

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0185-26

SPONSOR: Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees; Supporting the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc.'s (Tséhootsooí Medical Center) Grant Application to the Indian Health Service for the Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4), for a Period of Five (5) Years Starting 2026 Through 2031

Date posted: July 23, 2026 at 5:24 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0185-26

DATE: July 23, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING THE FORT DEFIANCE INDIAN HOSPITAL BOARD INC.'S (TSÉHOOTSOOÍ MEDICAL CENTER) GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE PHASE 2 PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PILOT PROGRAM (P4), FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS STARTING 2026 THROUGH 2031

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would support a grant application for the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

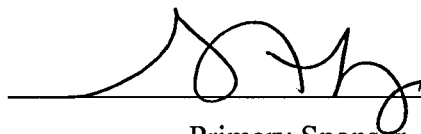
VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07-28-26
Eligible for Action: 07-29-26

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced By:


Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0185-26

AN ACTION
RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING THE FORT DEFIANCE
INDIAN HOSPITAL BOARD INC.'S (TSÉHOOTSOOÍ MEDICAL
CENTER) GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
FOR THE PHASE 2 PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PILOT PROGRAM (P4),
FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS STARTING 2026 THROUGH 2031

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council, established to provide legislative oversight on matters involving health, social services, and human services, and is empowered to represent the Navajo Nation at local, state and federal levels on proposed legislation, funding and other actions affecting health, environmental health, social services, education, veteran's services, employment, training and labor. The Committee is further empowered to review and recommend applications and reauthorizations by divisions and programs under its legislative oversight for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contracts and grants. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), (C)(1), (C)(4); 401(B)(6)(d), (B)(7)(a).

1 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
2 Council and is empowered to coordinate all federal, county, and state programs
3 with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to
4 provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation, and to
5 authorize, review, approve and accept any and all contracts, grants, and associated
6 budgets with the United States, its departments and agencies for the
7 implementation of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as
8 amended, upon the recommendation of the standing committee that has oversight
9 of the division, department or program applying for the contract or grant. 2 N.N.C.
10 §§ 700(A); 701(A)(4), (A)(12).

11 12 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 13 A. The Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc. (also known as Tséhootsooí Medical
14 Center) is a federally recognized P.L. 93-638 tribal organization, designated as such
15 by the Navajo Nation for a period of fifteen (15) years, beginning December 29,
16 2021 through December 28, 2036, for the purposes of contracting with the United
17 States Indian Health Service and to negotiate and enter into Title I, Indian Self-
18 Determination Act (P.L. 93-638, as amended) Contracts, and Title V Self-
19 Governance Compacts pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education
20 Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638, as amended). *See* NABIAU-26-21.
- 21 B. The Indian Health Service, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention,
22 announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity entitled "Phase 2 Produce Prescription
23 Pilot Program (P4)," (Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program) Funding
24 Announcement type: New, Announcement Number HHS-2026-IHS-PPPP-0001, a
25 five-year cooperative agreement with a funding range of \$200,000 to \$250,000 per
26 applicant for the first budget period, attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 27 C. The purpose of Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program is to support the
28 development of produce prescription programs through collaborations with
29 stakeholders across health care and food systems in Tribal communities, and to
30 demonstrate and evaluate the impact of such programs on American Indian and

1 Alaska Native people and their families by: (1) reducing food insecurity; (2)
2 improving nutrition and dietary patterns by increasing access to and consumption
3 of fruits, vegetables, and traditional foods, while building nutrition knowledge
4 through education that supports healthier food choices and long-term behavior
5 change; and (3) promoting whole-person health and well-being.

6 D. American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the Navajo people,
7 experience disproportionately high rates of food insecurity and chronic conditions
8 influenced by food access and nutrition, including diabetes and obesity. The Fort
9 Defiance Indian Hospital Board service area is designated as a Health Professional
10 Shortage Area by the Health Resources and Services Administration and is the
11 highest-scoring Arizona Medically Underserved Area. A published study of food
12 insecurity on the Navajo Nation found that 76.7 percent of Navajo households
13 surveyed experienced some level of food insecurity, with the highest rates among
14 children. The service area encompasses approximately 3,337 square miles served
15 by only four grocery stores, requiring members of ten communities to travel more
16 than fourteen (14) miles to the nearest grocery store, conditions that have
17 contributed to adverse health effects identified in the Board's Healthy Habits
18 Program. The Fort Defiance Health Board Inc (FDIHB) P4 Healthy Habits
19 Program is attached as **Exhibit B**.

20 E. The Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc. proposes to enhance and expand an
21 evidence-based Intensive Health Behavioral and Lifestyle Treatment program
22 serving youth aged six (6) to eighteen (18) years who are at risk for chronic
23 conditions, by providing produce prescriptions redeemable for fresh fruits,
24 vegetables, and traditional foods, medical nutrition therapy, nutrition education,
25 and Navajo cultural programming. The proposed program honors Navajo heritage
26 by integrating traditional practices and cultural connections, including traditional
27 stories, songs, cultural food preparation, and community-defined holistic health
28 practices, with modern medical and therapeutic care, consistent with the traditional
29 practices and customs of the Navajo People. The application will benefit
30

community members in the sixteen (16) chapter communities within the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board service area.

F. As a condition of completeness and responsiveness for the Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program, a Tribe or Tribal organization applicant must submit a final or draft Tribal Resolution with its application, and failure to submit a final or draft Tribal Resolution means the application will not be considered for funding. The Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program carries no cost-sharing or matching requirement, and the Navajo Nation incurs no financial obligation by supporting the application.

G. As indicated in a letter of support signed by Board President Roxanne Gorman and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Naomi Young, the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc. Board of Directors and hospital leadership endorse and support the Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program grant application submitted to the Indian Health Service, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention. This support letter is included within **Exhibit B**.

SECTION THREE. SUPPORTING THE FORT DEFIANCE INDIAN HOSPITAL BOARD INC.'S (TSÉHOOTSOOÍ MEDICAL CENTER) GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Navajo Nation hereby supports the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc.'s (Tséhootsooí Medical Center) funding application to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, for the Phase 2 Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4), Funding Announcement Number HHS-2026-IHS-PPPP-0001, to develop and implement a produce prescription program for the Navajo people in the Fort Defiance service area for a period of five (5) years starting 2026 through 2031.