

# The Navajo Renaissance

How the Former Bennett Freeze Area Chapters  
will Emerge in 2015



Prepared by Native Builders LLC.

[www.NavajoRenaissance.com](http://www.NavajoRenaissance.com)



# NATIVE BUILDERS LLC

## THE NAVAJO RENAISSANCE

**The Navajo Renaissance is a collaborative effort amongst the nine Former Bennett Freeze Area Chapters to reverse the long-standing effects of the Bennett Freeze.**

**If 2014 was the *Year of Preparation*, then 2015 should be the *Year of Commitment* and 2016 should begin the *Bennett Thaw*.**

**The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office has \$1 million set aside for economic development for the FBFA. This document summarizes the purpose, activities and intended results of an effort that will be initiated in 2015 and extend for many years to reverse the effects of the Bennett Freeze that began in 1966 and continues to this day.**

**Chapters and Districts have passed resolutions of support to move forward together, and to urge the release of funding from the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office for this purpose.**

This briefing packet was prepared for **Native Builders LLC** by Building Communities, Inc., a community and economic development strategic planning firm with extensive experience conducting planning activities on the Navajo Nation. Previous strategic planning work includes:

- The facilitation/reporting of the *Navajo Nation Building Summit* conducted in Tsaille, Arizona in August 2012,
- The completion of the *Northeast Arizona Plan for Community and Economic Development* developed for Apache County in September 2013,
- The *2015-2019 Navajo Tourism Strategic Plan*, and
- Five Chapter-based community and economic development strategic plans (Bodaway-Gap, Chinle, Fort Defiance, Ganado and the Many Farms Chapters.)

**Building Communities, Inc. | 107 N. San Francisco St. #3 | Flagstaff, AZ 86001 | (928) 288-2286**

[www.BuildingCommunities.us](http://www.BuildingCommunities.us)

[www.NavajoRenaissance.com](http://www.NavajoRenaissance.com)

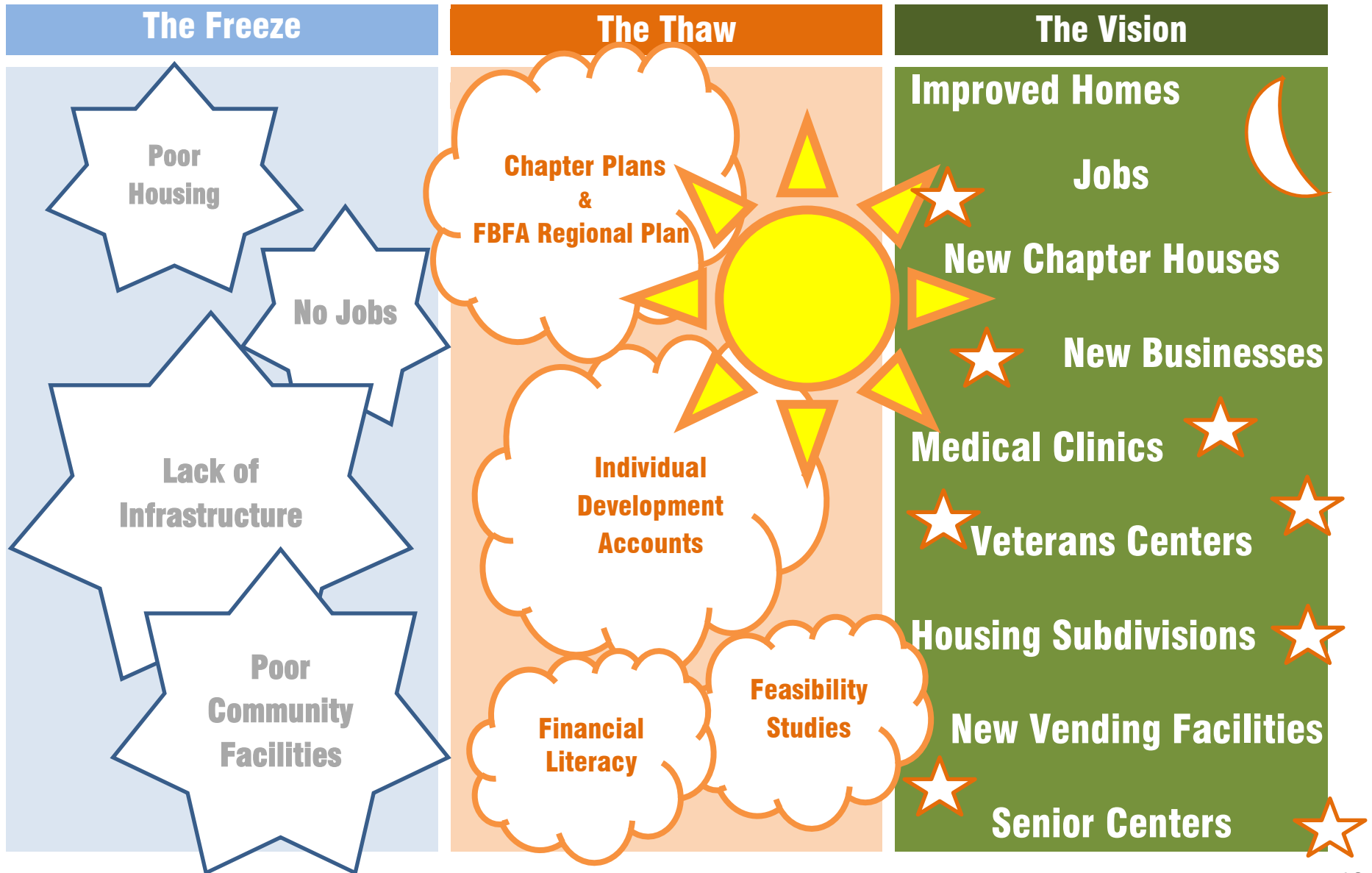
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## How the Former Bennett Freeze Area Chapters will Emerge in 2015-2016

### Six Graphics Explaining the Economic Development Project

#	Document	Purpose	Page #
<b>1</b>	<b>Moving Beyond the Bennett Freeze</b>	A high-level summary of the major problems and solutions for the FBFA	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>FBFA By the Numbers</b>	Facts, dates and demographics of the FBFA	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Housing and Economic Development Initiative</b>	How the Economic Development Project connects to the Housing Assessment, the IRMP and other priorities	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Work Plan Graphic</b>	A timeline showing when all of the project activities will take place	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Pillars and Priorities</b>	How the project serves to support the Begaye/Nez Pillars and Priorities	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Reasons to Start Now!</b>	Why we cannot wait any longer to begin	<b>8</b>

# Moving Beyond the Bennett Freeze



# Former Bennett Freeze Area By the Numbers

**1.6**

**Million acres affected**

**9**

**Chapters affected**

**50**

**Percent unemployment**

**1,400**

**Estimated homes needed to be repaired** *(2008 WH Pacific study)*

**1934**

**Federal government seeks to add 234,000 acres to the Navajo Nation; land dispute with Hopi Tribe begins**

**1966**

**Bennett Freeze initiated in an effort to resolve land dispute**

**1974**

**US Congress passes Navajo and Hopi Indian Land Settlement Act (Act) to bring finality to the land dispute; but Bennett Freeze continues**

**2,000**

**Homes needed just to address the current Navajo population and provide for younger generations**

**2006**

**Signing of the Navajo-Hopi Intergovernmental Compact resolving litigation between the two tribes**

**2009**

**President Obama repeals Section 10(f) of the Act, effectively lifting the Bennett Freeze**

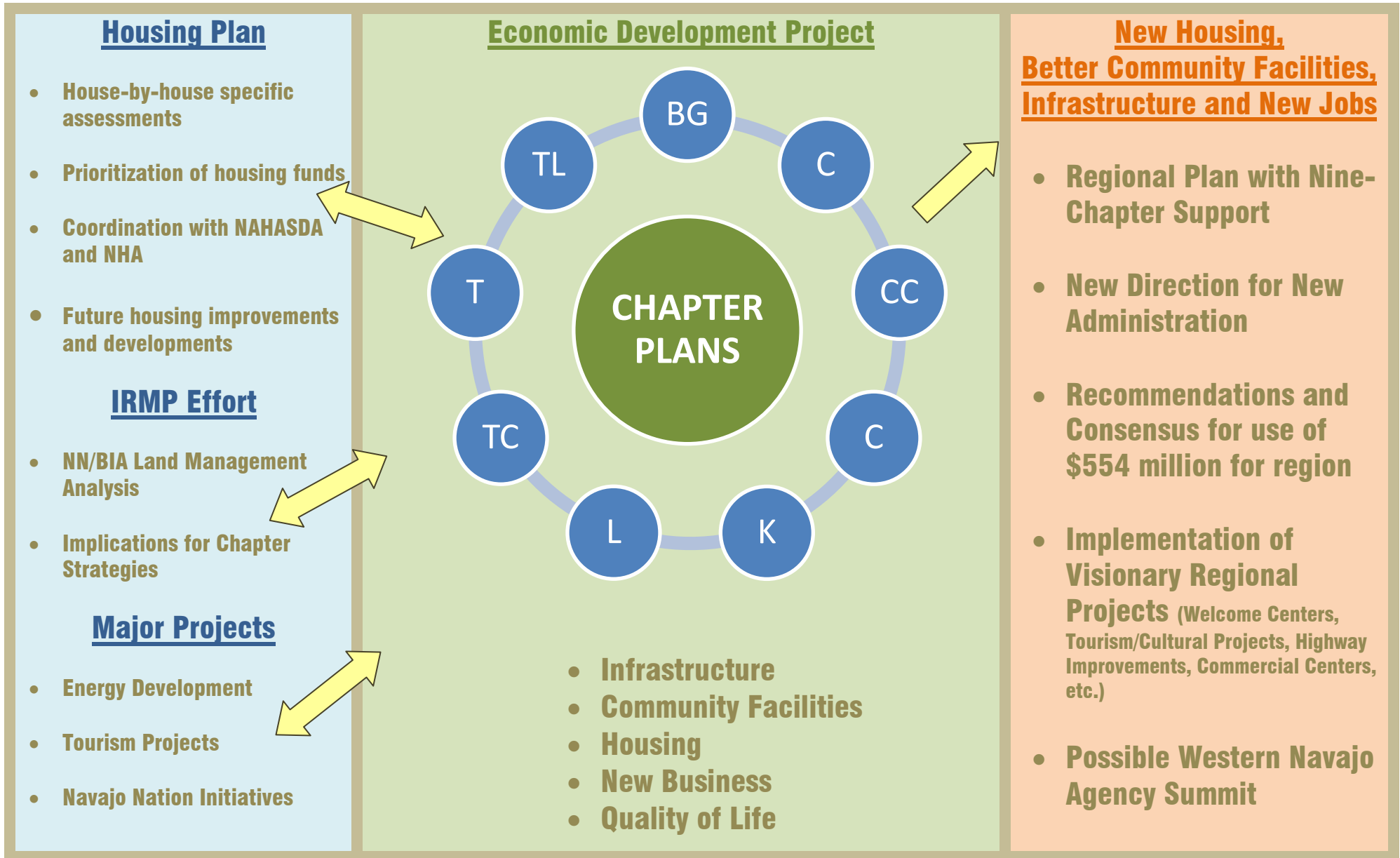
**2015**

**Navajo Renaissance begins; planning and development initiated**

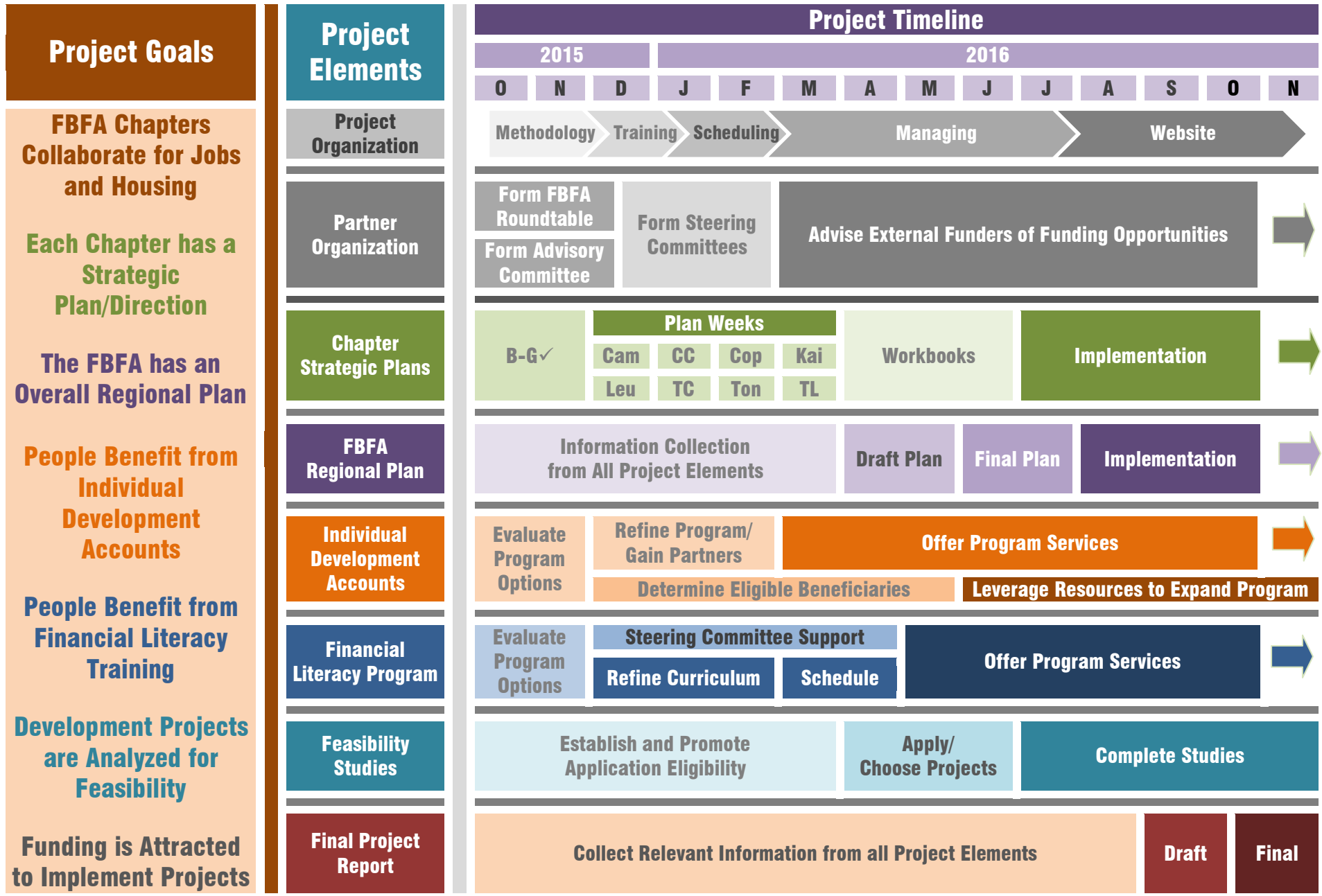
**20,140**

**Total population of area**

**2015-2016: The Year of the Navajo Renaissance**



# Navajo-Hopi Land Commission *Economic Development Project* Work Plan





# How Native Builders Addresses the Pillars and Priorities with our Strategies and Initiatives

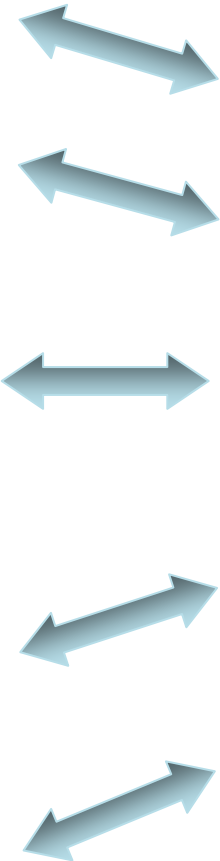


The Navajo Nation Pillars and Priorities are fully integrated into the strategic planning programming being offered by Native Builders.



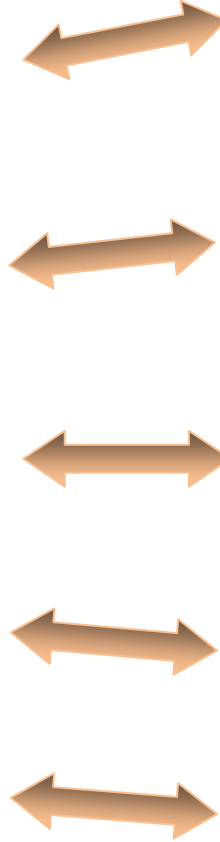
## 25 Strategies

- Business Recruitment
- Business Retention/Expansion
- Business Cultivation
- Entrepreneurial Development
- Energy Development
- Environmental Restoration
- Logistics Centers
- Leading-edge Development
- Value-added Agriculture
- Value-added Forest Products
- Value-added Fisheries
- Value-added Mining
- Destination Tourism
- Cultural Tourism
- Local/Regional Tourism
- Pass-through Visitor Services
- Downtown Development
- Education Development
- Health Care Expansion
- Bedroom Community
- Infrastructure Development
- Attracting Retirees
- Attracting Lone Eagles
- Attracting Government Jobs
- Attracting Funding



## Navajo Nation Goals

<b>Pillars</b>	Navajo Veterans
	Elders and Youth
	Job Creation
	Infrastructure*
<b>Priorities</b>	Economic Development
	Water Rights/Projects
	Housing
	Education
	Human Services
	Governance
	Public Safety
	Natural Resources



## 20 Initiatives

- Buy Local Campaigns
- Child Care/Day Care
- Civic Engagement
- Community Beautification
- Community Center
- Emergency Medical Services
- Energy Conservation
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Local Foods
- Pet Shelters
- Public Safety
- Public Transit
- Recreational Programs
- Retail Development
- Roads and Streets
- Veterans Programs
- Walking Paths and Trails
- Water Rights and Projects
- Workforce Development



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# Reasons to Start NOW!

## REASONS TO BEGIN OCTOBER 1, 2015

THE NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION HAS HAD **\$1 million set aside** FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **since 2012**,  
BUT **\$0 has been invested** IN THE FUTURE OF THE NINE FBFA CHAPTERS.

MEANWHILE, THREE ROUNDS OF FEDERAL FUNDING HAVE BEEN MISSED, NO JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED, UNUSED NAVAJO NATION FUNDS HAVE SAT IDLE, AND THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE FBFA HAVE DETERIORATED.

### The People: *Ready*

**8** Chapters have Passed Resolutions

Chapters:  
Release the funds, go to work

**2** Districts have Passed Resolutions

Districts:  
We are ready to work as a team to make progress

Expertise is Available and Accepted

Native Builders has teamed with Building Communities

**A Plan of Work** is in Place

Native Builders:  
Plan strategically, identify projects, contact funders, build

### Grant Programs: *Ready*

**President Obama:**  
Time for Tribes to Make Progress

*"I am absolutely committed to moving forward with you and forging a new and better future together...so that you can be full partners in the American economy."*  
--December 3, 2014

Housing, Community Development, Economic Development, IDA Grant  
**Deadlines Ongoing**

Financial and technical programs are inventoried.  
Grant applications need to be formulated beginning January 2015

USDA Rural Development Designated the FBFA as their  
**Focus Region**

USDA Rural Development:  
We will help you organize and access funds

**Begin Now**  
or  
**Waste Another Year**

**People are rooting for Navajo Nation to make progress.**  
**All it takes is the courage to move forward.**