

Approximately 7,500 Hardship Assistance checks remain unclaimed

Written by Staff Reports

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller recently issued a report indicating that approximately 7,500 checks remain unclaimed by enrolled Navajo Nation members who applied for the CARES Act Hardship Assistance. The current deadline to use all CARES Act funds is Dec. 31, 2021.

Enrolled Navajo Nation members who applied for Hardship Assistance and have not received a check, or failed to deposit or cash it before it expired, are asked to contact the Office of the Controller by sending an e-mail message to rthompson@hardship.nnooc.org or wjames@hardship.nnooc.org or by calling (928) 871-6955, (928) 871-6271, (928) 871-6073 no later than 5 pm on Dec. 23.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CJN-35-21 into law in July, approving the final phase of the CARES Act Hardship Program to allow remaining applicants to receive the direct relief funding, and to reopen the application process for enrolled members who did not apply for the relief funds last year. Of the \$714 million that the Navajo Nation received through the CARES Act in 2020, over \$361 million was approved and made available for Hardship Assistance for direct relief to the Navajo people. As of Dec. 7, approximately 312,000 enrolled members, adults and minors, received assistance.

“We strongly urge our people who applied, but have not received a relief check, to contact the Office of the Controller by Dec. 23rd. Unclaimed checks may be due to a change or error with a mailing address, an incomplete application, or other issues. In accordance with federal requirements, all CARES Act dollars must be spent or obligated by the end of the calendar year,” Nez said.

On Nov. 24, Legislation No. 0257-21 was introduced, which seeks approval for another round of hardship assistance and infrastructure development and improvements through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The legislation is available online: <http://dibb.nnols.org/publicreporting.aspx>. Public comments may be submitted by e-mail to comments@navajo-nsn.gov.

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