



NAVAJO NATION FISCAL RECOVERY FUND OFFICE (NNFRFO)

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TRANSITION REPORT

November 15, 2022

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APPENDICES: For more information, visit the NNFRFO website – www.frf.navajo-nsn.gov

1. Organizational Chart
2. A) Administrative/Regulatory Budgets; B) CARES Defunded Budgets; C) Approved Expenditures
3. A) NNFRFO Executive Order; B) Plan of Operation
4. ARPA/NNFRF Administrative/Regulatory Support Funded Positions
5. United States Treasury ARPA Guidelines
6. ARPA/NNFRF Contracts Summary Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY |

1. Organizational chart (reference tab #1)
2. Names of staff (reference tab #1)
3. Vision Statement and Mission Statement (pending development)
4. Clear statements on what actions the new Administration, Committees of the Council, or the Council as a whole need to take, if any.
 - a. Streamlining of approval processes and monitoring for infrastructure projects; i.e. expedited rights-of-way approval process, standardizing process of approval of permits, establishment of Navajo Nation building codes, implementation of standardized project management process, etc.
 - b. Standardization of financial processes across various funding sources; there are too many differentiated application of reviews/approvals within the Office of the Controller and Office of Management and Budget. The procurement process needs to be updated to reflect the current business environments such as reduced prices for online purchasing.
 - c. Streamlining the 164 review process. The reduction of “red tape” to secure approval for products and services will greatly enhance the ability to expedite projects. The process should involve securing approvals in no less than ten business days.
 - d. Updating mechanism for implementation of hiring process and the background review process. The current personnel management system is too cumbersome and not conducive to gain access to information by divisions, departments, and programs outside of Department of Personnel Management. The updated web-based mechanism should be centralized and allow online access to all relevant personnel information.
 - e. Create clear lines of separation of duties and authorities. The best example would be implementation of water projects on the Navajo Nation. There are three primary entities: IHS/Office of Environmental Health, DHR/Water Development Department, and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Each of these organizations plays a role yet there is no coordination of activities or a clear definition of what each entities’ role in water development for the Navajo Nation.

II. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITHIN THE 4 YEARS | *NNFRFO was established until November 2021.*

1. Since November 2021, NNFRFO has facilitated the process of setting up fifty-eight (58) business units totaling \$1,232,943,760. Please reference attached budget summary information. There are still \$846,517,712 of approved expenditure plans that need to be set up. At this point, all ARPA/NNFRF funds have been appropriated. For detailed information, please reference attachment (**reference tab #2a, #2b and #2c**).
2. The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office was established through Navajo Nation Council resolution CJY-41-21. Navajo Nation Office of the President was authorized to administratively create this office. As of November 15, 2022, there are nineteen (19) funded positions with three (3) pending vacancies. For more information, attached is NNFRFO executive order/plan of operation (**reference tab #3a and #3b**).
3. The ARPA/NNFRF administrative and regulatory support funds authorized the creation of one hundred ninety-five positions. To date, fifty eight (58) of these position have been hired. For detailed information, please reference attachment (**reference tab #4**).
4. Begin development of an enhanced accountability review process relative to ARPA/NNFRF funded projects. To date, we have secured approval for detailed financial reporting with Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA). It was a struggle to get them to agree but it was necessary. NNFRFO's intent is to fully implement the federal regulations outlined in U.S. Department of Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds updated September 20, 2022 (**reference tab #5**).

III. CURRENT AND/OR PROJECTIONS FOR WORK CONTINUED BEYOND 2023 |

Major projects that need to be continued after January 2023. Include current status of project, and contact information of the teams assisting with the project, as well as its significance. Please, include a timeline and/or supports the project will need to secure.

1. The approved ARPA/NNFRF projects that have entered the contract stage needs to continue to be monitored. For detailed information, attached is an ARPA contracts summary report (**reference tab #6**):
 - a. Current Status – On going
 - b. Contact Information – NNFRFO staff (Lisa Jymm/Max Bighorse/Arnold Jake)
 - c. Timeline – Complete projects by December 31, 2026
2. The ARPA/NNFRF administrative complex project will need to be completed.
 - a. Current Status – Bidding stage
 - b. Contact Information – NNFRFO staff (Lisa Jymm/Max Bighorse/Arnold Jake)
 - c. Timeline – Anticipated to be implemented by March 2023.

3. The NNFRFO technical guidance contract will need to be completed. The contractor shall be authorized to assist NNFRFO with permits reviews, building inspections, inspections of water projects/sewer projects, inspection of public facility projects such as senior centers, warehouses, multipurpose building, detox/treatment centers, etc.
 - a. Current Status – Bidding stage
 - b. Contact Information – NNFRFO staff (Lisa Jymm/Max Bighorse/Arnold Jake)
 - c. Timeline – Implementation by February 2023
4. The NNFRFO will set up a project reporting mechanism to be accessible on the NNFRFO website. Once established, all ARPA/NNFRFO eligible projects for each community shall be reported through one website.
 - a. Current Status – Development stage
 - b. Contact Information – NNFRFO staff (Lisa Jymm/Johnson Nez)
 - c. Timeline – Implementation by February 2023

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER DIVISION IMPROVEMENT |

1. The authorization for NNFRFO to access projects authorized for implementation by other Navajo Nation Divisions/departments/programs should be expanded. This would include monitoring, evaluation, and assist with corrective action plans. The expanded authority could be achieved through a revision to NNFRFO plan of operation. Opinion of Tom Platero.

V. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH THIS ADMINISTRATION |

1. As a Navajo Nation employee for over thirty (30) years, I thought I knew and understood the functions of Navajo Nation programs. My experience with NNFRFO is that there is a complex diversity of issues and concerns that aren't known to even seasoned Navajo Nation employees. There is a deficit of information sharing with local communities; they are eager to know about how, what, where and when Navajo Nation funding is expended. This was evident by our NNFRFO meetings with local chapters. There needs to be more executive level planning meetings to avoid duplication of efforts. Opinion of Tom Platero.