



THE TRUTH WELL TOLD

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Partnership to connect 8 families to the grid

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has partnered with Arizona Public Service to extend electric services to approximately eight homes in the Navajo Nation communities of Tuba City and Cameron, according to a news release.

NTUA spokesperson Deenise Becenti said this collaboration is the result of NTUA's current work with 2020 Navajo Nation CARES Act legislation and continued partnership with Arizona Public Service. She added the eight families identified to receive services reside outside of NTUA's area of service and had initially applied for solar units from NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar program. She said NTUA reviewed their applications and concluded they were within the Arizona Public Service area.

"The homes are beyond the reach of NTUA's electric distribution system, but were in close proximity to APS's electric distribution system," NTUA General Manager Walter Haase stated in the news release. "We reached out to APS to see how we could work together to get these families connected to a powerline. We worked together to create a meaningful solution to help these families get connected to APS's electric system."

"As part of APS's line extension program, the electric utility will cover up to \$10,000 of the cost of each connection. NTUA will pay the remaining cost of connecting the home and, if needed, will pay for the home to be wired," according to the news release. "NTUA will be requesting the support and approval of tribal leadership to apply CARES Act funding to this partnership."

15,000 without electricity

Among the roughly 55,000 households located on the Navajo Nation, about 15,000 families do not have electricity. NTUA reported some of the challenges include the high

cost of connecting isolated rural households to the grid, the sensitivity of families to utility costs, and the limited availability of grant funding.

NTUA reported about 300 families have been connected to the grid this year with the assistance of CARES Act funding.

"This partnership with APS extends the impact of the CARES Act funding and ensures more families throughout the Nation have access to reliable lighting, refrigeration, heating, and eventually other services such as running water and cellular/internet communications," Haase said.