

Online hardship assistance applications available to Navajo Nation on Nov. 2

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller opened the application for the Hardship Assistance Program for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation who are 65-years or older and to special needs individuals. The office acknowledged that there is a shortage of hard copy applications that were provided to the Nation's 110 chapters, and says it is working quickly to provide additional hard copies.

On Oct. 9, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer approved the hardship assistance expenditure plan to provide \$49 million in CARES Act funds for emergency financial assistance for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation through an application and approval process administered by the Office of the Controller.

Enrolled Navajo Nation members who were at least 18-years-old or older as of March 1, may receive up to \$1,500 based on eligibility criteria determined by the Office of the Controller, and up to \$500 per person for individuals who were under the age of 18-years-old as of March 1.

The application is not based on first come, first served.

The online application for hardship assistance will become available to all enrolled members of the Navajo Nation Nov. 2, according to the Office of the Controller, which was tasked with

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overseeing and administering the hardship applications in accordance with legislation approved by the Council.

“Additional hardcopy applications are on their way—200,000 applications will be made available to chapters. ... Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time,” Controller Pearline Kirk said.

“The Office of the President and Vice President, working in collaboration with the Controller’s Office, will be assisting with application outreach efforts once more application forms are available, to help ensure that our Navajo elders and special needs citizens are provided the opportunity to ask questions and apply for the hardship assistance,” Nez said.

“This is the first time that the Navajo Nation has had funds for this specific purpose. With any initiative of this magnitude, there will be minor issues that arise and we have to continue working together to resolve the issues and move forward,” he continued.

Navajo Nation Chapters that have questions relative to the Hardship Assistance Program, email nncareshelp@nnooc.org and do not contact the Navajo Division of Community Development. For more information about the Hardship Assistance Program or the Chapter Distribution Program, visit www.nnooc.org/CARESHelp.html.