



The Quiet Crisis of Housing Injustice in Diné Bikeyah: A Case Study on the Navajo Nation Homesite Lease Process

Dissertation Proposal Presentation

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Purpose of this Study

This study proposes to explore what the existing Navajo Nation land lease process looks like, including challenges to housing access faced by applicants, and how it might be updated and improved to enhance access to an approved homesite lease.

Navajo Nation Housing DATA:

- ~160,000 households live on the reservation
- 30,000 households in need of housing with modern standards
- 70,000 homes need to be built up or repaired
- 53,000 homes without electricity
- 59,000 Housing units *

*According to My Tribal Area on census.gov

Research Gap

- No in-depth research completed that targets documenting Indigenous homelessness in the U.S.
- No research completed that targets documenting Navajo homelessness and Navajo unhoused
- Further research in the Navajo homesite lease process is required or needed.
- Data on tribal land tenure or leasing in the U.S. is not well reported.
- Key questions that remain:
 - What changes could be made to Navajo Nation law that increase access?
 - What changes in US laws and policies could be created to help expand assistance to housing (renting or homeownership)?





Research Questions

- What challenges and opportunities do long-term leaders (those who have served a decade or more) in the Navajo Nation (NN) Land Department face in managing and implementing housing access?
- What challenges or limitations have citizens of the NN expressed with leaders of the Land Department regarding land use and housing access?
- What recommendations for implementing or revising principles or practices to improve access or management of homesite leases have been proposed in response to the concerns shared by leaders and citizens?

Benefits to the Navajo Nation

- Expand in-depth data on tribal trust land will be available for the Navajo Nation.
- Data to support recommendations that will increase access to adequate housing for Navajo Citizens on Navajo tribal land.



Comments and Questions?



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