



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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State Task Force applauds approval of \$1.1 million for new Department of Economic Security facility in Chinle

WINDOW ROCK – Members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council’s State Task Force commended the recent approval of approximately \$1.1 million from the state of Arizona to construct a new Department of Economic Security facility in the community of Chinle, which will allow the DES to continue providing vital services to 15 Navajo communities in the region.

State Task Force members thanked Arizona Sen. Carlyle Begay (Dist. 7 – R) for his strong advocacy at the state level on behalf of his legislative district that includes Chinle, and Gov. Doug Ducey for his approval of the funding.

“On behalf of the State Task Force, we thank Arizona state leadership and particularly Sen. Carlyle Begay for recognizing and addressing the need for this facility to help our communities,” stated Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), who serves as the chair of the State Task Force.

According to a report from DES, the current Chinle office was established in the 1970’s and has operated out of three modular buildings that are beyond their useful life and in need of replacement due to weak structural components and weakening exterior materials that have led to leakage throughout the facilities.

The report also states that the office provides services such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, medical assistance, and services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

“These services are vital for many Navajo children, mothers, and families,” said task force vice chair Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock). “We hope that the services provide support for our people to improve their lives and to allow them to become economically self-sufficient.”

Upon the completion of land lease requirements for the new site, the 8,390 square-foot facility will be constructed along with a paved parking lot and utilities.

Sen. Begay worked closely with Gov. Ducey and DES officials to gain approval from the Governor’s Office to secure the funding, which came from the sale of another DES building and property in Maricopa County.

"I want to thank the leadership and support from Gov. Doug Ducey in recognizing the need of the Navajo Nation allowing DES to continue providing vital services to 15 Navajo communities. This new facility will allow DES to distribute over \$12 million dollars in programs and benefits to families and area residents annually," stated Sen. Begay.

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