



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council approves the Navajo Nation FY2024 Comprehensive Budget with priority funding for Navajo veterans, elders, public safety, and housing

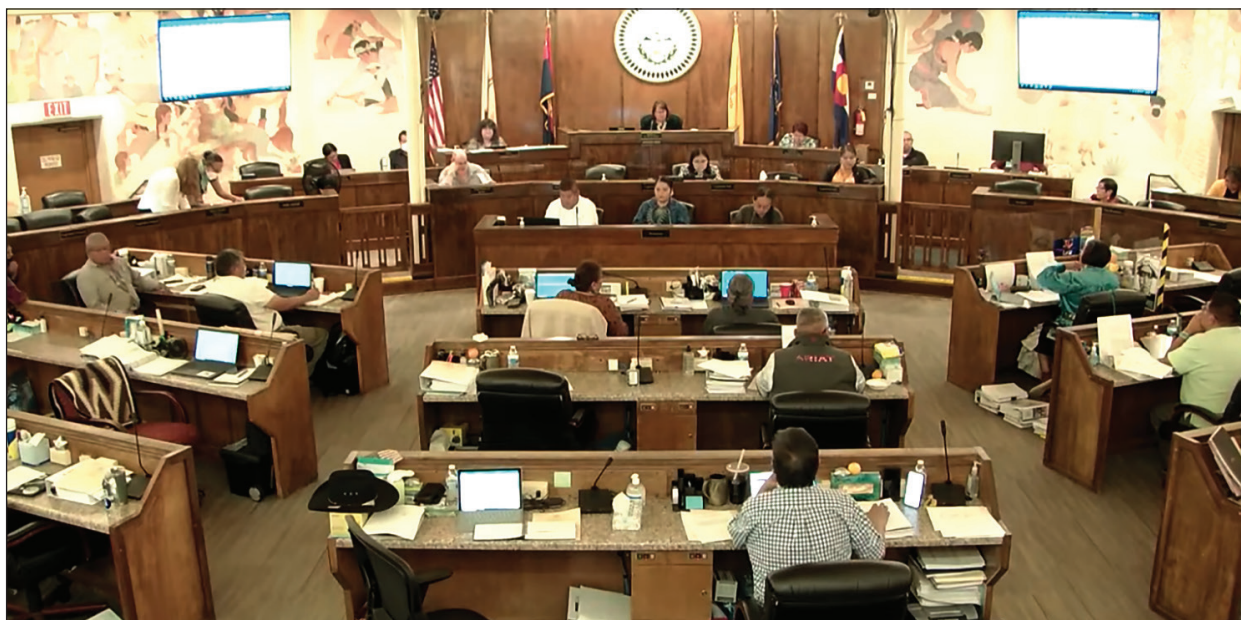


PHOTO: The Navajo Nation FY2024 Comprehensive Budget prioritizes funding for Navajo veterans, elders, and public safety.

Window Rock, Ariz. – During the 25th Navajo Nation Council Budget Session on September 6, the Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, through Legislation 0214-23, prioritizing funding for Navajo veterans, elders, public safety, and the establishment of a Housing Trust Fund.

“The 25th Navajo Nation Council took into account recommendations from the standing committees, division directors, and department heads in formulating a budget that provides for the best interests of our Navajo people, including our veterans, elders, public safety staff, and departments that support victim’s advocate services and education,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain).

The budget allocates roughly \$2.1 billion to the overall FY2024 Operating Budget for the Navajo Nation’s Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.

The FY2024 Comprehensive Budget allocates \$2 million from the Navajo Nation’s Permanent Fund interest income for a new Housing Trust Fund, the first of its kind for the Navajo People. This Fund will proactively set aside dollars for housing and community development projects to accommodate our Navajo citizens who want to move home back to Dinétah.

Allocations to the Housing Trust Fund will remain untouched for a minimum two-year period. After September 30, 2025 the Navajo Nation Investment Committee will report its recommendations for a Fund Management Plan to the Budget and Finance Committee. Once the Fund Management Plan is approved, money in the Housing Trust Fund will be disbursed to the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department for future design, planning, site preparation, construction, and other activities related to housing projects.

The FY2024 Comprehensive Budget allocates \$35.2 million from the 2022 Personnel Lapse Savings Account to fund a one-time allocation to all 110 chapters to cover their utility payments, \$1.72 million for scholarships and job pipeline projects, \$215,000 for veterans assistance, \$908,368 to victim advocate services, \$1.25 million to Head Start facilities maintenance, \$541,718 to Animal Control Program and Resource Enforcement, \$1.4 million for Navajo Nation employee step increases and bonuses, and a 4% General Wage Adjustment for all employees in FY2024.

“The \$215,000 we allocated for veterans assistance was made with full support and concurrence from our Navajo Veterans Agencies who provide boots-on-the-ground assistance to our Navajo veterans,” said legislation sponsor Delegate Shaandiin Parrish (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta).

The Navajo Nation FY2024 Comprehensive Budget also allocates \$21.5 million from the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund interest income to cover various unmet needs of the Division of Public Safety, the Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS) and the Division of Community Development.

The Comprehensive Budget also allocates \$3.4 million to the Capital Projects Management Department to support renewed efforts at completing construction projects on the Navajo Nation, \$550,000 to all 110 Chapters for veterans’ awards and events, and \$1.5 million to all 110 Chapters for scholarships.

During the Naa’bik’íyáti’ Committee’s Comprehensive Budget Meeting on September 5, 2023, the Committee approved two funding allocation amendments that carried forward to the Navajo Nation Council’s Comprehensive Budget Session.

Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake) made an amendment to allocate roughly \$5.1 million to DALTCS as follows: \$177,917 to the DALTCS Administration and \$1 million each of the five Navajo Agency DALTCS Offices.

Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) allocated \$3 million to the Navajo Division of Social Services to support Navajo families relying on the Navajo School Clothing Program.

“In proposing the Navajo Nation FY2024 Comprehensive Budget, the Council has provided for critical services that are needed throughout our Navajo communities. Every allocation put forth is based on the quantifiable need that our division directors, department managers, and

standing committees have assessed through the budget hearings," Speaker Curley said. "I'd like to thank all our Delegates for their diligence in creating this budget and I look for the support of President Dr. Buu Nygren to fund these critical needs for our people."

The Comprehensive Budget Legislation was approved with a vote of 20 in favor and two opposed. Once the resolution is certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Nygren will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution before acting on it.

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