

SECTION 200 – T’ÁÁ HWÓ ÁJÍT ‘ÉEGO (SELF RELIANCE)

201 PURPOSE

This section is to establish a unique and culturally relevant Pathway to Self Reliance where the customer and their family members gain a sense of responsibility and ownership of their future.

202 MISSION STATEMENT

We shall serve, with integrity and in an ethical manner, to empower all families, based on the Navajo teachings of the concept of T’áá hwó ájít ‘éego, to become self reliant.

203 SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Traditionally, the Diné were strong, proud, enduring and self-sufficient. Historically, the Diné have lived an active, healthy and productive lifestyle by growing crops, raising livestock, and taking responsibility for their own way of living. This lifestyle and idealism still exists, but many Diné have become dependent on Federal, State and Tribal Assistance Programs which were often intended as temporary assistance. Like many Americans across the country, Navajo families in need, sought and received assistance from various welfare programs. For some, it was a different way of being cared for, but it was not consistent with the Dine’ traditional belief.

The NNPSR encourages the development of social and economic responsibility as well as self-sufficiency in families and individuals through well-defined and supportive activities. Culturally sensitive services are offered to Customers living within the Program’s Service Delivery Area.

Navajo culture is incorporated into the program by promoting the basic life principles of the Navajo people. These basic principles form the Pathway to Self-Reliance (see Figure 1) that consists of four significant life activities: Thinking, Planning, Doing, and Growing. They represent the steps individuals and families must take to become self-sufficient.

The program utilizes these four activities to foster individualized plans that will help develop personal responsibility and move Customers toward self-sufficiency. Program staff mentor Customers as they work towards the goals they have set for themselves and their family in a “Personal Responsibility Plan”. All Customers are required to develop a “Personal Responsibility Plan” which is used to guide the Customer through progressive stages that include the application process, eligibility and payment determination, referral, job search, work activity, evaluation and assessment, reporting and other program activities.