



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Lynn Trujillo, Secretary
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State of New Mexico Delivers 9,720 boxes of food to the Navajo Nation

SANTA FE – Today, the State of New Mexico, in partnership with the Navajo Nation, delivered 9,720 boxes of food to the Navajo Nation. More than 80,000 pounds of rice, beans, potatoes, watermelons, apples, and onions were delivered. Deliveries were made to designated staging areas and distributions will be made to every Navajo chapter in New Mexico.

"The state of New Mexico will do everything in its power to support the sovereign tribes and pueblos of this state during this pandemic," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "My administration has been in constant contact with tribal leaders and partners -- we will continue deliveries of food, water and other necessary resources in addition to the work the Department of Health has done in testing and providing for medical needs. I am grateful for this response and expect more to come in the near- and long-term future."

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, we express our appreciation to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for working closely with the Navajo Nation and the local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the partnership, we continue to protect our Navajo citizens, patients, elders, and vulnerable individuals with necessities, such as food and household items. Helping one another will allow us to slow the spread of the virus on the Navajo Nation," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department is coordinating multi-agency efforts to provide food, water and other services to the state's sovereign nations, tribes and pueblos so they can better focus on fighting the spread of COVID-19.

"The Indian Affairs Department is working closely with tribal leadership and our sister agencies across the state to respond to the needs of tribal communities quickly. Along with our tribal partners we are doing everything we can to flatten the curve and protect New Mexico's tribal communities," said IAD Secretary Lynn Trujillo.

The department, in collaboration with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's office and numerous agency partners, have already distributed the following: 800 food boxes to the Pueblo of San Felipe, enough to feed 2,000 tribal citizens, and 200 food boxes to the Pueblo of Zia, that will feed 800 tribal citizens. Meals for children were also delivered to the Pueblo of Isleta this week. The food boxes will feed 830 children for a month. IAD has also coordinated smaller deliveries of food and water to satellite Navajo communities with sister agencies and the National Guard.

In addition, the Aging and Long-term Services Department has delivered 4,000 food boxes to tribal senior centers to feed our elders, and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department is delivering baby formula to families in need. The Department of Transportation has helped nine pueblos with signage and blockades to prohibit access to non-residents.

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