

President Nez and Vice President Lizer Approves Navajo Nation Council Resolution to Fund the Navajo COVID-19 Burial Assistance to Help Navajo Families Ease the Financial Burden

On April 9, 2021, Navajo Nation President Nez and Vice President Lizer enacted Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-14-21 authorizing the Navajo Division of Social Services to provide COVID-19 burial assistance to help Navajo families ease the financial burden.

To be eligible for COVID-19 burial assistance, you must meet these requirements:

1. The deceased person must have been a member of the Navajo; and
2. The death was attributed to COVID-19.

The Navajo COVID-19 burial assistance amount is up to \$3,500 for eligible burial expenses. Any expense exceeding \$3,500 or not within the eligible burial expense requirement will be the sole responsibility of the Applicant (person applying for assistance).

The deceased family member will contact a mortuary of their choice and request for the Navajo COVID-19 burial assistance. The mortuary will assist the family member with completing an Application. A completed Application must include: 1) deceased person's Certificate of Indian Blood; and 2) verification by an appropriate authority that the death was attributed to COVID-19. In the event that the family member is unable to provide a Certificate of Indian Blood, the Navajo Division of Social Services will obtain a copy from the Navajo Office of Vital Records.

There are three (3) types of burial assistance:

1. Standard burial package: A casket and professional services;
2. Native traditional burial: No casket; and
3. Cremation.

The Navajo COVID-19 burial assistance is a separate financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) COVID-19 funeral assistance. The FEMA does not accept online application for COVID-19 funeral assistance. For questions or to apply, call FEMA's COVID-19 funeral assistance at 844-684-6333, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (MDT).

For more information about the Navajo COVID-19 burial assistance, please call the Navajo Division of Social Services at telephone number (928) 871-6851, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (MDT).