



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2025

Navajo Nation leaders launch food access website, collaborate with state and local partners to address crisis following federal SNAP defunding

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Today, the 25th Navajo Nation Council launched a public website serving as a central hub for food access information. The site includes a directory of food bank and chapter distribution locations, guidance for households transitioning from SNAP benefits to Navajo Nation food assistance programs and contact details for immediate food support resources.

The new resource is available online at www.navajonationcouncil.org/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley and New Mexico Caucus Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty convened an emergency coordination meeting on Monday with the Navajo Nation Department of Health, the Division of Children and Family Services, and executive branch divisions and departments to address the food access crisis facing Navajo families following the federal government's suspension of SNAP benefits.

The meeting brought together leadership from the State of New Mexico, including representatives from the United Way of San Juan County, as well as partners from Arizona and Utah. Together, the Navajo Nation and its state partners are developing a unified approach to ensure that food resources, emergency supplies, and nutritional assistance remain accessible at the community level.

"The Navajo Nation is taking coordinated action to protect our people," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "We are working closely with our partners across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to make sure food banks and local chapters have the resources necessary to assist our families, elders, and children. This is a time for leadership, compassion, and unity."

Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie reiterated the need for departments, organizations, and agencies to work together and mobilize resources to address the need.

"Our families should never have to face hunger because of decisions made far from our Diné homelands," said Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie. "We are working side by side with department heads, food banks, and state partners to make sure no one is left behind. This is not just about food—it's about dignity, self-reliance, and protecting our people's well-being."

Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty emphasized the critical role of collaboration in addressing food insecurity.

"As the New Mexico Caucus Chair, I am encouraged by the strong partnerships emerging from this effort. Together, we are ensuring that our chapters and food banks work directly to distribute food, share accurate information, and support families transitioning from the federal SNAP program to the Navajo Nation's Food Distribution Program," said Crotty.

The Navajo Nation Council, Office of the President and Vice President, and Executive Branch divisions and departments are working collectively through the Chiyáán Access Action Team, which is finalizing a comprehensive food access plan.

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