

# NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR SELF RELIANCE

## FACT SHEET

### **BACKGROUND**

The Department for Self Reliance is established under the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation. DSR consists of an Executive Office, eight (8) Administrative support offices and eight (8) local offices which provide direct services and assistance to DSR Customers.

### **SERVICES**

The Navajo Nation Department for Self Reliance (DSR) provides Tribal TANF assistance and related support services to eligible families to move them toward self-reliance. The DSR provides assistance to approximately 2,000 families each month through offices located in: Chinle, AZ; Window Rock, AZ; Tuba City, AZ; Kayenta, AZ; Greasewood Springs, AZ; Crownpoint, NM; Gallup, NM; and Farmington, NM.

### **GOALS**

1. To facilitate the successful nurturing of children in their own homes by promoting healthy home environments and strengthening family values.
2. To reduce dependency on Government benefits by preparing DSR Customers for long-term employment.
3. To promote and strengthen responsible parenting.
4. To promote and strengthen healthy family relationships.

### **SERVICE DELIVERY AREA (SDA) AND POPULATION**

- a. All populations living within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation, including Trust lands, Fee lands and the satellite communities of Alamo, Ramah, and Toh ha ji lee.
- b. Eligible households living within the city limits of a federally recognized Near Reservation community, where the identified head of household or a benefit group member has a Navajo Census number.
- c. Approved Department for Self Reliance (DSR) Customers who are temporarily absent from the DSR SDA for the purpose of receiving medical or non-medical treatment; domestic violence related services; education; training; or on-the-job training may continue to receive DSR assistance and services for up to ninety (90) calendar days, provided they continue to meet eligibility criteria. If a justifiable reason exists, the extension may be extended for up to an additional ninety (90) calendar days.

### **CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS**

Adult Customers are required to:

- Develop and adhere to a Personal Responsibility Plan;
- Engage in authorized work participation activities for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours each week (if the adult is included in the benefit group).
- Report any changes which may affect their eligibility within five working days from the change.

## DSR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**MINOR CHILD:** All DSR benefit groups must include at least one (1) eligible Minor Child who has not attained eighteen (18) years of age and, if school-age, must be enrolled in and attending school. A child who eighteen (18) years of age and is a full time student in a secondary school may continue to be included in the benefit up to the time they turn nineteen (19) years of age.

**SERVICE DELIVERY AREA:** The head-of-household and all members of the benefit group must have resided within the DSR's Service Delivery Area (SDA) for at least thirty (30) consecutive days at the time of initial application or addition to the benefit group. Approved DSR Customers temporarily absent from the DSR Service Delivery Area, for the purpose of education, training, treatment, may continue to receive assistance for up to ninety (90) calendar days on the condition they meet and comply with established criteria. If a justifiable reason exists, an extension may be granted for up to an additional ninety (90) calendar days.

**SERVICE POPULATION:** The DSR Service Population is:

- a. All families living on the Navajo Nation, including the satellite communities of Alamo, Tohajiilee, and Ramah; and
- b. Families living within the city limits of a Designated Near Reservation community, where the head of household or a benefit group member has a Navajo Census Number.

**RESIDENCY:** All members of the Benefit Group must have resided with the head-of-household for at least thirty (30) consecutive days at the time of initial application or at the time they are being added to the benefit group, unless an exception applies.

**CITIZENSHIP:** The head-of-household and all Benefit Group members must be U.S. Citizens, as verified by a Social Security Card or a state issued birth certificate.

**TIME LIMIT:** Adults applying for DSR assistance must not have reached sixty (60) countable months of TANF assistance. Any and all prior months of TANF assistance funded with a TANF Block Grant, including State and other Tribal TANF, are counted towards the Time Limit, unless an exemption or disregard criteria is met. A hardship exemption from the Time Limit may be granted to an adult experiencing a condition that hampers or inhibits his/her ability to maintain work or enter into work related activities.

**ASSETS:** The Benefit Group's Total Countable Assets must not exceed \$3000.00;

**GROSS INCOME:** The Benefit Group's Gross Countable Monthly Income must not exceed 200% of the National Poverty Guideline for the applicable Benefit Group size.

**NET INCOME:** The Benefit Group's Monthly Net Countable Income must not exceed the Payment Standard Amount for the applicable Benefit Group size.

## SUPPLEMENTAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**CARETAKER:** A caretaker who is related by blood or marriage to the minor child(ren) on whose behalf they are applying must have documentation of being an Immediate Relative and being the primary caregiver of the minor child(ren). A caretaker who is not related by blood or marriage to the minor child(ren) on whose behalf they are applying must have Legal Custody of the minor child(ren).

**STEP-PARENT:** A step-parent may be included in a DSR benefit group if he/she is legally married to the Legal Custodial Parent of a minor child included in the benefit group.

**CUSTODIAL MINOR PARENTS:** A Custodial Minor Parent (under the age of 18) must be emancipated in order to apply for, and receive, assistance on their own. Otherwise, an adult must apply on behalf of the Custodial Minor Parent and the Custodial Minor parent's child(ren).

*We shall serve, with integrity and ethics, to empower individuals and families by promoting T'áá hwó ájít 'eego, through appropriate support, opportunities and education.*