



# Office of the Executive Director

Navajo Division for Children and Family Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DIVISION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES REPORTS TO WESTERN AGENCY COUNCIL**

The Division for Children and Family Services presented a report to the Western Navajo Agency Council during its quarterly meeting on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The report includes the highlights and accomplishments from the division's offices and programs including: Office of the Executive Director (OED), Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families (NTCCF), Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act Program (NICWAP), Department of Child Care and Development (DCCD), Department for Self-Reliance (DSR), Department of Family Services (DFS), Financial Assistance Unit (FAU), and Developmental Disabilities Program and Long Term Care Services.

The Western Agency Council is comprised of chapter officials from 18 Navajo Nation chapters located within the Western Navajo Agency with authority to advocate, promote and support common goals and interests of those chapters.

Highlights from the report include:

- The Diné Action Plan (DAP) Advisory Group held its quarterly meeting on June 20, 2025, at the Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. The Advisory Group heard a report from its evaluators One Fire Associates, an initiative study by a Diné College student, and reflections from the Advisory Group representatives. The task groups on substance use disorder, violence, suicide prevention missing and murdered Diné relatives, and capacity building provided updates on their tasks.
- The Department of Family Services facilitated a Violence Prevention Summit at the University of New Mexico on June 18, 2025, which centered on violence prevention, child abuse prevention, and sexual assault awareness. Navajo wellness and cultural teachings were presented.
- The DCFS continues its collaboration with Native Community Capital and Navajo Housing Authority on the Navajo Homeowner's Assistance Fund to help homeowners with mortgage payments.
- The DCFS is hosting weekly meetings to implement the 477 Plan to consolidate federally funded employment, education, training and related programs and services into a single, comprehensive plan effective October 1, 2025. Services that will fall under the 477 Plan include: General Assistance and Burial Assistance, Adult Services, Homemaker Services, Indian Child Welfare



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Act, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Children Development Fund, Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Title IV-B Subparts 1 and 2, Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Family Violence Prevention Services.

- The Operation Rainbow Bridge emergency phone line was deactivated as of August 1, 2025, due to calls no longer coming in. The website <https://operationrainbowbridge.com> and email [info@operationrainbowbridge.com](mailto:info@operationrainbowbridge.com) are still active.
- DCFS participated in the 2025 Navajo Nation School and Community Safety Summit – Ensuring Our Future by Protecting Our Children and Our Communities on June 26-27, 2025, at Gallup High School. DCFS promotes the message “See Something, Say Something.” More information is available at <https://operationdineschoolsafety.com>.
- The Preserving Families Initiative is partnering with cultural and religious groups including the Diné Hataalii Association, Azee’ Bee Nahaaghá of Diné Nation, and Christian churches and groups to empower and connect Navajo families to spirituality and healing.
- DCFS partnered with Kayenta Indian Health Services Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley on the Youth Butchering Expo at the Kayenta Chapter House on July 1, 2025. Youth attendees learned basics of sheep butchering, meal preparation and making frybread and blue corn meal.
- DCFS staff assisted with the Oak Ridge Fire response by volunteering to receive donations at the Fighting Scouts Event Center, conduct inventory, transport donations and serve hot meals. The OED provided meals for volunteers and shelter residents at the Department of Diné Education center. Staff donated sleeping cots and supplies and checked on clients during the emergency.
- DCFS participated in the Angels vs. Drunk Drivers Awareness Walk on July 21, 2025, with Navajo Nation Council Delegate Amber Crotty and the Peshlakai family.
- DCFS celebrated the one-year birthday of its new name on July 28. DCFS was previously known as Division of Social Services.
- DCCD served 161 children in Navajo Nation Child Care Centers in the Western Agency in the third quarter of FY 2025. New playground equipment is being installed at both Leupp and Tuba City Child Care Centers. These projects should be completed by the end of the fourth quarter.
- NTCCF provided counseling services to nine clients in the month of August. The Tuba City Treatment Coordinator visited all schools in the Western Agency, except Page. The NTCCF also continues to participate in the DAP Suicide Surveillance and Prevention task group and conducted a cultural event for World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, 2025.
- As of June 30, 2025, NICWAP has 437 active cases involving 821 children across 29 states. As of June 30, 2025, 65% of Navajo children in state custody are currently placed in an ICWA preferred placement, such as with extended family, a member of the child’s tribe, or other Indian families. NICWAP is promoting cultural connections with children in state custody as a priority with a cultural event scheduled for September 13, 2025, in Phoenix, Ariz.



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- NICWAP is reviewing and amending intergovernmental agreements with the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah to reinforce and strengthen government-to-government relationships with the respective states. A tri-state meeting is scheduled for October.
- The DSR's Kayenta and Tuba City offices provided \$477,735 in monthly assistance to 311 families from June to August 2025. In the same time period, the offices provided \$58,623 in achievement awards, incentives, and support services to 36 adults and 224 children in an approved benefit group. These included graduation incentives to ten high school graduates and five DSR members who earned post-secondary degrees or certificates. In addition, four DSR members completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program at Coconino Community College, with one participant passing the state certification exam and earning a certificate of completion.
- The FAU provided burial payments totaling more than \$1.3 million from April to July 2025. The FAU is also working on past due burial payments for 2020-2023.
- The FAU provided funds for eligible school children through the Navajo School Clothing and School Supplies program. The first disbursement helped 4,740 children and the second helped 659 children. A third payment is scheduled for September 19, 2025.

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