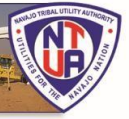
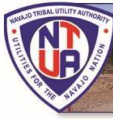


Meeting the Needs of the Navajo Nation



NTUA Update of Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Funds (NNFRF)
American Rescue Plan Act 2021 & Refunded Defunded CARES Act Projects

NTUA NNFRF Project Update #5 - Status of Utility Projects as of April 28, 2022

This report highlights the progress of the re-funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act Projects. These multi-utility projects were initially funded under the Navajo Nation CARES Act Fund but were later defunded as the Navajo Nation's deadline for the completion of these projects neared, prompting the Navajo Nation to recall the funds and reallocate the unspent funds to the Navajo Nation Hardship Assistance Expenditure Plan. The Navajo Nation has since re-funded these projects, as described below.

HISTORY: On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law. ARPA's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Fiscal Recovery Funds) are intended to build on and expand the relief provided in the 2020 CARES Act. The funds are intended to support governmental efforts to mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19, as well as respond to the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 suffered by residents and businesses. Among other things, funding is intended to build and strengthen infrastructure, such as water, wastewater, and broadband utilities in unserved and underserved communities.

NNFRF OFFICE ESTABLISHED:

On July 23, 2021, the Navajo Nation Council (NNC) passed Resolution No. CJY-41-21, which was signed by Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez into law on August 2, 2021. Resolution CJY-41-21 refunded projects that were defunded under the Navajo CARES Act resolution. The Navajo Nation Council Budget and Finance Committee issued Resolution No. BFS-31-21 on September 1, 2021, creating an application and review process, including the requirements for applicants to submit expenditure plans requiring all projects to fall into one of eighty-three expenditure categories, as defined by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

NTUA SUBMITS PROPOSALS:

On September 9, 2021, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) submitted project descriptions and expenditure plans for all its Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act Projects to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ). These projects address local needs for broadband connectivity, water, wastewater, electricity, education, and health and safety.

On September 28, 2021, the Navajo Nation DOJ found that all NTUA's Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act Projects are eligible for NNFRF. However, the Navajo Nation informed NTUA that it was not expending NNFRF funds for electric grid reliability projects that are not directly necessary to construct water, wastewater, or broadband projects.



NTUA NNFRF Project Utility Construction Update #5

Data as of April 28, 2022

NTUA Self-Funded Projects: On April 20, 2022, NTUA officially received the first disbursement of the NNFRF funding and has resumed utility construction for the Refunded Defunded CARES Act projects. NTUA utility crews, our contractors and our Electric Utility Company partners are working at different sites throughout the Navajo Nation.

NTUA had explained it was critical that NTUA receive NNFRF funds because NTUA would reach its self-funding limit. On January 31, 2022, NTUA reached that limit.

On February 07, 2022, NTUA explained to Navajo Nation leadership that it had no choice but to stop self-funding projects that have not moved into the construction phase until NTUA received NNFRF funds. NTUA continued with project development, such as engineering and Right of Way acquisition.

NTUA is very thankful the first disbursement of funds was released and have released projects for construction so that utility crews can complete construction of various projects for Navajo families that have been waiting for life-essential services.

NTUA will continue to comply with its obligations and will remain transparent regarding its expenditure toward completing the Re-Funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Fund Projects.

2.18 – HOUSING SUPPORT: OTHER HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The Navajo Nation approved NNFRF funding for NTUA’s Connecting Homes to Electricity/House Wiring Program. These projects will provide a power source for Navajo family homes on the Navajo Nation. There are two sections: NTUA electric connections and off-grid residential solar units.

NTUA Electric Connections:

With the funds designated for NTUA electric connections, NTUA estimates it can fund the extension of NTUA’s existing electric distribution lines to 404 Navajo family homes. This plan also includes funding, as needed, to complete interior house wiring, pole mounted meter loops, certification and recertification of house wiring, and inspections. As of this Update, NTUA has connected 239 homes to the electric grid.

Table 1: NTUA Electric Connections: Staging of 404 Homes

NTUA Electric Connections Stage (404)		Status
1	Completed Applications	138
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	115
3	Projects that are at the Right-of-Way Stage	240
4	Projects with Approved Right of Way	192
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	239
Total		924

Table 1 above shows the various stages of completed electric service applications. Stages 1 through 4 are Completed applications that are under review, but some may never be constructed for a variety of reasons.

Off-Grid Residential Solar Units:

With the funds designated for the off-grid residential solar projects, NTUA estimates it can fund connection of 150 off-grid solar systems and 425 electric grid connections to Navajo family homes. The 150 off-grid residential solar systems comprise of a skid mounted solar unit, battery system, an energy efficient refrigerator, funding, as needed, to complete interior house wiring, certification and re-certification of house wiring, inspection, and a generator with an automatic transfer switch (if medically necessary). NTUA has selected Industrial Solar Consulting, out of Gilbert, AZ to manufacture the solar units.

Table 2: Off-Grid Residential Solar Units: Staging of 150 Solar Projects

Off-Grid Residential Solar Project Stage		Status
1	Completed Applications	0
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	1
3	Projects that are Found to be Feasible	149
4	Projects that are in Construction	0
5	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	1
Total		151

Table 2: Once funds have been exhausted, remaining projects will be moved to a future funding source.

Off-Grid Residential Solar Units: Staging of 425 Homes Connected to Electric Grid

The off-grid solar plan also includes funding to extend power from the existing distribution system to connect 425 Navajo family homes. This plan also includes funding, as needed, to complete the interior house wiring, pole mounted meter loops, certification and recertification of house wiring, and inspections.

Depending on the location of the homes to existing power lines, electric grid connections may be provided by NTUA or non-NTUA electric providers such as: Arizona Public Service (APS), Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC), the City of Farmington, the City of Gallup, Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative (JMEC), or Socorro Electric.

Table 3: Off-Grid Residential Solar Units: Staging of 425 Homes Connected to Electric Grid Defunded CARES Act (DCA) – Neighboring Utilities Connection Staging

Electric Connections Stage (425)		Status
1	Completed Applications	88
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	1
3	Projects that are at the Right-of-Way Stage	5
4	Projects with Approved Right of Way	38
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	28
Total		160

Table 3: Initially, NTUA self-funded the construction of 33 electric service connections to non-NTUA electric utility providers. Fourteen (14) homes in CDEC's electric service area have been connected. Nineteen (19) homes are in JMEC's electric service area, of which 14 have been connected. Since then, more proposed projects have been added as seen in the following tables.

Cont'd Defunded CARES Act (DCA) – Neighboring Utilities Connection Staging

NTUA has received two invoices from CDEC for 30 homes to be connected to its electric system. JMEC informed NTUA that it will be invoicing NTUA for more homes soon in addition to the 19 connections that were already paid for. APS has requested house wiring for 2 customers. NTUA will continue to work with the other service providers to get Navajo homes connected to the electric grid.

Arizona Public Service Customers (APS)

Project Stages		Total No. of Projects
1	Completed Applications	0
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	1
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	3
4	Projects with Approved ROW	3
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	0
Proposed DCA Neighboring Utility (APS) Projects		
Total		7

Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC) – New Mexico

		Total No. of Projects
1	Completed Applications	0
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	0
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	0
4	Projects with Approved ROW	30
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	14
Proposed DCA Neighboring Utility (CDEC) Projects		
Total		44

Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative (JMEC) – New Mexico

		Total No. of Projects
1	Completed Applications	88
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	0
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	2
4	Projects with Approved ROW	5
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	14
Proposed DCA Neighboring Utility (JMEC) Projects		
Total		109

5.1 – CLEAN WATER: CENTRALIZED WASTEWATER COLLECTION & CONVEYANCE

The Navajo Nation authorized NNFRF for NTUA’s Re-Funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act Projects related to wastewater collection systems. With this funding NTUA estimates it can complete 9 projects. The projects will include rehabilitation and/or upgrades for lift stations.

A lift station pumps wastewater from a lower elevation to higher elevation and allows the wastewater to flow into a lagoon or other wastewater treatment plants. NTUA has identified 6 lift stations in Arizona and 3 in New Mexico that may be funded from this expenditure category.

Table 4: NTUA Centralized W/W Collection and Conveyance System Projects Stage

Projects Stage		Status
1	Design and Engineering	5
2	Right of Way	0
3	In Procurement Process	4
4	Release Construction	0
5	Construction Complete and In Service	0
Total		9

Table 4 provides a status update of the nine projects. NTUA will move forward with project development in design and engineering. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA will need to receive funds from the NNFRF.

5.3 – CLEAN WATER: DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER

The Navajo Nation authorized NNFRF for NTUA’s Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act decentralized wastewater projects. With this funding, project projections indicate NTUA can complete (78) septic disposal system projects connected to homes located on the Navajo Nation that are located too far from a centralized wastewater collection system for economical connection.

These projects include the cost to construct a fully functioning septic system which includes a septic tank, a drain field, plumbing (if necessary), sink (if necessary), hot water heater system (if necessary), bathroom addition (if necessary), an energy efficient refrigerator, house wiring (if necessary), all required inspections, and the installation of any other necessary components for a functional system. For each septic system to properly operate, a power source is required.

Each project includes funding for either a solar system, connection to the electric grid or a small gas-powered electric generator. It should be noted that each project in this category has a companion project under expenditure category 5.15 which provides a water cistern system connection to the home.

NTUA will move forward with project engineering development. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA will need to receive funds from the NNFRF. Once NTUA has exhausted all the funds in expenditure category 5.3, all remaining unfinished project will be eligible to be moved to a future funding source.

Cont'd 5.3 – CLEAN WATER: DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER

Table 5: Septic Systems Referral Stage

Septic Systems Referral Stage		Referral Stage Status
1	IHS or NN Active Referrals	192
2	Referrals that are in the Engineering Stage	91
3	Referrals that were Found to be Infeasible	142
4	Referrals pending a NN EPA Permit	59
5	Referrals that are in Construction	0
6	Referrals that are Constructed and In Service	0
Total		423

5.11 – DRINKING WATER: TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Navajo Nation approved for NTUA's Re-Funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act drinking water transmission and distribution projects. With this funding NTUA estimates it can complete 16 water transmission and distribution projects. This funding category provides funds to replace 7 compromised water distribution lines and 6 compromised Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) and provides funds to upgrade 3 existing electric distribution lines to provide power to 3 water transmission line projects.

Table 6: Stage of NTUA Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution Projects

Stage of NTUA Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution Projects		Status
1	Design and Engineering	1
2	Right-of-Way	1
3	In Procurement Process	4
4	Release Construction	2
5	Construction Complete and In-Service	10
Total		18

Table 6: Of these 16 projects, NTUA has completed the construction of 9 projects. There are 4 projects in active construction that will be completed. Until NNFRF funds are released, NTUA has no choice but to stop advancing the other projects to the construction phase.

5.14 DRINKING WATER STORAGE

The Navajo Nation approved funds from the NNFRF for NTUA's drinking water storage projects. With this funding NTUA estimates it can rehabilitate 2 existing NTUA water storage tanks. Water storage tanks serve as the main water supply for Navajo communities. It is important to keep water storage tanks maintained to provide safe and reliable drinking water for community members.

NTUA will move forward with project development. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA will need to receive funding from the NNFRF. The two water storage tanks serve the Gap/Bodaway and Dennehotso communities in Arizona. NTUA has completed the rehabilitation of the water tanks and is requesting the Navajo Nation to rehabilitate two additional water storage tanks in Casamero Lake and Smith Lake, both in New Mexico.

5.15– DRINKING WATER: OTHER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Navajo Nation authorized NNFRF for NTUA’s water cistern systems. With this funding, project projections indicate NTUA can provide connections of 78 water cistern systems to homes located on the Navajo Nation. These 78 homes are located too far from a centralized water distribution system for economical connection. These projects include the cost to provide a fully functioning cistern system which includes a cistern tank, a pump, and plumbing (if necessary), all required inspections, and any other necessary components for a functional system. NTUA will move forward with project development. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA will need to receive funds from the NNFRF.

Table 7: Cistern Systems Referral Stage

Cistern Systems Referral Stage		Referral Stage Status
1	IHS or NN Active Referrals	192
2	Referrals that are in the Engineering Stage	91
3	Referrals that were Found to be Infeasible	(142) (not included in total)
4	Referrals pending a NN EPA Permit	59
5	Referrals that are in Construction	0
6	Referrals that are Constructed and In Service	0
Total		342

Table 7: It should be noted that each project in this category has a companion project under expenditure category 5.3, which provides a septic system and connection to the home. Once NTUA has exhausted all the funds in expenditure category 5.15, all remaining unfinished projects will be eligible to be moved to a future funding source.

5.16 BROADBAND – LAST MILE PROJECTS

The Navajo Nation approved NNFRF for NTUA’s Re-Funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act Projects related to last mile broadband projects. With this funding NTUA estimates it can complete 18 broadcast stations that will provide wireless broadband services to unserved and underserved Navajo communities and will provide operation and maintenance expenses to continue the operation of 41 student/teacher Wi-Fi hotspots that are located throughout the Navajo Nation to support equitable and remote learning.

The 20 broadband broadcast station projects will include the cost of equipment, installation, operation, and maintenance to deliver broadband internet services to 20 Navajo communities. To provide the broadband services to these Navajo communities, NTUA Wireless will deploy the following technologies: 600 MHz and Fixed Wireless Broadband (EBS/2.5GHz).

The projects are designed to deliver 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds (scalable to 100 Mbps download/upload) for users that are within a 3-mile radius of the EBS and CBRS sites assuming no interference with topography.

For users within 9 miles with line of site to the tower with CBRS and EBS mid-band spectrum, the projects are designed to deliver minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. NTUA Wireless will also leverage and overlay 600 MHz licensed spectrum on the sites to provide additional reach to homes beyond 9 miles (up to approximately 15 miles (with speeds of 10 Mbps/1Mbps or higher).

Cont'd 5.16 BROADBAND – LAST MILE PROJECTS

All three technologies, EBS, CBRS, and 600 MHz licensed spectrum, work in conjunction to maximize the range and speed for customers. NTUA will move forward with project development. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA and the Navajo Nation will need to receive funds from the NNFRF.

Table 8:

NTUA Broadband Last Mile Projects Stage		Status
1	Engineering Design Stage	0
2	Procurement Stage	20
3	Released for Construction Stage	0
4	Testing and Commissioning Stage	0
5	Constructed and In Service Stage	41
Total		61

5.17 BROADBAND: OTHER PROJECTS

The Navajo Nation approved NNFRF for NTUA’s Re-Funded Defunded Navajo Nation CARES Act middle mile projects completing mid-section infrastructure to enable internet connectivity in communities. With this funding NTUA estimates it can complete 10 middle mile projects, which include 2 towers, 2 fiber lines, and 6 fiber line make-ready projects. The fiber lines provide transport for the NTUA Wireless broadcast stations, enabling them to provide wireless broadband services. The towers and associated microwave links as well as the fiber optic lines will provide transport at gigabit speeds which meet and exceed the 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload speeds that are required by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Without the middle mile projects, the last mile projects to users cannot work.

NTUA’s 6 fiber line make-ready projects will upgrade the electrical infrastructure to enable fiber line attachments which provides broadband services. Of these 10 projects, NTUA has completed the construction of 7 projects. There are 3 projects in the development stage. To advance these projects to the construction phase, NTUA and the Navajo Nation will need to receive funds from the NNFRF. NTUA is currently in the process of obtaining leases from the Navajo Land Department. Once the leases are finalized, NTUA can begin construction of the towers. Furthermore, NTUA anticipates cost savings from the make ready construction projects and shall construct additional fiber and tower projects as requested.

Table 9:

NTUA Broadband Middle Mile Projects Stage	Status
Engineering Design Stage	0
Right-of-Way Stage	3
Procurement Stage	0
Released for Construction Stage	0
Testing and Commissioning Stage	0
Constructed and In-Service Stage	7
Total	10

Information for you to Share with Chapters and Chapter Residents **Seeking New Utility Service or Utility Payment Assistance**

1. **Chapter Powerline Projects:** If your Chapter is interested in a chapter powerline project, please contact NTUA Project Administration Supervisor Louella Chee – louellac@ntua.com, phone number 928-528-5011, ext. 4685.

2. **Seeking Residential Electric Connection:**

If community members need residential electric service and believe they are within two miles of an NTUA Electric distribution line, please encourage community members to visit their local NTUA District Office and apply for the Light Up Navajo project. Please understand it is not guaranteed that the applicant will qualify or receive electric connection through LUN project.



3. **Seeking Off-Grid Residential Solar:** If community members need residential electric service and cannot be connected to a powerline, they may qualify for an off grid solar unit. Please encourage community members to visit a local NTUA District Office to submit application for an off grid residential solar unit. The off grid residential solar program is available in all 110 chapters.

4. **Seeking Residential Waterline Extensions:** If Community members need water service to their homes and they believe they are within ½ mile from an NTUA water line, please encourage community members to visit their local NTUA District Office and apply for water services. Please understand it is not guaranteed that the applicant will qualify or receive water service.

5. **Seeking Broadband Service:** If a Chapter is seeking additional or expanded Broadband service for their communities, please contact Monroe Keedo at monroek@ntua.com. Mr. Keedo will provide information on existing and proposed new service locations including new towers and fiber optic buildouts.

6. **Seeking Residential Broadband Service:** Community members and small businesses seeking broadband services can contact Choice NTUA Wireless for information on new residential and small business services. Choice NTUA Wireless also offers Wi-Fi hotspots free of charge in key locations to assist with combatting the pandemic. Lastly, community members currently enrolled in the Choice Lifeline or Choice Tribal Lifeline plan may also qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). For further information, please call 928-730-2273.

Regional Utility Assistance Programs

Navajo Nation Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Navajo Family Assistance Services (NFAS) office, under the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services (DSS), administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally funded assistance program for eligible households in managing expenses with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related minor home repairs. Eligible Navajo households on the Navajo Nation, and on designated near reservation communities, may apply for a one-time payment. Amount of LIHEAP funds provided are based upon the household size. The availability of funds will determine how long the LIHEAP applications will be accepted.

If you or someone you know needs energy assistance, complete an application for assistance to determine eligibility. To download the application visit, www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov. Call your local NFAS field office to have an application emailed or faxed to you. For more information, contact your nearest NFAS Field Office: Chinle, AZ, (928) 674-2039; Dilkon, AZ, (928) 657-8171; Window Rock, AZ, (928) 871-4664; Gallup, NM, (505) 726-2699; Shiprock, NM, (505) 368-1177.

For Utah Navajo Utility Customers

The HEAT Program will be offering an energy utility assistance **benefit** for a limited time beginning **April 1, 2022**. This year, the program received additional funding that authorized a second round of benefits for HEAT eligible households. For more information, please contact the HEAT program at 1-866-205-4357. Please share with utility customers who live in the Navajo Utah region. Customers can also ask at the NTUA Kayenta and Shiprock District offices.

For Coconino County Arizona Utility Customers

NTUA is working with Coconino County AZ Health & Human Services department to provide financial assistance to eligible utility customers. Assistance is available for current or past due utility bills. For more information: Page, AZ – 928-679-7325 Flagstaff, AZ – 928-679-7453. Customers can also ask at the NTUA Tuba City and Dilkon Offices.

COCONINO COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Do you need assistance paying your electric, gas, firewood or propane bills?


Coconino County Community Services has funding available for current or past due utility bills. It is based on Income eligibility.

Location:
467 Vista Ave. Page, AZ 86040
928-679-7325
2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-679-7453



See reverse side for list of documents we need

You can apply online at
<https://s13.cap60.com/kiosk3/Home/SetDBName/capCoconinoAZ>



1. **Original: Birth Certificates, CIB, current Passport or Certificate of Naturalization, Social Security (SSA, SSI or SSDI) award letters, or proof of current legal resident status** for all house members
2. **Original Social Security Cards or current Tax Return** (which includes social security numbers) for all household members.
3. **Current Driver's License or Photo ID** for all household members over age 18
4. **Current Lease**
5. **Gross income for ALL** household members for 30 days of date of Intake. (Includes: All paystubs, Social Security SA/SSI/and Disability Award Letters, Unemployment, Pensions, etc.). Bank statements are not acceptable.
6. Provide both current &/or delinquent **Electric bills** (not a door hanger)

If you have questions, please call: Coconino County Community Services
(928) 679-7325 or (928) 679-7453