



Fund Management Plan for the Diné Relocatee Fund sponsored by Council Delegate Otto Tso

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Council Delegate Otto Tso of the 24th Navajo Nation Council is the sponsor of Legislation No. 0093-22 to enact the Fund Management Plan for Diné Relocatee Fund to be managed and accounted for by the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission (NHLC). The plan ensures that funds collected from revenue or income are used only for the benefit of Navajo families residing on Hopi-partitioned lands as of December 22, 1974.

Earlier this week, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the management plan, which now ensures the NHLC Office has administrative and management authority over funding sources.

“Funds from the Diné Relocatee Fund can now be managed and responsibly distributed to relocatees who apply for assistance. Through an application process, around \$3,000 can be allocated for home repair projects like utility upgrades or a roof replacement. We appreciate the leadership of the Navajo Nation Council for passing this resolution because every community has a family that the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act impacted,” said Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tónaneesdizi).

In January, the Navajo Nation Council established the Diné Relocatee Fund through Resolution No. CJA-13-22, which was signed into law by President Jonathan Nez. The fund’s purpose is to provide financial support to Navajo families with housing, infrastructure, and education assistance.

“For over 40 years, new construction of infrastructure projects like water and electricity lines were halted, adversely impacting the local economy, and leaving many Navajo families to live in shack houses. The Diné Relocatee Fund now has a funding plan that can assist those most vulnerable. Let’s be clear; the federal government still has a trust obligation to assist the Bennett Freeze region and work with the Navajo Nation to rebuild those communities,” said Chairman Jamie Henio (Alamo, Ramah, Tóhajiilee).



PHOTO: Council Delegate Otto Tso shares his concerns regarding the decriminalization of peyote at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort

The Diné Relocatee Fund has three different funding sources, which include income and revenue generated from the Arizona New Lands acquired by the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act. Payments are also received on lease lands at Twin Arrows Navajo Casio Resort in Leupp, Ariz.

Another funding source is from judgment or settlement awards stemming from litigation brought forth by the Navajo Nation on behalf of families residing on the Hopi-partitioned lands against the United States in federal claims court.

According to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, funds cannot be used for meeting stipends or per capita payments. Legislation No. 0093-22 now provides delegated authority to the NHLC Office to act on behalf of the Navajo Nation and advocate at the local, regional, and national levels on issues related to Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL), Hopi Partitioned Lands (HPL), and land issues in the former Bennett Freeze area.

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