



DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR SELF RELIANCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Department of Family Services Transfers Staff to
Department for Self Reliance**



Front row: Lorretta Archie, Senior Caseworker; Mary Lou Tsedah, Senior Caseworker. Back row: Sandra Nells, Senior Caseworker; Marilyn Clah, Senior Caseworker and Freddie Yazzie, Senior Caseworker.

CHINLE, Ariz. – Wednesday, January 23, former General Assistance staff now Department for Self Reliance staff, worked feverishly to interview applicants and accept applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Numerous community members arrived at the DSR Chinle field office in hopes of completing their applications for LIHEAP assistance. LIHEAP is a federal program that provides families with monetary assistance to stay safe and avoid unsafe heating and cooling practices.

Recently, the Department for Self Reliance has undergone a transformation with the addition of General Assistance staff and the transfer of LIHEAP, General Assistance (GA), Emergency Assistance (EA) and Burial Assistance (BA) programs.

All of the DSR field offices have added more space to accommodate the former General Assistance staff that have moved to the DSR on January 2, 2014. A total of 17 caseworkers were reassigned from the Department of Family Services to the DSR. The new DSR staff will manage the distribution of LIHEAP, GA, EA and BA funds.

The relocation of these programs is part of the Division of Social Services mission to allow for Department of Family Services to focus their services on helping families. In addition, DSR uses the Tribal Assistance System (TAS), a software program designed for case management.

TAS currently has specialized modules for LIHEAP and GA. Using this software, DSR will be able to track data and submit reports to Administration for Children and Families, the federal program which oversees these programs. The TAS system allows faster intake processes which results in assistance reaching the applicants faster.

DSR administration felt a name change from program to department was an appropriate way convey the expansion of DSR. DSR now employs 159 employees to operate these programs.

There are nine DSR offices across the Navajo Nation, Chinle, Crownpoint, Fort Defiance, Greasewood, Gallup, Kayenta and Montezuma Creek, Shiprock and Tuba City.

For more information, call (866) 347-2403, or visit www.nnpsr.navajo-nsn.gov.

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