

**Title:** Energizing Dinétah

**Competitor Name:** Team Energizing Dinétah

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**Location of Primary Benefits:**

The proposed activities target all 110 Chapters in Navajo Nation. According to 2019 American Community Survey (and the estimates) and the 2020 Census Bureau data, none of the 110 Chapters in Navajo Nation has more than 10,000 population, thus all of them are considered rural communities. The names, cities, states, and zip codes of the 110 chapters are listed in the table below.

Chapter	City	ST	Zip	Chapter	City	ST	Zip
Black Mesa-(Kits'iili)	Pinon	AZ	86510	Kinlichee (Kin Dah Lichii)	St. Michael	AZ	86511
Blue Gap-Tachee	Blue Gap	AZ	86520	Klagetoh	Ganado	AZ	86505
Chinle	Chinle	AZ	86503	Lupton (Tse Si Ani)	Lupton	AZ	86508
Forest Lake	Pinon	AZ	86510	Mexican Springs	Tohatchi	NM	87325
Hardrock	Kykotsmovi	AZ	86039	Nahata Dziil Commission Governance	Sanders	AZ	86512
Lukachukai	Lukachukai	AZ	86507	Naschitti	Sheep Springs	NM	87364
Many Farms	Many Farms	AZ	86538	Oak Springs	Window Rock	AZ	86515
Nazlini	Nazlini	AZ	86540	Red Lake #18	Navajo	NM	87328
Pinon	Pinon	AZ	86510	Sawmill	Ft. Defiance	AZ	86504
Rough Rock/Tse Ch'izhi	Chinle	AZ	86503	Steamboat	Ganado	AZ	86505
Round Rock	Round Rock	AZ	86547	St. Michael	St. Michael	AZ	86511
Tsaile-Wheatfields	Tsaile	AZ	86556	Teesto	Winslow	AZ	86047
Tselani-Cottonwood	Chinle	AZ	86503	Tohatchi	Tohatchi	NM	87325
Whippoorwill	Pinon	AZ	86510	Twin Lakes/Bahastl' ah'	Yahtahey	NM	87375
Alamo	Magdalena	NM	87825	Whitecone	Holbrook	AZ	86025
Baca-Prewitt	Prewitt	NM	87045	Wide Ruins	Chambers	AZ	86502
Becenti	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Low Mountain	Blue Gap	AZ	86520
Breadsprings/Baah aali	Gallup	NM	87305	Aneth	Montezuma Creek	UT	84534
Casamero Lake	Prewitt	NM	87045	Beclabito	Shiprock	NM	87420
Chichiltah	Gallup	NM	87305	Burnham/T'iis Toh Sikaad	Newcomb	NM	87455
Churchrock	Churchrock	NM	87311	Cove	Red Valley	AZ	86544

Counselor	Counselor	NM	87018	Gadii ahi/To' Koi	Shiprock	NM	87420
Crownpoint	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Hogback/Tse'Daa Kaan	Shiprock	NM	87420
Huerfano	Bloomfield	NM	87413	Mexican Water	Teecnospos	AZ	86514
Iyanbito	Fort Wingate	NM	87316	Nenahnezad	Fruitland	NM	87416
Lake Valley	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Newcomb/Tiis Nideeshgish	Newcomb	NM	87455
Littlewater	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Red Mesa	Montezuma Creek	UT	84534
Manuelito	Gallup	NM	87301	Red Valley	Red Valley	AZ	86544
Mariano Lake	Smith Lake	NM	87365	San Juan	Fruitland	NM	87416
Nageezi	Nageezi	NM	87037	Sanostee/Tsealna ozt'ii	Sanostee	NM	87461
Nahodishgish	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Sheepsprings/Too haltsooi	Sheepsprings	NM	87364
Ojo Encino	Ojo Encino	NM	87013	Shiprock	Shiprock	NM	87420
Pinedale	Churchrock	NM	87311	Sweetwater/Tolika n	Teecnospos	AZ	86514
Pueblo Pintado	Cuba	NM	87013	Teecnospos	Teecnospos	AZ	86514
Ramah	Ramah	NM	87321	Toadlena/TwoGrey Hills	Newcomb	NM	87455
Red Rock/Tse' Lichii'	Gallup	NM	87305	Upper Fruitland	Fruitland	NM	87416
Smith Lake	Smith Lake	NM	87365	Rock Point	Rock Point	AZ	86545
Standing Rock-Tse'li'Ahi'	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Birdsprings/Tsidii To'ii	Winslow	AZ	86047
Thoreau	Thoreau	NM	87323	Bodaway-Gap	The Gap	AZ	86020
To' Hajiilee	To' Hajiilee	NM	87026	Cameron	Cameron	AZ	86020
Torreon/Star Lake	Cuba Cuba	NM	87013	Chilchinbeto	Kayenta	AZ	86033
Whitehorse Lake	Cuba	NM	87013	Coalmine Canyon	Tuba City	AZ	86045
Whiterock	Crownpoint	NM	87313	Coppermine	Page	AZ	86040
Rock Springs	Yahtahey	NM	87375	Dennehotso	Dennehotso	AZ	86535
Tsayatoh	Mentmore	NM	87375	Ts'ah Bii Kin/Inscription Hse	Kaibeto	AZ	86053
Cornfields	Ganado	AZ	86505	Kaibeto/Kai' Bii To	Kaibeto	AZ	86053
Coyote Canyon	Brimhall	NM	87310	Kayenta	Kayenta	AZ	86033
Crystal	Navajo	NM	87328	LeChee	Page	AZ	86040
Dilkon	Winslow	AZ	86047	Leupp	Leupp	AZ	86035
Fort Defiance	Fort Defiance	AZ	86504	Navajo Mountain Oljato	Tonalea	AZ	86044
Ganado	Ganado	AZ	86505	Oljato	Monument Valley	UT	84536
Greasewood Springs	Ganado	AZ	86505	Shonto	Shonto	AZ	86054
Houck	Houck	AZ	86506	Tolani Lake	Winslow	AZ	86047
Indian Wells	Indian Wells	AZ	86031	Tonalea/Red Lake	Tonalea	AZ	86044

Jeddito	Keams Canyon	AZ	86034	To' Nanees' Dizi'	Tuba City	AZ	86045
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### Short Description:

Around 40% of Navajo Nation residents do not have access to reliable electric power. Access to other basic infrastructure is similarly limited. This is due to a complex set of challenges, including the fact that Diné (Navajo people) are dispersed in a large geographical region. A variety of resources, including federal and state funding, are available to battle this energy justice gap. However, access to such resources is next to impossible, due to the lack of capacity. The competitor team aims to take the first few fundamental steps to create that capacity for the Navajo Nation to **1)** develop quality proposals for infrastructure projects, **2)** negotiate grants, and **3)** manage the projects and successfully deliver the infrastructure. The competitor team consists of three members from the University of Utah and one member from the Navajo Nation. The team already has over four years of experience doing this work with several chapters in the Navajo Nation and is well aware of the challenges and potential solutions. Throughout this project, we will build partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, establish a system that can hire, train, and retain staff for the work, and develop initial training for grant writing and project management.

**Link to 3-Minute Video:** <https://youtu.be/DABAKiuCWFU>

**Project Members:** The competitor team consists of four members, including

**Team Lead Name:** Mingxi Liu, an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Utah and Member of the Nááts'íłid Initiative. Dr. Liu is a recipient of the 2022 National Science Foundation CAREER award. His research focuses on control and optimization theories and their applications in addressing scalability, privacy, and cyber-security in power and energy systems. Mingxi started to work with Nááts'íłid Initiative in 2020 to generate holistic solutions in bringing reliable electric power supply to Diné people and adapting advanced technologies to native lands. In partnership with the Kayenta Chapter and Ojo Encino Chapter of the Navajo Nation, Dr. Liu has successfully secured funding from Department of Energy to develop clean energy projects on Navajo lands.

**Team Member 2:** Mostafa Ardakani, an Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Utah and Member of the Nááts'íłid Initiative. His research interests include power systems optimization, energy economics and policy, renewable energy systems, and interdependent infrastructure networks. He is a recipient of the 2022 National Science Foundation CAREER award. Mostafa has been involved with Nááts'íłid initiative since 2019 and has worked to develop clean energy, water, and communication projects in Diné'tah, to provide Diné people with reliable access to these basic services.

**Team Member 3:** Shundana Yusaf, an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Utah and Founding Member of the Nááts'íłid Initiative. It was her work on the digital humanities project *Archipedia:Utah* that first brought her to beautiful and resilient Diné'tah and since then, there has been no looking back. As a postcolonial scholar and educator, Dr. Yusaf has written extensively on the history and theory of architecture and landscape intelligence of oral societies in the Colorado Plateau. It is her solidarity with postcolonial people and her commitment to their collective cultural resilience that drives her dedication to Nááts'íłid Initiative, where she contributes as a grant writer, planner, researcher, and community organizer. Dr. Yusaf sees her work with Nááts'íłid Initiative as a vehicle for exploring how architecture can serve as an instrument of civic enterprise and activism. She hopes that she can take what she learns to teach her students Indigenous ways, past and present involving human and non-human actants in building rituals and creative practice.

**Team Member 4:** Renaë Hoshnic, a former Legislative District Assistant (LDA) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and Member of the Nááts'íłid Initiative. Renaë is Salt People Clan (Ashiihi) born for the Mexican People Clan (Nakai Dine e). Her material is One Who Walks Around (Honaghaahnii) Paternal is Water Edge Clan (Tabaahi).

Renaë grew up in Mexican Water, where she was raised by her grandparents who taught her two invaluable life lessons: how to speak her native language, and how to love deeply and care for others. Her upbringing inspired her to always lead with warmth, a love of her language, and a deep connection to her traditional values. Renaë is a member of the Salt People Clan, born for the Mexican Clan. Her maternal grandparents are The One Who Walks Around Clan and her paternal grandparents are the Water People Clan. When she was eight years old, she moved to Dennehotso, where her father is from. After leaving for a brief period to study computer networking at Collins College in Phoenix, Arizona, she returned to her native land, where she has lived continuously ever since. Living on Dinétah connects her to her ancestors, reminding her that despite the years being oppressed as natives, *we are still here*.

Renaë is passionate about her work with the Navajo Nation Chapter Houses as it allows her to engage in direct service through building homes, providing amenities, offering educational services, and organizing dinners for her community. She used to be the Legislative District Assistant to the 24th Council Delegate of the Navajo Nation, Delegate Nathaniel Brown. She held this position between 2015 and 2022, overseeing the governance of three Navajo Chapters: Kayenta, Dennehotso, and Chilchinbeto in the state of Arizona. Renaë serves as a language liaison between the Navajo Nation Council and the Diné elders. Previously, she worked for seven years at Mexican Water chapter as an office specialist. During this time, she took on the role of project manager, assisting on projects with the Navajo Utah commission and the Navajo Utah Trust Fund. This was the first time Renaë realized just how many people in her community were in need of housing. These experiences formed her interest in bringing healthy, multi-generational housing to her community and drove her commitment to Nááts'íilid Initiative, where she serves as a cultural advisor and a language ambassador. She considers her strongest asset her ability to bridge generations by working with youth and elders. Recently, she has taken to making traditional outfits for her nieces and sisters. Renaë loves waking up in the morning and seeing the sun rise on the eastern horizon. It is here she will always be home.