



Contact: Aaron Lopez
Aaron.Lopez@iad.nm.gov

Cabinet Secretary Josett D. Monette
Deputy Secretary Aurora Valdez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2026

State and Navajo Nation sign 24 agreements representing more than \$11 million for infrastructure projects statewide

Funding infrastructure projects that directly benefit the Navajo Nation

GALLUP, N.M. – The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and the Navajo Nation on July 17 executed 24 intergovernmental grant agreements totaling \$11,564,700 in Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund awards, advancing critical infrastructure projects that will directly benefit Navajo communities.

The agreements were signed at a meeting between the State of New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, Navajo Nation leadership, New Mexico state legislators, Navajo Nation Chapter officials, and the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development. The meeting was convened to improve the delivery of Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund investments benefiting the Navajo Nation and its 54 Chapters in New Mexico.

The Indian Affairs Department shared its processes and procedures for Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund, ensuring that all stakeholders received a clear, comprehensive presentation of the funding process.

“Over the past three and a half years, Governor Lujan Grisham’s administration has worked with the Navajo Nation and finding solutions together. That partnership has helped move long-standing agreements forward and deliver meaningful investments to our communities.” **said President Buu Nygren.** “This is about more than agreements on paper—it’s about getting projects across the finish line for our chapters and

improving the lives of our people. I want to thank our chapter officials, state partners, legislators, and community leaders for their continued dedication. Together, we're building a stronger future for the Navajo Nation."

Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund investments support projects identified by Tribal governments to address local priorities, including water and wastewater systems, emergency response facilities, healthcare and educational facilities, senior and youth centers, utility infrastructure, housing-related improvements, and other essential community needs. These investments strengthen Tribal infrastructure, expand access to essential public services, and improve the health, safety, and quality of life of Tribal communities throughout New Mexico.

"Transparency, information sharing, collaboration, communication and a shared commitment to serving our communities help us to move towards our shared goal of building infrastructure in Indian Country in New Mexico," said **Cabinet Secretary Josett D. Monette**.

This session provided an opportunity for the Indian Affairs Department and the Navajo Nation to share information to understand each other's goals and processes better. This coordinated effort strengthens working relationships and reaffirms a shared commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources and the successful delivery of infrastructure projects that improve the lives of Tribal citizens.

###

Since 2003, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities: economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at www.iad.nm.gov.