

Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Summary of Projects FY 2011-2014

Updated August 19, 2011

JUDICIAL BRANCH REGIONAL PROJECTS:

Total request :

- Phase I- Planning for 4 Projects from 2011-2014: estimated \$2.75 million
- Phase II – implementation of Project 1
- Phase II- implementation of all other projects:

✚ Project #1:

Regional connectivity communications-computer purchase FY2011-12

✚ Project #2:

To'Hajiilee Multi-Purpose Justice Center with Peacemaker Hogan & Juvenile Justice Center Facility

✚ Project #3:

To'Hajiilee Detention

✚ Project#4:

Regional project: Improve Security of all NM Navajo Judicial Districts

✚ Project #1 and #4 are *regional* projects that include **four (4) Navajo Judicial Districts** (To'Hajiilee-Alamo; Ramah, Crownpoint, Shiprock) that **serve 52 Navajo Nation Communities** (chapters) in seven (7) counties.

✚ Current TIFF Board regulation for one (1) project per community limits the Judicial Branch projects to only one community; expanding the TIFF regulation to "regional projects" or "special projects" would serve a larger geographic area, connected by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and their four (4) Judicial Districts (To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District: Ramah; Crownpoint and Shiprock).

✚ **Bernalillo County will serve as the fiscal agent for administration of any Tribal Infrastructure Funds appropriated**

- Navajo Tribal government is a 3 Branch system with Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches.
- The Navajo Judicial court system has 3 appellate justices, 17 trial judges in 10 Judicial Districts. In NM, there are 4 Judicial Districts.
- There is a separate administrative arm of the Judicial Branch: "Administrative Office of the Courts" ("AOC")
- In each Judicial District there is at least one or two Judges, one Court Administrator, One staff attorney, court clerks and administrative office assistant.
- The Judicial Branch manages its own general funds and 638 budget, along with securing federal grants for justice programming in the communities.
- These special initiatives and projects include: Juvenile Justice case management; connectivity project NNJISP¹; Drug Court; Juvenile Peacemaking program, see www.navajocourts.org at <http://www.navajocourts.org/indexaoc.htm>
- The Judicial Branch also has 28 probation and Parole officers; Peacemaking program that employs 10 community Peacemaker Liaisons.
- Navajo Peacemaking Program, a Judicial Branch program, is one of the most renowned restorative justice programs in the world that utilizes culture based teachings, training and dispute resolution unique to Indian Country by utilizing local community "Peacemakers". The codification of traditional, common and fundamental laws in the Navajo Nation Code supports the peacemaking services for counseling, education and advice through the use of these community "Peacemakers". There are

NAVAJO JUDICIAL BRANCH:

¹ Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project – "NNJISP", see page 2 for more information.

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over 242 certified peacemakers.

<http://www.navajocourts.org/indexpeacemaking.htm>

Safety for Community:

NNIJSP Summary:

Law enforcement, tribal prosecutors, peacemaking, public defenders, probation services, Navajo Dept. of Information technology, and Judicial branch staff have been working since October 2007 on an inter-agency justice information sharing project, ("Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project – "NNIJISP").

- Tribal members can access Judges for immediate court orders via the internet
- The vision of the project is to allow courts, prosecutor and law enforcement to enable crime and justice data in real time; share information via a single Navajo Communication portal based on a single click on a tribal census number, followed by rollout to all districts; multi-point remote conferencing and arraignments are being enabled.

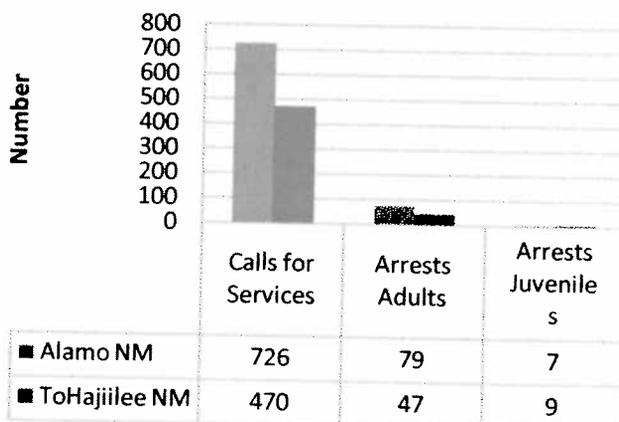
DETENTION FACILITY NEEDS:

- Navajo detention facilities have deteriorated so severely that prisoners can only be kept overnight in three of six adult detention facilities and 2 juvenile facilities with only 41 adult and 18 juvenile beds available. One (1) space for To'Hajiilee-Alamo communities is available for adult detention.
- The Crownpoint NM courthouse and jail is being constructed. To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District utilizes the Crownpoint facility. There are no permanent or temporary detention facilities in To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District. There is one (1) jail space for both communities.

Police:

- Law enforcement officers continue to be unable to respond safely and effectively to calls through the 17.2 million acres of Navajo territory. In the To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District 91% of the criminal offense calls are unanswered. Navajo officers patrol a patchwork of cross-deputized highways, and isolated dirt roads. To increase law enforcement in Alamo, the Navajo Nation entered into a cross-deputization agreement with New Mexico sheriffs in Socorro County.

To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District 2010 Data NDLE



To'Hajiilee (Pop. 3,288) and Alamo (pop 2,500) are 182-220 miles from the Crownpoint Detention Facility where community members are taken after an arrest making access to the courts difficult. Law Enforcement utilizes at a minimum five (5) Law Enforcement officers for relays (Crownpoint Police District and To'Hajiilee-Alamo Police District).

DETAILED SUMMARY OF PROJECTS:

Project #1:

Regional connectivity communications-computer purchase FY2011-FY12-Severance Tax Bond Appropriation

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Scope of Work: to provide access for defendants, families, children, service providers to the courts and their functions, including Peacemaking Program services, to support reduction of crime victimization, domestic violence, alcohol-related crime. Also to upgrade two-way radio communications from analog to digital.

Projected Budget:

Capital Outlay - \$250,000

Project #2:

To'Hajiilee Multi-Purpose Justice Center with Peacemaker Hogan and Juvenile Justice Center

FY2011-2012 Severance Tax Bond

Appropriation (Planning)

Scope of Work: to provide courts, community service providers with a multi-purpose building that would support DWI School, Drug Court, Teen Court programming and culture-based Peacemaking services for the To'Hajiilee community, approximately 1500 sq. ft.

Projected Budget:

Capital Outlay-\$250,000

**To'Hajiilee Detention Facility
FY 2012-14 Severance Tax Bond
Appropriation (Planning)**

Scope of Work: to provide law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and community based detention services, and to speed up successful reentry to family and community following arrest. (3-5 bed temporary holding facility). \$250 per square feet.

Projected Budget:

Capital Outlay-\$2.0 million.

Project#4:

Regional Project Improve Security of all NM Navajo Judicial Districts

FY 2012-2014 Severance Tax Bond

Appropriation

Scope of Work: to protect the courtroom through increased security for the courthouse as well as citizens involved with various courtroom proceedings. Will enable extensive training and screening procedures as well as the tools and machines to ensure the safety of all citizens.

Projected Budget:

Capital Outlay - \$250,000

Project #3:

For More information contact:

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Judicial Districts of the Navajo Nation

Judicial districts in the Navajo Nation as approved on April 1, 1988 numbered seven – Chinle, Crownpoint, Kayenta, Ramah, Shiprock, Tuba City, and Window Rock Judicial Districts. The satellite courts of Alamo and To'hajiilee were included in the Ramah Judicial District. **The need to establish additional judicial districts resulted in a review of reservation maps using boundaries established by agencies, service providers and law enforcement districts. This review resulted in a consensus of service providers supporting the designation of judicial districts based on the use of Chapter boundaries. Effective April 4, 2006, the Alamo and To'hajiilee satellite courts became the distinct Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District. The Dilkon Judicial District was also added. On August 10, 2007, the Judiciary Committee officially created the Aneth Judicial District serving the northern portion of the Navajo Nation, with judicial boundaries to include Aneth, Red Mesa, Mexican Water, Sweetwater and Tees Nos Pos (west of the Arizona/New Mexico state line). Effective June 5, 2008, the northern portion of Huerfano Chapter became the Shiprock Judicial District. These new Judicial Districts were developed by the Judicial Branch, approved by the Judiciary Committee (Resolution No. 0239-06) and provided for in the Navajo Nation operating budget as authorized at 7 N.N.C. §251 (B).**

The map below, followed by a list of Judicial Districts and their Chapters show how each Judicial District is constituted by their enumerated Chapters.

