



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2021

“Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program offers assistance for households impacted by COVID-19”

Window Rock, AZ – The Navajo Family Assistance Services (NFAS) office, under the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (DSS), administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally funded assistance program for eligible households in managing expenses with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related minor home repairs.

NFAS was granted funds through *the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136)*, signed into law on March 27, 2020, by President Joe Biden. This act provided additional, *non-recurring*, LIHEAP funding to prevent, prepare for, or respond to home energy needs surrounding the national emergency created by the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19).

“Across the nation, nearly every household has been impacted by COVID-19. Schools, businesses, government offices, and most employers were shut down, causing households to accumulate high energy costs. The need for COVID-19 mitigation on the Navajo Nation is ongoing. NFAS is providing support to vulnerable individuals in need of energy assistance. The goal is to help families remain safe and healthy in their homes,” stated Deannah Neswood-Gishey, Navajo Division of Social Services, Executive Division Director.

The LIHEAP CARES funds are available to eligible Navajo households on the Navajo Nation. Additionally, Navajo households residing off the Navajo Nation within Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah may be potentially eligible for LIHEAP CARES. Households off the Navajo Nation who received LIHEAP CARES assistance from the state they reside in will not be eligible to apply. Based on the availability of funds, households who may have received LIHEAP funds for the current fiscal year may receive additional LIHEAP CARES benefits.

LIHEAP CARES applicants receiving assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or Supplemental Security Income may be determined as *Categorically Eligible*, meaning eligible without any conditions.

For eligibility, an applicant must meet Financial Eligibility Criteria which includes monthly gross income not exceeding 60% of State Median Income for a household. The following documents are required:



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

Delilah Goodluck, Communications Manager
(928) 871-6821 | dgoodluck@navajo-nsn.gov

- Earned income statements for household members eighteen years of age and older.
- Certificate(s) of Indian Blood (CIB) or Tribal Identification Card(s) of the household members.
- Social security card(s) of the household members.
- A government-issued identification card (e.g., driver's license, state identification card, tribal identification card, or passport) will be required of the applicant only.
- Proof of residency.

LIHEAP CARES Act supports the following circumstances, including but not limited to:

- 1.) household members who tested positive with COVID-19 and home recovering;
- 2.) is or was in quarantine or caring for a family member(s) who tested positive for COVID-19;
- 3.) lost wages, reduced wages, or lost employment due to business closure;
- 4.) required temporary shelter due to a household member(s) who tested positive for COVID-19;
- 5.) place of employment or school closed that required them to remain home which caused increased heating or cooling costs at the home;
- 6.) experienced a power outage or impassable road conditions caused by severe rain, snow, windstorms, or mud creating health and safety hazards due to extreme heat during the summer months and extreme cold during the winter months.

If you or someone you know needs energy assistance due to the impacts of COVID-19, please complete an application for assistance to determine eligibility. To download the application visit, www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov. Call your local NFAS field office to have an application emailed or faxed to you.

For more information, contact your nearest NFAS Field Office: **Chinle, AZ**, (928) 674-2039; **Dilkon, AZ**, (928) 657-8171; **Kayenta, AZ**, (928) 697-5536; **Pinon, AZ**, (928) 725-3470; **Tuba City, AZ**, (928) 283-3278; **Window Rock, AZ**, (928) 871-4664; **Crownpoint, NM**, (505) 786 2236, **Gallup, NM**, (505) 726-2480; **Shiprock, NM**, (505) 368-1185.

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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 human services and social services, consistent with professional social work ethics and values, and human services in accordance with Navajo cultural values to help reduce and alleviate hardship.