



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

MEDIA CONTACTS

Alray Nelson, Communications Director
Kyrn Hardy, Public Information Officer
E-mail: nnlb.communications@gmail.com
Phone: (928) 530-8329

\$250,000 approved by Navajo Nation Council, Transportation Services provided for Individuals with Disabilities

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PHOTO: Council Delegate Pernell Halona and Tohatchi Health Care Center Director, Fawn Damon outside the drive-up screening checkpoint in Tohatchi, N.M.

TOHATCHI, N.M. — Council Delegate Pernell Halona of the 24th Navajo Nation Council sponsored Legislation No. 0128-21 approving \$258,512.00 in supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) for the Tohatchi Area of Opportunity & Services, Inc. (TAOS, Inc.) to provide transportation services for Navajo people with developmental disabilities.

The Tohatchi Area of Opportunity & Services, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization delivering comprehensive community programs for Native Americans with developmental disabilities on the Navajo Nation.

“Our communities appreciate the leadership of the Navajo Nation Council and President Jonathan Nez for signing this legislation into law,” said Delegate Pernell Halona (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahast’á’a). “The TAOS organization provides our relatives with disabilities the best service. They train and help their clients obtain work, and achieve their personal life goals as any other person in society, no matter the challenges.”

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Resolutions of support for the legislation were approved by the Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a, Tséyatoh, Tóhajiilee, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Pinedale, and Manuelito Chapters. Additionally, the Gallup Chamber of Commerce signed a letter of support for the grant application in March.

TAOS, Inc. chief executive officer, Dr. Genevieve Holona, expressed her gratitude to the Navajo Nation for supporting the organization that has become respected as a viable resource for case management agencies and for client placement referrals. The program continues to serve approximately 50 Navajo adults and children.

“We are making an investment into a community program that is providing invaluable service to the Navajo people,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). “The Council commends Honorable Pernell Halona for his leadership in sponsoring this resolution. The TAOS program will now be able to purchase a new fleet of vehicles to easily transport their clients and continue enriching the lives of our families in New Mexico.”

Yesterday, Delegate Pernell Halona and representatives of TAOS, Inc. joined Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez at a signing ceremony of Resolution CO-54-21 into law, approving \$258,512 in supplemental funding.

The 24th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved the legislation by a vote of 23 in favor on Oct. 19, 2021.

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