



**Office of Navajo Nation  
Scholarship & Financial Assistance  
2018 Annual Report**



# Statistical Profile: 2017 & 2018 Calendar Years

	2017	2018
<b>Total Number of Applications Submitted to the ONNSFA</b>	17,272	16,362
<b>No. of Students Requesting Awards:</b> (Students are counted once whether they receive one or more awards during a calendar year.)	12,807	13,210
<b>Total No. of Awards:</b> (All financial aid and scholarship awards made by ONNSFA during the calendar year are included in the total. In some instances, a student may have received two awards – one for the Spring term and another for the Fall term. Each award is counted independently.)	9,423	9,212
<b>No. of Students Receiving Awards:</b> (Students are counted once whether they receive one or more awards during the calendar year.)	6,755	6,680
<b>Percentage of Students Funded:</b> (The total number of students awarded from the total number of students that applied. Applicants are counted once.)	53%	51%
<b>No. of Students Denied:</b>	6,052	6,530
<b>Enrollment Status of Recipients:</b>		
Undergraduate	90%	87%
Graduate	10%	13%
<b>No. of Awards by Funding Source:</b>		
Federal	3,879	5,002
Navajo Nation, Trust, Corporate	5,544	4,201
<b>Total Federal Fund Awards to:</b>		
Need-Based Students	7,506,622	7,079,947
Chief Manuelito Scholars	2,464,831	6,567,605
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,971,453</b>	<b>\$ 9,971,453</b>
<b>Chief Manuelito Awards:</b>		
Total No. of Student Awards	2,328	2,519
Total Expended From All Sources	\$ 7,875,012	\$ 8,525,684
Percentage From All Sources	33%	35%
<b>Total Funding to:</b>		
Undergraduate Students	20,197,956	19,967,538
Graduate Students	3,929,429	4,430,251
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,127,385</b>	<b>\$ 24,397,789</b>
<b>Average Award to:</b>		
Undergraduate Students	\$2,450	\$2,523
Graduate Students	\$3,330	\$3,416
<b>No of Students Awarded:</b>		
Undergraduate Students	5,941	5,773
Graduate Students	814	907



Apply online: [www.onnsfa.org](http://www.onnsfa.org)

## Deadlines to apply:

2019-2020 Academic Year – June 25, 2019  
2020 Winter/Spring Term – Nov. 25, 2019

## Financial Need-Based Awards

(up to \$2,500 per semester)

Need-based funding is provided to students who demonstrate financial need according to the Financial Need Analysis (FNA) form submitted on their behalf by the school of attendance. Students in this category are deemed not to have sufficient personal or family resources to meet a college's or university's cost of attendance (e.g. tuition, books and housing).

Awards of up to \$2,000 per semester or \$4,000 per academic year are provided to students based upon their individual need assessment. Primary funding sources of need-based awards are PL 93-638 funds and Navajo Nation Funds.

## No-Need-Based Awards

(\$1,000 per semester)

No-need-based funding is provided to students, who are deemed to have enough resources to meet the cost of attendance at a college or university of their choice.

## Chief Manuelito Scholarships

(\$3,500 per semester)

Merit-based scholarships are provided students, who achieve a high grade point average and a commensurate ACT or SAT college test score. Students are required to complete courses in Navajo Language (1 unit) and Navajo Government (½ unit) prior to the application deadline to be considered for this scholarship. Full-time undergraduate students may also qualify for the Chief Manuelito scholarship under the 24/3 rule by completing 24 credit hours of college-level courses with a 3.0 GPA.

## Graduate Student Awards

(\$2,500 to \$5,000 per semester)

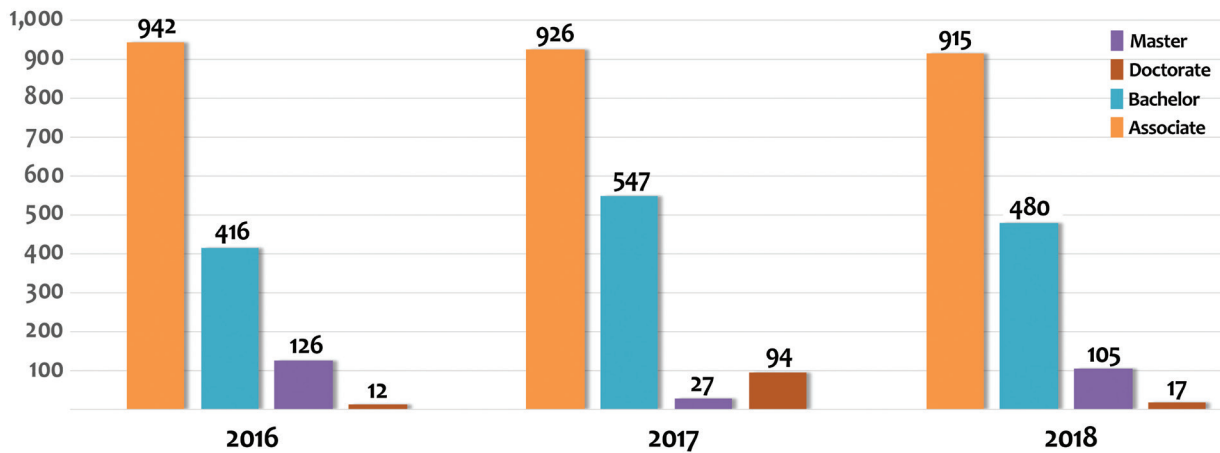
Grant awards are provided to Navajo students seeking graduate-level degrees.

## Part-Time Undergraduate and Graduate Awards

Funding is available for eligible part-time undergraduate and graduate students. Part-time application requirements and award amounts vary.

# Increasing Higher Education Attainment Rates

## Number and Type of Degrees Attained by ONNSFA Award Recipients



	2016	2017	2018
Associate /Certificate	942	926	915
Bachelor	416	547	480
Masters	126	27	105
Doctorates	12	94	17

awarded Navajo Nation financial assistance or scholarship from 2016 to 2018. A majority of the degrees were attained from institutions within the Four-Corners region.

Data was compiled from 28 schools within this area. Schools ranged from two-year to four-year institutions including: Arizona State University, Chandler Coconino Community College, Diné College, Fort Lewis College, Navajo Technical University, University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University and Northern Arizona University.

### Rising Numbers of Navajo College Students

The number of Navajo students seeking a college degree continues to increase. From 2010 to 2018, a total of 125,175 students submitted applications for scholarships to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance.

Meanwhile an average of 56 percent of applicants were not funded. Funding for students is imperative as many students depend on financial assistance and scholarships from the Navajo Nation to help meet educational costs, which continue to rise significantly.

Thus, the ONNSFA continues to seek partnerships to increase resources to Navajo college student. The table below provides a snapshot of the number of college degrees earned by students

**LEFT** Perry R. James of Continental Divide, NM received the first Master of Arts degree in Diné Culture, Language & Leadership at Navajo Technical University in 2016. NTU has since strengthened the program and several more have attained a Master of Arts Degree. The university has begun to take the initial steps in implementing a doctorate program.

The ONNSFA is proud to partner with NTU in providing up to \$2,500 per semester for full-time students pursuing a bachelor degree in any of NTU's ten bachelor degree program or up to \$5,000 per semester for students seeking a Masters degree. Funding under this agreement covers full-time enrollment for up to six continuous semesters. For information contact the NTU Admissions Office at 505.786.4100.



# Summary of Awards by Funding Source

Federal Funds	Number of Awards	Total Award Amount
Chief Manuelito Scholarships	1,950	\$ 6,567,605
Need-Based	3,058	7,079,947
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>\$ 13,647,552</b>

Navajo Nation General Funds	Number of Awards	Total Award Amount
Chief Manuelito Scholarships	569	\$ 1,958,079
Need-Based	819	1,599,801
Sales Tax Revenue	373	1,342,295
Vocational	941	2,101,392
Teacher Education	136	320,986
Univ of Arizona College of Medicine	9	66,797
No-Need	141	141,000
Higher Education Grant	332	1,179,676
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>\$ 8,710,026</b>

Corporate Funds	Number of Awards	Total Award Amount
Peabody Energy	75	\$ 265,502
Chevron / P&M	193	193,000
Sussman	11	93,172
Questar/Four Corners	96	92,000
Kinder Morgan/El Paso	25	84,666
Navajo Nation Oil & Gas, Co.	3	14,500
Diné Scholarship Annual Fund	8	9,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>\$ 751,889</b>

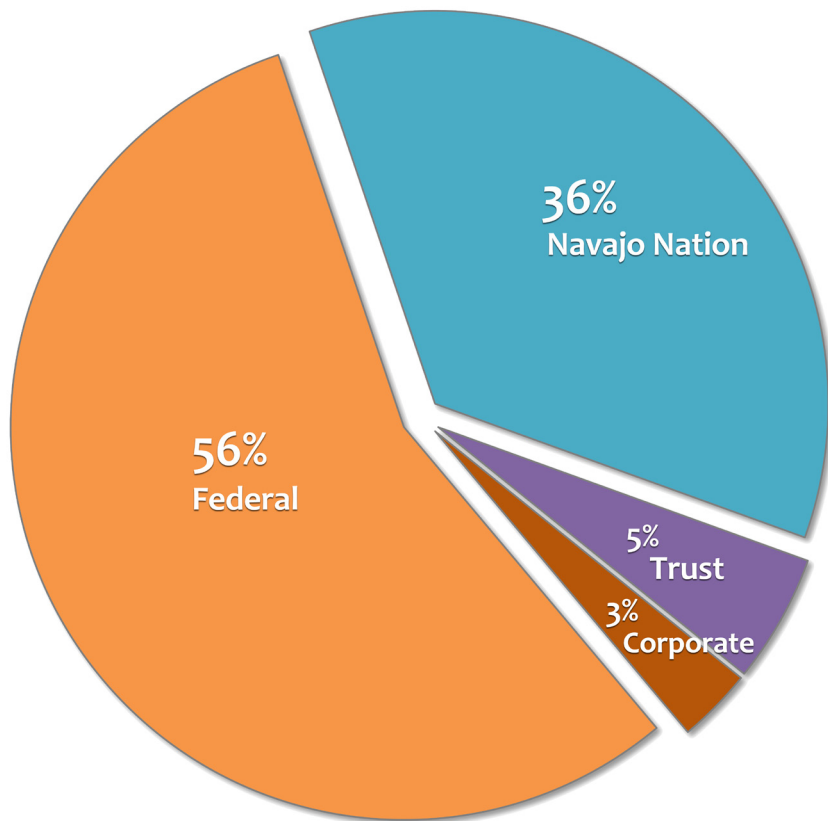
Trust Funds	Number of Awards	Total Award Amount
Navajo Nation Graduate Trust	62	\$ 233,502
Navajo Nation Vocational Trust	139	296,460
Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority Trust	194	259,750
Tucson Electric Trust	27	46,952
ASU Law	17	235,680
UNM Law	34	215,978
<b>Total</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,322</b>

<b>Total - All Sources</b>	<b>9,212</b>	<b>\$24,397,789</b>
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Note: The total number of students served and the total number of awards differ as a student may have received an award from more than one funding source and are counted in each funding source.



# Funding Sources



## 2018 Calendar Year

<b>Federal Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 13,647,552</b>
<b>General Funds:</b>	<b>8,710,026</b>
<b>Trust Funds:</b>	<b>1,288,322</b>
<b>Corporate Funds:</b>	<b>751,889</b>
<b>Total :</b>	<b>\$ 24,397,789</b>

## Calendar Year 2018

**Total Awarded: \$24,397,789**  
**Number of Awards: 9,212**

From January 1 to December 31, 2018, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance awarded a total of \$24,397,789 in scholarships and financial aid. The total number of students who received awards from the four funding sources equated to 6,680. The total number of awards made from all funding sources amounted to 9,212. The pie chart above illustrates the proportion of each funding source to the total amount administered by the ONNSFA.

### Federal Funds (BIA P.L. 93-638)

**Total: \$13,647,552**  
**No. Students Awarded: 4,116**  
**No. of Awards: 5,008**

Federal funds, provided through a P.L. 93-638 contract with the Navajo Region Bureau of Indian Affairs, comprised about 56 percent of the funds awarded by the Navajo Scholarship Office. Federal funds are used to award undergraduate students with financial need

as determined by the student's Financial Need Analysis and also for merit-based awards to Chief Manuelito Scholars.

### Navajo Nation General Fund

**Total: \$8,710,0261**  
**No. Students Awarded: 2,817**  
**No. of Awards: 3,320**

Navajo Nation General Funds comprised about 36 percent of scholarship funds. These funds are used to provide awards to graduate students, undergraduates and students enrolled in the Navajo Teacher Education program.

### Trust Funds

**Total: \$1,288,322**  
**No. Students Awarded: 421**  
**No. of Awards: 473**

Interest revenue from trust funds comprised about 6 percent of funds awarded by ONNSFA in 2018. Policies for trust funds including the Graduate Trust Fund, the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority Trust Fund, the

Vocational Education Trust Fund and Tucson Electric Funds stipulate that "10% of the fund [market value] shall be used as scholarship and financial assistance." Interest revenue from these sources fluctuate from year-to-year based upon market value.

### Corporate Funds

**Total: \$751,889**  
**No. Students Awarded: 400**  
**No. of Awards: 411**

Contributions from corporations comprised about 3 percent of the total funds awarded by ONNSFA in 2019. Leases with companies including Peabody Energy, Chevron Mining, Inc., Questar/Four Corners and Kinder Morgan/El Paso Natural Gas include a provision that companies make a contribution to the scholarship fund.

*Note: The total number of students awarded from all funding sources (7,754) differs from the total number of awards (9,212) due to the fact that students may have received awards from a combination of funding sources and are counted in each source.*

# Seeking Restoration of Federal Scholarship Funds

## Trump Administration Eliminates Scholarships Funds Benefitting Thousands of Native Americans

On March 25, 2019, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer voiced concern about the Trump Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for the Higher Education Grant within the Bureau of Indian Education's FY 2020 budget request.

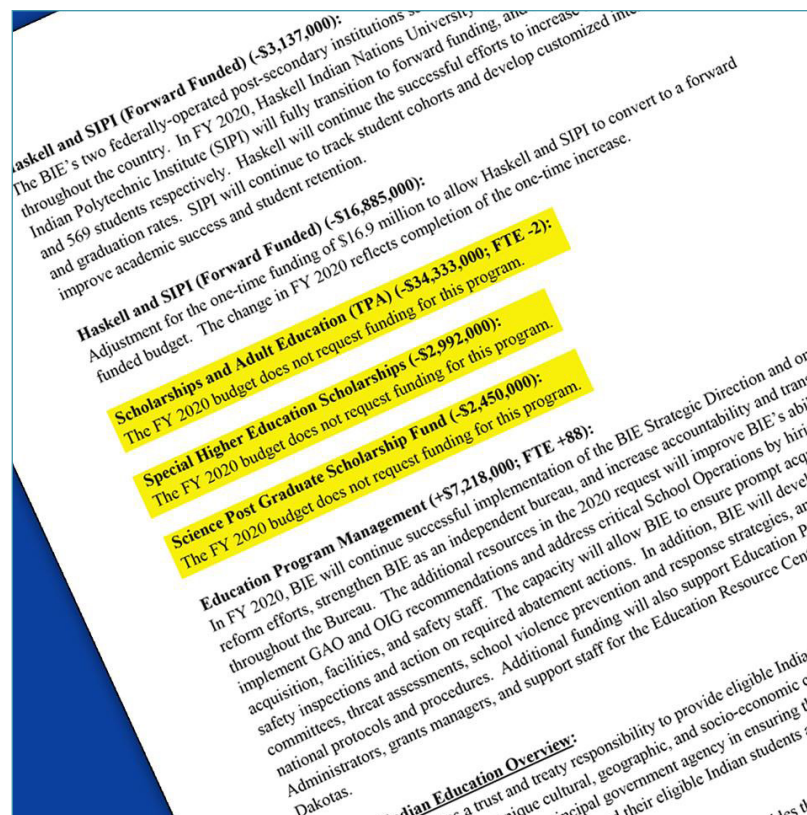
"The Higher Education Grant is a huge benefit for thousands of Navajo students each year and for the future of the Navajo Nation," President Nez said.

"It's very disappointing that these funds continue to come under threat by this administration. We will look to our leaders in the House and Senate to restore these funds during the budget process."

Vice President Lizer said, "As a recent non-traditional student, I strongly urge President Trump to reconsider this cut. The ability to continue its ascent to national prominence in its academic endeavors, the need to continue its growth and enhancement rather than cuts and dwindling capacities with regard to higher education. This is the way for our future generations to be able to attain the American Dream."

Last Thursday, the Department of the Interior posted FY 2020 budget justifications for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. For the second year in a row, the Trump Administration is proposing to eliminate funding for scholarships, including the Higher Education Grant, which provides funds to the Navajo Nation through a P.L. 93-638 contract.

The budget justifications were posted weeks after the DOI initially announced through a March 11 press release that President Donald Trump presented a \$936.3 million Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), which for the first time is being presented separate from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



*"Higher education is a powerful force for change. The ONNSFA is working to significantly increase the number of Navajo students attaining college degrees. Many students we serve would not be able to attend or graduate from college without financial assistance provided through the Higher Education Grant."* Rose Graham, ONNSFA Director

In the same press release, Acting Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt said, "The President's Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Bureau of Indian Education supports his goals for tribal self-determination by improving education services to Indian Country. This budget recognizes the BIE being as important to tribes in the education of their children as the BIA is to supporting them in the management of their trust lands and resources."

Rose Graham, ONNSFA director, said it is of major concern that this is the second time Trump Administration has proposed zeroing out funding for the Higher Education Grant.

"Higher education is a powerful force for change," Ms. Graham said. "The ONNSFA is working to significantly increase the number of Navajo students attaining college degrees. Many students we serve would not be able

to attend or graduate from college without financial assistance provided through the Higher Education Grant.

"Higher education is a powerful force for change," Ms. Graham said. "The ONNSFA is working to significantly increase the number of Navajo students attaining college degrees. Many students we serve would not be able to attend or graduate from college without financial assistance provided through the Higher Education Grant.

For academic year 2018, a total of \$13.6 million in federal funds was awarded to 4,116 students. Another \$10.7 million from Navajo Nation revenues and income from trust funds and corporate and private donations was awarded to 2,564 students.

"The cost of higher education is a challenge for Navajo students," Ms. Graham said. "There is a lot they have to overcome to even step into a college classroom. Every measure should be taken to ensure students have the opportunity to attain some form of higher education."

A demographic analysis of the Navajo Nation using 2010 Census and American Community Estimates reveals that of the population 25 years or older, approximately 7.7 percent have an Associate's degree, 4.2 percent have a Bachelor's degree and 2.9 percent have a graduate or professional degree.

In addition to financial assistance and scholarships, funds from the Higher Education Grant contract are used to pay for operating and personnel costs of the scholarship office including 28 full-time jobs.

Ms. Graham pointed out that the Trump Administration's zeroing out of scholarship funds is not just a Navajo concern.

"Higher Education Funds would be zeroed out for all tribes served by the BIA, not just the Navajo Nation. Funding to organizations that provide scholarships to graduate students such as the American Indian Graduate Center is also proposed to be eliminated."



# Seeking Restoration of Federal Scholarship Funds

## THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



March 15, 2019

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
United States House of Representatives  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: FY 2020 Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Budget Request**

Representative Halaand:

The Navajo Nation ("Nation") respectfully requests your support in restoring funding for the Higher Education Grant within the Bureau of Indian Education budget request. The Higher Education Grant is authorized by the Snyder Act of 1921, Public Law 67- 85, 42 Stat. 208, 25 U.S.C. 13 and funded by the Bureau of Indian Education as a Tribal Priority Allocation. For Fiscal Year 2020, the Administration zeroed out funding for higher education grant and adult education in its Fiscal Year 2020 budget request:


Bureau of Indian Education (Dollars in Thousands)				
Post-Secondary Programs	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Requested	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Higher Education Grant & Adult Education – TPA	34,996	0	-34,996	-100.0 %
Special Higher Education Scholarships	2,992	0	-2,992	-100.0 %
Science Post Graduate Scholarships	2,450	0	-2,450	-100.0 %

For academic year 2017, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA) funded 3879 students – for a total of \$9.97 million in Federally funded college financial assistance and scholarships. Additionally, the Nation commits more than \$14 million of its own revenues and income from Nation's trust funds to college scholarships. An additional half million dollars is secured in corporate and private donations. Cumulatively, the ONNSFA funds on average 9500 undergraduate and approximately 500 graduate students annually. Attached is the most recent ONNSFA annual report. It provides an overview of our success in leveraging Federal dollars to ensure that our students are afforded the opportunity to earn a college degree or pursue other post-secondary opportunities.

Since 1972, the Nation has administered its own higher education scholarship program through a self-determination contract as authorized by P.L. 93-638. In addition to need-based funding, in 1980, the Nation established the merit based Chief Manuelito Scholarship for its high achieving students. The Chief Manuelito Scholarship program is a unique approach in investing in young Navajo people.

The ONNSFA Director Rose Graham is available to answer any questions. Ms. Graham may be reached at [rosegraham@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rosegraham@navajo-nsn.gov) or 928-871-7444.

Respectfully,

  
Jonathan Nez  
President

**Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance – Central Administration**  
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Email: [onnafa\\_admin@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:onnafa_admin@navajo-nsn.gov) Website: [www.onnafa.org](http://www.onnafa.org)  [www.facebook.com/onnafa](https://www.facebook.com/onnafa)

# Student Awards (by Chapter)

## Chapter Affiliation

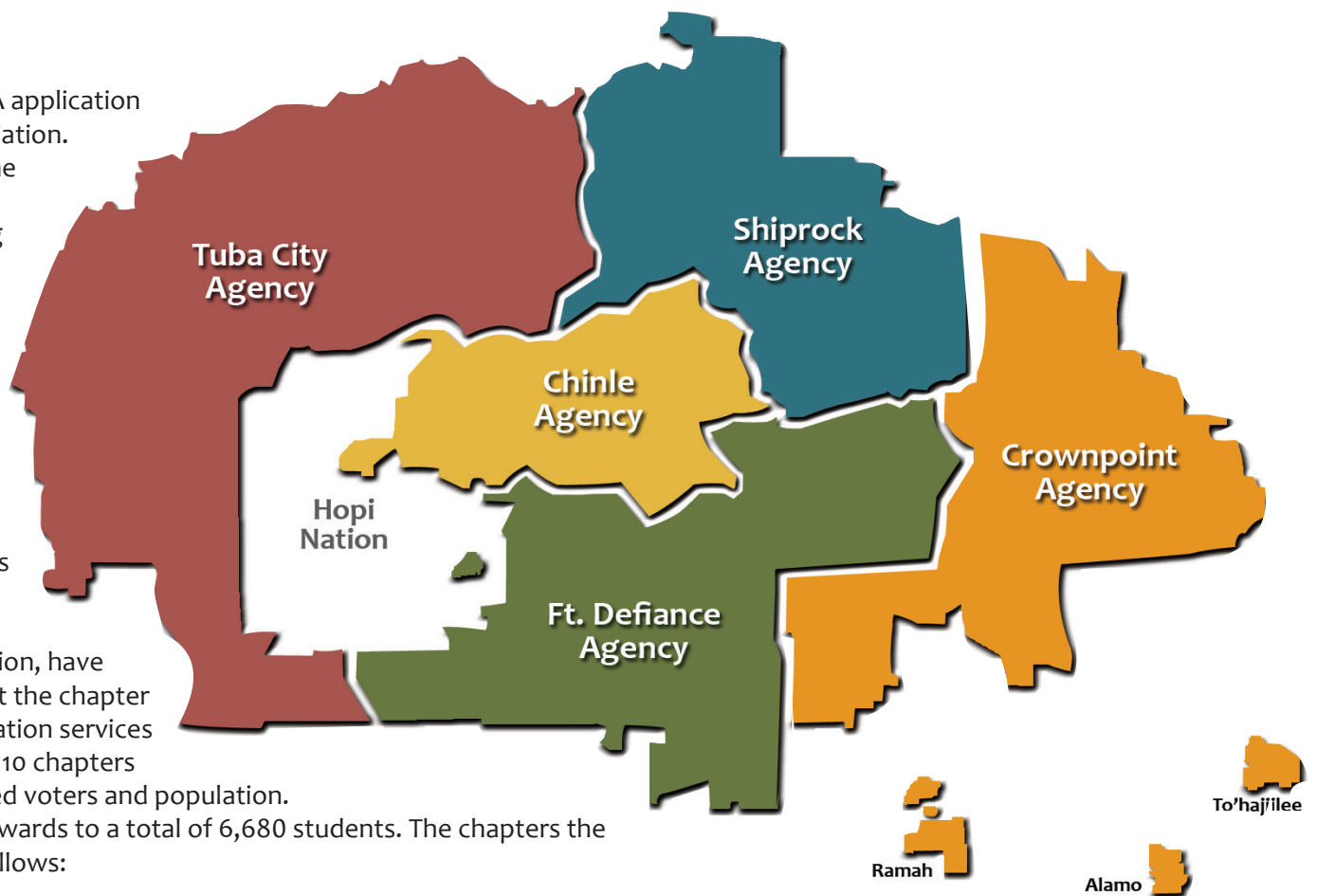
Students submitting an ONNSFA application are asked to state their chapter affiliation. This information is used to determine which agency office a student's file will be assigned to and for reporting purposes.

## Choosing a Chapter

On occasion, students inquire about which of the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters they should state on the application. We encourage students to consider the chapter nearest to their residence or the chapter at which their parents are registered to vote.

Students, who become registered voters on the Navajo Nation, have an opportunity to elect leadership at the chapter and national levels. Many Navajo Nation services and funds are divided amongst the 110 chapters based upon the number of registered voters and population.

In 2018, the ONNSFA provided awards to a total of 6,680 students. The chapters the students are affiliated with are as follows:



### Ft. Defiance Agency

**1,628 Students**

- Cornfields - 42
- Coyote Canyon - 53
- Crystal - 61
- Dilkon - 48
- Ft. Defiance - 322
- Ganado - 86
- Greasewood Springs - 38
- Houck - 45
- Indian Wells - 32
- Jeddito - 46
- Kinlichee - 68
- Klagetoh - 40
- Low Mountain - 28
- Lupton - 26
- Mexican Springs - 33
- Nahata Dziil - 29
- Naschitti - 58
- Oak-Pine Springs - 36
- Red Lake - 38
- Sawmill - 50
- St. Michaels - 136
- Steamboat - 52
- Teestoh - 46

### (Ft. Defiance Agency)

- Tohatchi - 76
- Twin Lakes - 63
- White Cone - 40
- Wide Ruins - 36

### Crownpoint Agency

**1,340 Students**

- Alamo - 20
- Baca/Haystack - 44
- Bahaali - 41
- Becenti - 50
- Casamero Lake - 19
- Chichiltah - 59
- Church Rock - 106
- Counselor - 29
- Crownpoint - 200
- Huerfano - 60
- Iyanbito - 41
- Lake Valley - 12
- Littlewater - 18
- Manuelito - 38
- Mariano Lake - 39
- Nageezi - 42
- Nahodishgish - 19

### (Crownpoint Agency)

- Ojo Encino - 17
- Pinedale - 39
- Pueblo Pintado - 25
- Ramah - 42
- Red Rock - 63
- Rock Springs - 61
- Smith Lake - 16
- Standing Rock - 28
- Thoreau - 59
- Tohajiilee - 46
- Torreón/Star Lake - 35
- Tsayatoh - 44
- White Rock - 18
- Whitehorse Lake - 10

### Shiprock Agency

**1,429 Students**

- Aneth - 110
- Beclabito - 33
- Cove - 17
- Gad íí'ahí - 26
- Mexican Water - 26
- Nenahnezad - 112
- Newcomb - 23
- Red Mesa - 74
- Red Valley - 33

### (Shiprock Agency)

- Rock Point - 86
- San Juan - 42
- Sanostee - 53
- Sheepsprings - 33
- Shiprock - 448
- Sweetwater - 46
- Teec Nos Pos - 57
- T'iis Tsoh Sikaad - 29
- Tsé Daa K'aan - 55
- Toadlena/
- Two Grey Hills - 27
- Upper Fruitland - 93
- Unknown - 6

### Tuba City Agency

**1,190 Students**

- Birdsprings - 29
- Bodaway/Gap - 46
- Cameron - 45
- Chilchinbeto - 34
- Coalmine Canyon - 25
- Coppermine - 46
- Dennehotso - 33
- Inscription House - 33
- Kaibeto - 37
- Kayenta - 148

### (Tuba City Agency)

- Lechee - 50
- Leupp - 62
- Navajo Mountain - 45
- Oljato - 87
- Shonto - 62
- Tolani Lake - 27
- Tonalea - 45
- Tó naneesdizí - 336

### Chinle Agency

**1,093 Students**

- Black Mesa - 23
- Chinle - 385
- Forest Lake - 24
- Hard Rock - 29
- Lukachukai - 100
- Many Farms - 90
- Nazlini - 46
- Piñon - 72
- Rough Rock - 43
- Round Rock - 54
- Tachee/Blue Gap - 47
- Tsaile/Wheatfields - 87
- Tselani/Cottonwood - 55
- Whippoorwill Springs - 38