



# **Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council**



## **Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council**

### **Summer Session Report**

**July 21, 2025**

#### **Legislations**

1. Executive Order No. June 2016
2. Three-Branch Agreement: August 21, 2016
3. Legislation CAP-26-17, Resolution: February 21, 2017

#### **Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council**

1. Vision: Hozho'o Keh'go Ahil na'anish: Build Connect Reunite
2. Mission: The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (NNYAC) seeks to advocate and improve essential life skill development by increasing involvement within communities to ensure the success of future generations.

#### **Executive Branch Focus Area**

##### **1. Recruitment of Navajo Youth to re-establish 12 members of NNYAC**

**Progress:** The Office of Miss Navajo Nation has stopped the recruiting phase due to introduction of Legislation 0066-25: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, the Naabik'iyati Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch.

On May 8, 2025, the Office of the Miss Navajo Nation was informed of Legislation 0066-25, and the five-day review had already concluded. I have decided to cease all recruitment and advertisement of the 12 youth member positions to avoid confusing any potential interested youth until this three-branch government has agreed to honor the current legislation and the Plan of Operation.

In addition, the Interim Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation has not identified their two representatives, which are part of the three-branch government agreement regarding the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council.

As of today, we have received six (6) applicants. OMNN's position is that it's essential to be honest with our youth. The Navajo Nation Government has a shared responsibility to maintain open communication and share information that pertains to the well-being and participation of its members within the three branches of the Navajo Nation Government.



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## **2. Government Operations – Classification of two (2) employment positions**

**Progress:** The Office of Miss Navajo Nation (“OMNN”) is waiting for the final result of the two (2) Position Classification Questionnaires (“PCQ”) that were submitted to the Department of Personnel Management (“DPM”) for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Coordinator and Chaperone positions. Our office is awaiting DPM's creation of the two new positions within the Navajo Nation Government.

## **3. Government Operations – Develop NNYAC’s website and email address for the 12-member NNYAC.**

**Progress:** The new NNYAC website is now active and the link is <https://www.nnyac.navajo-nsn.gov/>. The latest email address for NNYAC is [nnyac@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnyac@navajo-nsn.gov). The Office of Miss Navajo Nation decided to omit the Mission and Vision Statement on the NNYAC. The new 12-member NNYAC team must establish the new Mission and Vision Statement.

## **4. Government Operations – Office space/building/location for 12 NNYAC members to host meetings, events, and leadership training sessions.**

**Progress:** OMNN had identified conference rooms for the 12 youth members to host in-person meetings within the Window Rock, St. Michaels, Tse Bonito, and Fort Defiance areas. We had planned to arrange with the selected members’ chapter administration offices to provide an office or workspace for attending digital meetings and using their office equipment, such as computers, printers, scanners, and telephones, until the NNYAC receives funding to procure these items.

## **5. Government Operations – Fiscal Year 2025 NNYAC Program Budget**

**Progress:** OMNN submitted an Unmet Needs Budget for \$196,445.00. The Unmet Needs Budget will enable OMNN to fill two employment positions, procure computer laptops and mobile phones with Wi-Fi monthly services, and provide annual Zoom subscriptions for 12 members of NNYAC. OMNN will procure NNYAC promotional items, signage, and other necessary materials.

The OMNN advocated for the NNYAC’s funding for Fiscal Year 2026, including \$220,840.00 as Unmet Need funding. The Budget and Finance Committee has allocated funds for \$44,196.00 for the two employment positions.

## **6. Government Operations –The NNYAC members' advisory status with the Department of Personnel Management hinders reimbursement payments for the former 12 members of NNYAC.**

**Progress:** OMNN and the Department of Personnel Management have resolved personnel issues regarding the Youth Advisory Members' positions as volunteers on the Personnel Action Form (PAF), with a 2-year term for each member. The 2-year term setup alleviated the payment and/or reimbursement processes for NNYAC's 12 members with the Office of the Controller.



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## 7. NNYAC Proposed Plan of Operation

**Progress:** OMNN will schedule a work session once the NNYAC has comprised its 12 members, and they will meet with the Navajo Department of Justice, Department of Personnel Management, including the Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Legislative advisors, with a projected timeline for accomplishment in the final quarter of FY 2025.

## 8. Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council Application

**Progress:** NNYAC is available at <https://nnyac.navajo-nsn.gov/>, and the OMNN staff has shared the link on multiple social media platforms.

## Community Outreach for NNYAC

1. The Office of Miss Navajo Nation has identified a problematic matter within Human Resources about our Navajo Youth. The Navajo Nation Government does not have a detailed Navajo Nation Child Labor Law Act under Title 15; therefore, the OMNN is recommending that the 25th Navajo Nation Council develop the first-ever Navajo Nation Child Labor Laws, as part of ensuring the safety of our youth while at work on the Navajo Nation. Every child of working age who is employed by an entrepreneur or within the Navajo Nation Government should know that they have the right to exercise their fundamental rights when their rights have been violated or breached.

## Conclusion

The Office of Miss Navajo Nation will continue to identify solutions and eliminate any hindrances on behalf of the NNYAC. OMNN strongly believes that the NNYAC should remain within the Executive Branch, where OMNN will provide better services and ensure the stability of NNYAC's operations and functions in meeting the remaining goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2025.