



THE NAVAJO NATION  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

# DEPARTMENT FOR SELF RELIANCE

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**For Immediate Release**  
**April 29, 2020**

## **The Department for Self Reliance's Gallup Location is Closed until May 11, 2020**

**Window Rock, AZ** - The Department for Self Reliance (DSR) Gallup office is under full closure until May 8, 2020. The DSR staff will not be at the DSR Gallup location starting Wednesday, April 29, 2020 and will return to their office on Monday, May 11, 2020. There will be no Customer drop box available at the DSR Gallup location during the closure.

"All other DSR offices will be assisting the DSR Gallup office by answering our phone calls while we are out of the office due to COVID-19 precautions. With the beginning of the month approaching we are anticipating a lot of Customer calls. I kindly ask our DSR Gallup Customers to please be patient with our limited number of DSR team members while they research your case to assist you." stated Chental Spencer, DSR Gallup Delegated Program Supervisor II.

The DSR has continued to provide services during the Navajo Nation's Declaration of a State of Emergency, on March 13, 2020. "The Department for Self Reliance is under the Division of Social Services, and is considered an essential service. The DSR has been in operations, with a minimal number of employees, since March. We do not anticipate opening our doors to Customers or visitors any time soon. Although our staffing and services have been changing weekly, under the guidance of the Navajo Nation Executive Orders and the Navajo Department of Health Public Health Orders, our DSR Customers have been adapting. I would like to thank our DSR Customers for considering email to communicate directly with their caseworkers," stated Roxanne Gorman, Department Manager III.

The Navajo Nation government offices, schools and some businesses are closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus. These closures impact the DSR Customers work participation requirements to seek employment. Therefore, a decision was made, to not sanction DSR Customers for not complying with this work participation criteria during the Navajo Nation State of Emergency. The DSR intends to process full cash benefit payments for all current DSR Customers for the month of May.

"This decision provides Customers the ability to pay for their family's basic needs during these uncertain times, and it keeps Customers and their children at home. It is important to remind our DSR Customers to protect their family by sending only one person to purchase essentials when cash benefit payments are posted," stated DSR Department Manager III, Roxanne Gorman.

To contact the DSR, call (866) 347-2403 or email [info@nntanf.org](mailto:info@nntanf.org).

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***"WE SHALL SERVE WITH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS, TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES BY PROMOTING TÁÁHWÓÁJÍT'ÉEGO THROUGH APPROPRIATE SUPPORT, OPPORTUNITIES AND EDUCATION."***