownership Support: \$15,000,000
- Audits – Auditor General: \$200,000
- Veterans – Hardship Payments: \$3,000,000
- Navajo Epidemiology Center (Disease Surveillance Software): \$1,900,000
- Navajo Nation Higher Education Fund: \$12,400,000
- Judicial Branch – Repair and Maintenance and Contractual Services: \$300,000

Vice Chair Slater who presided over the legislation expressed that FY 2026 BIM as adopted displays transparency, fiscal responsibility and direct investment to critical programs across the Nation.

The Budget and Finance Committee voted in five in favor and zero opposed to approve the FY 2026 BIM. The BFC will be hosting public hearings for the FY 2026 Comprehensive Budget. The public is encouraged to attend these public hearings to give their suggestion and recommendation for the Comprehensive Budget for FY 2026.

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