



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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### Health, Education, and Human Services Committee unanimously approves Veterans Housing Program Policy



Legislation sponsor Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, emphasizes that the eligibility criteria ensures that applicants who meet program requirements are prioritized.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Monday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) unanimously approved Legislation 0006-25, and adopting the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration’s (NNVA) Housing Program Policy as the eligibility criteria for services under the Veterans Housing Projects Expenditure Plan for their \$50M American Rescue Plan Act funds.

“My goal with this legislation was to ensure Veterans do not have to wait any longer than they already have been. Some have waited decades, and it’s unfortunate, but with today’s decision, I trust the wait time for our veterans under this funding category decreases”, said Delegate Dr. Andy Nez.

With a \$50 million allocation from the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund, the policy prioritizes, among many things, veterans based on critical housing needs, service history, and level of displacement. It establishes a fair and transparent selection process, ensuring that those most in need receive assistance first. This decision will help continue NNVA’s assistance to Navajo veterans who need housing.

Veterans will also participate in sweat equity initiatives, actively contributing to the construction of their homes to foster a sense of ownership and involvement. The policy includes long-term security measures, preventing immediate resale of the homes and ensuring they remain permanent housing solutions for veterans.

The NNVA Housing Policy serves as the foundation for this initiative, addressing long-standing housing shortages and ensuring that veterans who have honorably served their country, finally receive safe and stable housing. The eligibility criteria ensure that applicants who have secured a homesite lease and met program requirements are prioritized.

The resolution received strong support from the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, Navajo veteran organizations, local leaders, and community advocates. Several commanders from veteran organizations also submitted endorsements during the public comment period, reinforcing the policy's urgency and alignment with the needs of the community.

The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, which held final authority, unanimously approved the resolution with four in favor and none opposed. This approval will allow the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) to begin implementing the housing plan ensuring that veterans who meet criteria are placed on a priority list for home construction and Placement. The Navajo Nation Council, oversight committees, and housing agencies will continue to work closely with stakeholders to carry out the initiative effectively.

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