

**REPORT TO THE NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
By the Navajo Area Agency on Aging
November 1, 2011**

ISSUE:

Status of the Manuelito senior center, Manuelito, New Mexico

BACKGROUND:

The Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health performed an environmental assessment of the senior center and subsequently the senior center was closed in February, 2011 due to health and safety concerns.

A structural assessment was completed to determine the cost of repairs and renovation of the 2,352 square feet senior center building. The total cost- estimate was \$392,173.00.

In FY 2011: Beginning July 1, 2010 and ending February 16, 2011, The Manuelito senior center served 69 clients who consumed 1,622 meals and served 1,593 home-delivered meals to 17 clients.

Presently seventeen (17) older persons from the Manuelito community are registered for meals at the Lupton senior center.

The Manuelito community is planning to construct a multi-purpose building that will house aging and head start services.

MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The Navajo Area Agency on Aging (NAAA) will re-establish delivery of food to the older population in the Manuelito community with delivery services from the Lupton, Arizona senior center. The distance between the two communities is 10 miles. The decision to serve from the Lupton senior center is based on Lupton being the closest to the Manuelito community than the other neighboring communities.

An assessment of the older persons that need home-delivered food is in process as well as the number of older population in the community. We expect the assessment to be completed by November 11, 2011. The assessment will include who has a provider, who has transportation to drive to Lupton for meals and if the clients have food on their shelves.

The Navajo Area Agency on Aging (NAAA) received referrals to employ a driver.

On November 3, 2011, NAAA will inform the Manuelito community of the delivery of food to those older persons who are eligible. Additional food will be prepared for those who are independent and can drive to the Lupton senior center. The Lupton senior center is open to the older population if they choose to eat at this location.