



Ramah Navajo Chapter

Office of Grants & Contracts
Administration
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July 8, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

Ramah Navajo Chapter of the Navajo Nation is a non-contiguous section of the Navajo Nation in west-central New Mexico and in Cibola, and southern McKinley Counties.

The Mission of the Ramah Navajo Chapter is to nurture the well-being and growth of our community and its people by promoting and carrying out comprehensive community services, programs and opportunities; promoting and advocating self-determination; maintaining and enhancing respect of our Navajo Traditional Values, Cultural Heritage and Family; and encouraging continuous growth toward a self-sufficient community.

Since March 2020, the combination of the spread of the novel coronavirus, and the difficult conditions we have been forced to live under for generations, our chapter lands are in a crisis, threatening and even taking lives of beloved community members. We are a strong and resilient people, and we are exploring and planning multiple additional solutions for community sustainability, even as we work furiously to meet community needs.

We are actively seeking to expand our successful work with partners, including Animal Protection of New Mexico, during this time. To date, Animal Protection of New Mexico has worked with us on providing community responsive, holistic support for horse management. The issue of too many free-roaming horses on Navajo lands is still relevant, and we appreciate the support and partnership we are building Animal Protection of New Mexico.

For obvious reasons, keeping our community safe during COVID-19 is our most important priority to address. At this time, we have had over 80 community members test positive and 4 deaths due to COVID-19. At least one community member is currently hospitalized in Albuquerque. The impact on our rural community of approximately 3500 people is extremely serious. We are in a food desert and many people in the community have lost income and the ability to feed their families.

We are Tl'ohchiní Dine'é, focused on our Mission, and embodying the strength and perseverance of the generations who have come before us. We appreciate the assistance of all partners including Animal Protection of New Mexico in seeking out funding for essential

community needs. Should you need additional information or for questions you may contact Michael Henio, Director of Natural Resources for Ramah Navajo Chapter.

Thank you for your consideration of funding to help us protect and sustain our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darnell J. Maria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Darnell J. Maria, Acting Executive Director

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