## DES Energy Assistance Available for Navajo Nation Tribal Members

As you may have seen in a recent <u>press release from the Navajo Nation Division of Social</u> <u>Services</u>, the Navajo Nation Department for Family Services is no longer accepting applications for its 2023 low-income energy assistance program, effective June 12, 2023.

Because the Navajo Nation's energy assistance funds have been depleted, assistance is now available to Navajo Tribal Members through the State of Arizona!

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is available to support Arizona families struggling during the unprecedented heat wave, helping to ensure the health and safety of at-risk households in the midst of dangerous temperatures.

## Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low income households pay their heating/cooling bills, minimize crises, and make energy costs more affordable through <u>weatherization assistance</u> (insulation installation, window shading, HVAC service, etc.). Eligible households may receive up to \$1,200 once per year. Additionally, applicants may receive up to \$1,000 in supplemental benefits in applicable crisis situations once in a 12-month period.

Tribal members who have received assistance through the Navajo Nation program in the last 12 months will not be eligible to receive State LIHEAP benefits, *regardless of the amount they initially received*. However, if they have not yet received the supplemental benefits for applicable crisis situations, they may be eligible for the additional assistance.

To qualify for State LIHEAP, the applicant must have an income that falls within State program guidelines. Priority for service assistance is determined based on vulnerable household members. Higher priority may be granted if someone in the home is 60 years or older (DES guidelines for "senior"), a person with a disability, a veteran, or a child under six years old. For more information, please visit <u>des.az.gov/LIHEAP</u>.

## **Ready to Apply?**

If you are ready to apply for LIHEAP, you can submit an application online through the <u>DES</u> <u>Housing Stability and Utility Assistance Programs Online Portal</u>. If you are unable to apply online, you may apply by phone:

• LIHEAP: 1-866 494-1981

or by downloading a paper application from our portal and mailing it to the address on the application.