

Making the Navajo Nation accessible

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed into law four resolutions on Aug. 14, appropriating funding for community projects including a judicial complex, multipurpose building, apartment and multipurpose complex, and to improve access for individuals with disabilities within the Navajo Nation government facilities. The 24th Navajo Nation Council passed the resolutions during a special session in July.

The approved funding includes the following:

\$13.2 million from the Síhasin Fund for the Kayenta Judicial Complex

\$7.6 million from the Síhasin Fund for the Chilchinbeto Multipurpose building

\$4.1 million from the Síhasin Fund for an apartment and multipurpose complex in Navajo, N.M.

\$13.3 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for renovations within Navajo Nation government facilities to improve access to persons with disabilities

“The administration appreciates the Navajo Nation Council’s support of these critical community

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projects that will provide a hand up for elders, veterans, students, and families,” Nez said. “Many of these projects will improve access to essential services and resources, most importantly, contribute to the well-being and growth of communities. We thank members of the Council, chapter leaders and staff, and Division Directors for working together to get these projects funded. The administration continues to look forward to many more successful collaborations to provide needed services for Navajo citizens.”

Regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act renovations, approximately 64 Navajo Nation government facilities across the nation will receive ADA renovations. Multiple renovations include ADA-compliant restroom modifications, widening hallway and office entrances, and installation of automatic doors, ramps, sidewalks, parking pads, and signages.

“We thank Council Delegate Eugene Tso and Navajo Nation Division of General Services for addressing the accessibility of our government offices to provide better service to our citizens with disabilities and to improve the safety of tribal employees with disabilities. The renovations will foster a sense of independence, and all Navajo citizens can receive equal services and resources,” Nez said.

The administration also thanked the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Kayenta Township and Commission, and other partners for finalizing the plans to complete the Kayenta Judicial Complex, which will improve the delivery of justice services to the Navajo people and provide a safe and adequate work environment for employees. In accordance with the resolution passed by the Council, the \$13.2 million will be reimbursed to the Síhasin Fund from the Judicial Public Safety Facilities Fund.

“We continue to invest in community efforts that will evolve examples of community pride and perseverance. Many of these projects will bridge the connection between the past and carry the legacy of our people into the future. Together, we are building the foundation for our children and grandchildren, and we appreciate all partners who contributed to all the projects,” Lizer said.

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