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DINÉ BI NAALTSOOS

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Chinle, Tsaile get faster internet

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CHINLE — Students, people working from home and artisans selling their crafts online can expect faster internet speeds starting next Monday, thanks to NTUA Choice Wireless and the CARES Act.

Chapter officials, Choice Wireless representatives, Council delegates and the president and vice president

'When we signed this (CARES Act) legislation we wanted to see improvement in our communities.'

Jonathan Nez
Navajo Nation President

of the Navajo Nation gathered on top of a windy hill last Thursday to dedicate improvements to a communications tower.

The project will enable download speeds of 25 megabits per second, considered the minimum necessary bandwidth by the Federal Communications Commission but lacking in much of the reservation.

The project is one of 102 NTUA hopes to complete by Dec. 30, the deadline for spending the \$32 million in CARES Act funds the Navajo Nation Council allocated for broadband. Thirteen new projects were begun last week.

While some places will get brand new towers, Chinle, which already had a good tower, is simply adding some equipment to enhance speed.

"Thank you so much for empowering our community," said President Jonathan Nez. "When we signed this (CARES Act) legislation we wanted to see improvement in our communities."

Choice Wireless Deputy General Manager Velena Tsosie said it's "an honor and a privilege" to serve the Navajo people.

"This is the new highway," pronounced Chinle Chapter Vice President David Yazzie. "This is the road of life right here."



NTUA Choice Wireless personnel and dignitaries gather for the dedication of new broadband internet equipment that will upgrade Chinle's internet speed, one of 105 planned broadband projects using \$32 million in CARES Act funding.

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