



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hardship Assistance Program for Navajo elders announced

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller (NNOOC), in coordination with the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office (NNFRFO), announced the implementation of the 2026 Hardship Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to elderly enrolled Navajo members.

Navajo Nation Council Resolution CD-54-24, sponsored by Speaker Crystalyne Curley, allocated \$5,623,603 in remaining unobligated Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Hardship Assistance Program through the Office of the Controller. An additional \$2,331,002 was allocated to the program, bringing the total funding designated for Hardship Assistance to \$7,954,605.

The Naabik'yati' Committee worked closely with the NNOOC and NNFRFO to initiate the Hardship Assistance Program using the \$7.9 million in allocated funding.

To be eligible for the 2026 Hardship Program, applicants must be registered members of the Navajo Nation and be at least 75 years old as of May 31, 2026. Based on the current eligibility criteria, an estimated 30,000 Navajo people may qualify. Each eligible individual will receive a one-time \$250 Hardship Assistance payment.

"The Hardship Assistance plan will prioritize elders, including those living in assisted living homes, as this was a recommendation from the Naabik'yati' Committee," said Speaker Curley. "The 25th Navajo Nation Council ensured that the Hardship Assistance Program would be implemented and we understand that our elders are in need of assistance."

According to the NNOOC, the NNFRFO will begin processing paper applications during in-person outreach events. Eligible applicants must provide a copy of a valid Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) or Navajo Nation Tribal ID Card, along with a valid form of identification, such as a state-issued identification card, driver's license, or passport.

Applicants who are unable to apply in person may email frfohardship@navajo-nsn.gov to schedule a teleconference with NNFRFO staff. Applications will close on Nov. 20, 2026.

Beginning Oct. 5, 2026, the NNFRFO will conduct in-person application intake and a public outreach tour throughout October. The NNFRFO will print Hardship Assistance checks during October and distribute payments during October, November, and December.

Check distribution will conclude Dec. 4, 2026, and the 2026 Hardship Program will conclude Dec. 11, 2026. Checks will either be distributed in person or mailed to eligible applicants. Applicants will have 90 days to cash their checks, and all checks will be voided after Dec. 31, 2026.

For more information, contact the NNFRFO at frfohardship@navajo-nsn.gov.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council will provide additional updates to the Navajo people as the program moves forward.

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