FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Navajo Family Assistance Services Removes Limitations to Burial Assistance Packages

Window Rock, AZ – The Navajo Family Assistance Services program, under the Navajo Division of Social Services (NDSS), started its 2022 calendar year with significant changes to its Burial Assistance program.

Before January 1, 2022, the NFAS Burial Assistance program contracted eleven (11) mortuaries to provide burial packages that provided up to $2,500 toward a pre-selected casket burial package, up to $1,000 for a traditional burial, or up to $1,300 toward the cost of cremation.

As of December 31, 2021, those contracts expired, removing the limitation of choosing one of the three pre-determined funeral packages.

“Our services should not impose pre-selected packages on families. Families should have the right to choose how they wish to put their loved ones to rest. For many years the burial assistance program limited families to just three options. Without contracts, families are free to use the funds to offset costs for the services of their choice,” stated NDSS Executive Director Neswood-Gishey.

Beginning January 1, 2022, the appointed family representative may apply for burial assistance, up to $2,500, to offset the costs acquired for a burial service of their choosing. Payments are made, on behalf of the decedent, directly to the mortuary. The NFAS program cannot reimburse family members for funeral expenses.

To be eligible, the decedent must have been: an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe; meet the income eligibility; and either reside on the Navajo Nation, including Ramah, Alamo, To’hajiilee, or in a “Near Reservation” location in Arizona: Grand Canyon, Joseph City, Marble Canyon, Flagstaff, Snowflake, Holbrook, Page, Wupatki, and Winslow; in New Mexico: Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield, Magdalena, Cuba, Kirtland, Grants, Milan, Socorro, and Gallup; and in Colorado: La Plata, Cortez, Bayfield, Durango, Ignacio, and Towaoc.

To apply, contact your nearest NFAS office for the Burial Assistance application and submit the required documents for the decedent. NFAS locations: 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.

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