

April 2023

Hemish Education Quarterly Newsletter



Language

"One thing I could do now to begin support is seriously speaking to youth about the importance of our language. Because without basic understanding of our Towa language how can our children understand our songs and prayers?"
- Participant's



Culture

"Teach youth what elders have taught us and how to cope with the thin line of technology".
-Participant's



Community Meeting #2

The second Community Language Meeting was held on February 22, 2023. A meal was shared to start off the evening along with a showing of the documentary, "We Still Live Here As Nutayunean" by Anne Makepeace. It is a video about the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe that revitalized their language.

After viewing the documentary, the attendants were split into breakout groups to talk about the state of our Jemez language. The lead facilitators shared the participants input on what their groups discussed.

Please join us at the next meeting on April 27, 2023 to continue the discussions and brainstorm solutions that will strengthen our language.

CONSTRUCTION

UPDATES

WALATOWA EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER



The Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center is expected to complete construction by the end of May 2023. Walatowa Head start and Childcare will begin the moving process during Spring and Summer 2023 in preparation to hold classes in Fall 2023. Classes are scheduled to begin on August 2023.



We express extreme gratitude to our tribal leadership, community and partners who made this initiative successful. We look forward to future generations who will experience their educational journeys at the Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center.



Second Lt. Darryl Lucero and First Lt. Peter Magdalena take a moment to view the status of the construction site.

CONTRACTORS FOR OUR BUILDING



● www.jemezpuablo.org ●



Walatowa Childcare welcomes Spring!



APRIL newsletter

WEEK OF: Month of April

WE ARE
Learning...

April Showers bring May flowers!
We are so excited for Spring here at Walatowa Childcare. The children will be doing lots of activities themed for Easter, and overall Spring flowers, plants and Spring activities in our community.

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHER...

Happy Birthday to Aidan R
Hope you had a Funtastic Day!

REMINDERS

04/28/2023
Childcare Center
Closed for Staff Training and Development Day

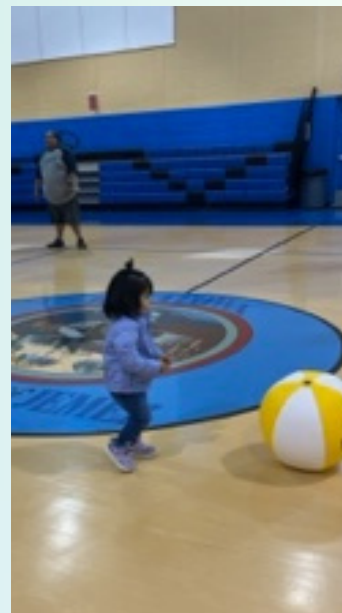
This season we'll be exploring all things spring! We'll talk about how rain helps turn our community green and which animals are returning from the long cold winter. We'll talk about plants and flowers.

Easter activities and art work will be done and displayed in the classroom. Children are busy making Easter themed art work to take home to share with their families.

Spring weather brings with it some uncertainty.

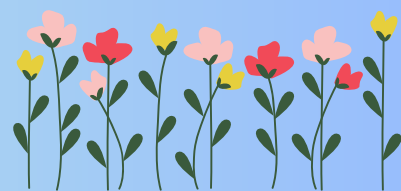
Please make sure your child is prepared for all weather types as we will strive to get outside. It's looking like winter gear will be welcome for just a bit yet!

Toddlers will be attending PE at the Walatowa Youth Center.
Monday and Wednesdays 10-10:30 am
April 3, 2023 was their first session, and they all had a blast!





WALATOWA HEAD START



SPRING TIME

Now that the weather is warming up, the Head Start children have started going on more nature walks and having fun exploring the river. They are also learning the Jemez words for various plants, insects and animals that they see outside. Teachers are talking to them about the meaning of spiritual activities, ditch cleaning, and traditions celebrating the spring time.

Corn Maiden Classroom

In our classroom we learned the names of insects and birds in Towa. We explored nature and observed birds and insects using binoculars, and it was still very cold. We also learned about how plants grow and how to take care of them using sunlight and water.

We went over to Mrs. Magdalena's house to plant a peach tree. While we were there we observed the cider trees burst out their pollen.

We also colored eggs and had an Easter hunt. After the hunt, the kids ate carrots, learning to eat what rabbits eat.

During Circle, the children talked about what they observed during our cultural activities and the many gifts they got. They talked about going to eat at their Easter Aunties and one getting a new name.





HEMISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION PILOT SCHOOL K-6



The children are learning how to plant and take care of what they plant. They have planted onions, spinach, tomatoes, squash, chile, carrots etc. Mr. Jaren Romero is also teaching the children the process of drum making and they get hands-on training in the process. Also every morning is started with prayer with cornmeal asking for strength from the Great Spirit, then we go for a little jog to get their hearts and minds started for the day.

Mr. Derek Yepa, Teachers Assistant



PREPARING EASTER BASKETS TO GIVE OUT TO THE
YOUNGER KIDS

NUTRITION



SPRING SEASON

THE NUTRITION PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PROVIDE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO WALATOWA CHILD CARE, HEAD START AND HEMISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOLS.

THE NUTRITION TEAM DELIVERS THE MEALS DAILY TO THE SCHOOLS.



Hemish language immersion students eating their lunch in nature



● CONTACT US

PLEASE CONTACT JANET WAQUIE, LANA GARCIA OR DR STEPHANIE MACK FOR ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING NUTRITIONAL MEALS.

PHONE: (575) 834-6444

EMAIL: JANET.WAQUIE@JEMEZPUEBLO.ORG

LANA.GARCIA@JEMEZPUEBLO.ORG

STEPHANIE.MACK@JEMEZPUEBLO.ORG

LANGUAGE TEAM



TOP NEWS

- LANGUAGE TEAM MEETS TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF THE JEMEZ LANGUAGE AND OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS COMMUNITY LANGUAGE MEETINGS.
- LANGUAGE TEAM ALONG WITH HEADSTART TEACHERS DISCUSS PROPER TRANSLATIONS AND A PLAN TO RE-RECORD SONGS IN THE TOWA LANGUAGE.
- LANGUAGE TEAM AND TEACHERS DISCUSS IDEAS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT CREATIVE AND AV TEAM PROJECTS.

JEMEZ LANGUAGE PROGRAM

THE JEMEZ LANGUAGE PROGRAM MEETS EVERY MONTH WITH APPOINTED ELDERS AND MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF OUR JEMEZ LANGUAGE AND DISCUSS SOLUTIONS TO HELP THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY WITH STRENGTHENING THE LANGUAGE.



TEAM MEETINGS

THE LANGUAGE TEAM CONTINUES BRAINSTORMING IDEAS ON LANGUAGE CLASSES AS WELL AS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE WALATOWA HEAD START, CHILDCARE AND JEMEZ LANGUAGE IMMERSION PILOT SCHOOL ON THE TRANSLATIONS, WORDS AND STORIES THAT ARE BEING TAUGHT TO STUDENTS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS INITIATIVE PLEASE CONTACT THE LANGUAGE PROGRAM MANAGER AT ELEANOR.TAFOYA@JEMEZPUEBLO.ORG



CREATIVE TEAM AND A/V TEAM

This year's Creative team projects

This year the Jemez Pueblo Education Department Creative Team is working on multiple projects that include art and media to be utilized by the Walatowa Childcare, Headstart, and Hemish Language Immersion Pilot School.

These projects include sharing knowledge on seasonal stories, art projects for the library, plus media that supports culture and language immersion for the schools.

Additionally, we plan to collaborate with the Georgia O' Keefe museum to continue to reinforce our current projects with the use of their resources provided by their newly built mobile art truck which we plan to schedule in the upcoming months.



Helen working on a Seasonal Towa tales board

With the use of the Georgia O' Keefe mobile art truck, we plan to gather youth to participate in more art and media activities. With further use we also plan to find youth who are interested in working with media to start an important media project that will gather stories from the elders of our Walatowa community.

This year's Creative Team projects include the following:

1. Art, Media and Technology projects that implement cultural language immersion
2. Recording seasonal stories and Towa songs
3. Collaborating with Georgia O' Keefe
4. Gathering stories from elders of the community



JEMEZ PUEBLO COMMUNITY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

We are happy to be serving as after-school homework tutors for elementary school students at the Pueblo of Jemez Community Library. We have been coming regularly on Wednesday afternoons since last September. We're very happy to have worked with several children over the past few months. We would welcome additional children.

The opportunity to tutor children at the Pueblo of Jemez Community Library is a way for us to have a relationship to an Indigenous community after our move to New Mexico. In the process, we're also learning about the Pueblo of Jemez.

John especially enjoys math and science, while Elizabeth enjoys reading and writing. After finishing homework, both of us like to read books aloud to the children who come to the Library. And we also enjoy the creativity that the children display on the art projects that they often do when time allows.

It has been a pleasure to assist Roxanne Vigil at the Pueblo of Jemez Community Library, and to meet other community members when they visit the Library. We would be happy to meet you if you visit the Library on a Wednesday afternoon between 3:30pm and 5:45pm.

- John Maddaus and Elizabeth Johns

HOMEWORK HELP • TUTORING

Library Tutoring Program



NEED HELP ON YOUR HOMEWORK?



Our After-school Homework Help is open! Stop by the Jemez Pueblo Community Library & Archives on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Students will work one-on-one with tutors.

For any questions please contact us

☎ 575-834-9171

✉ library@jemezpueblo.org



ANY STUDENT WHO PARTICIPATES WILL GET A SNACK, DRINK AND BE ENTERED INTO A MONTHLY RAFFLE FOR PRIZES THAT INCLUDE AMAZON GIFT CARDS

MAY 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	2 Art Activities	3 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	4 Coloring Projects	5	6
7	8 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	9 Art Activities	10 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	11 Coloring Projects	12 Cloverbud Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm	13
14	15 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	16 Art Activities	17 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	18 Coloring Projects	19 4H Club Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm	20
21	22 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	23 Art Activities	24 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	25 Coloring Projects	26	27
28	29 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm	30 Art Activities	31 Tutoring 3:30pm-5:30pm			

PUEBLO OF JEMEZ EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ED SERVICES UPDATES



CTE

The Career Technical Education dual credit class at JVHS is currently teaching industrial electrical applications, thanks to Dr. Frank Loera and Marvin Romero (who is pictured left).

Quotes from CTE Students

"I have learned a lot of safety precautions that many adults may not know about and how dangerous and deadly our surroundings can be. In our houses, outside and even stores." - by course participants

"These past two semesters have been fun; at first, I was very intimidated about taking a college course but I am very appreciative towards my instructors. They take time to explain things clearly to us and they allow us to ask questions without being judged at all." - by course participants

"The dual-credit class is really, what I needed, it really talks about the electrical part of everything, and ever since, I was a little kid. I wanted to be an electrician and I really encourage people to do these kinds of class." - by course participants



2023 GRADUATION DATES

HIGH SCHOOL:

MAY 4- WALATOWA CHARTER HIGH @ 6 PM

MAY 13- JEMEZ VALLEY HIGH @ 10 AM

MAY 18- BERNALILLO HIGH @ 6PM

MAY 22- CLEVELAND HIGH @ 10AM

MAY 22- INDEPENDENCE HIGH @ 1AM

MAY 23- RIO RANCHO HIGH @ 10AM

JUNE 2- SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL @ 6PM



The Pueblo of Jemez Education Department would like to extend our gratitude to the community for sharing your educational path with us!

We congratulate all class of 2023 graduates, their families and loved ones who supported their educational journeys. We wish you all continued success and may all of your dreams come true!

ELEMENTARY/ PRE-SCHOOL GRADUATIONS:

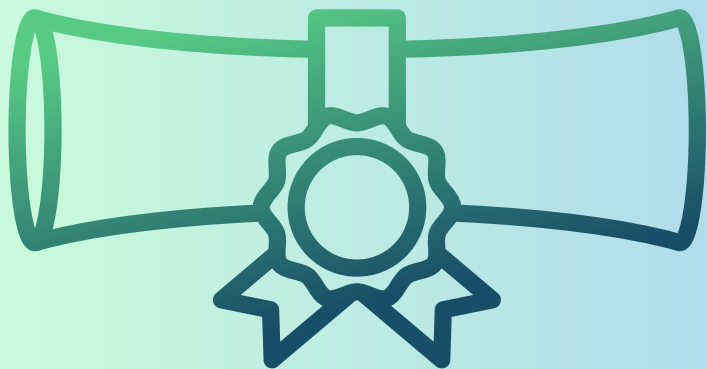
MAY 17- JEMEZ VALLEY PRE-KINDERGARTEN @ 10AM

MAY 19- JEMEZ DAY SCHOOL- 6TH GRADE @ 10 AM

MAY 24-JEMEZ DAY SCHOOL- KINDERGARTEN @ 9AM

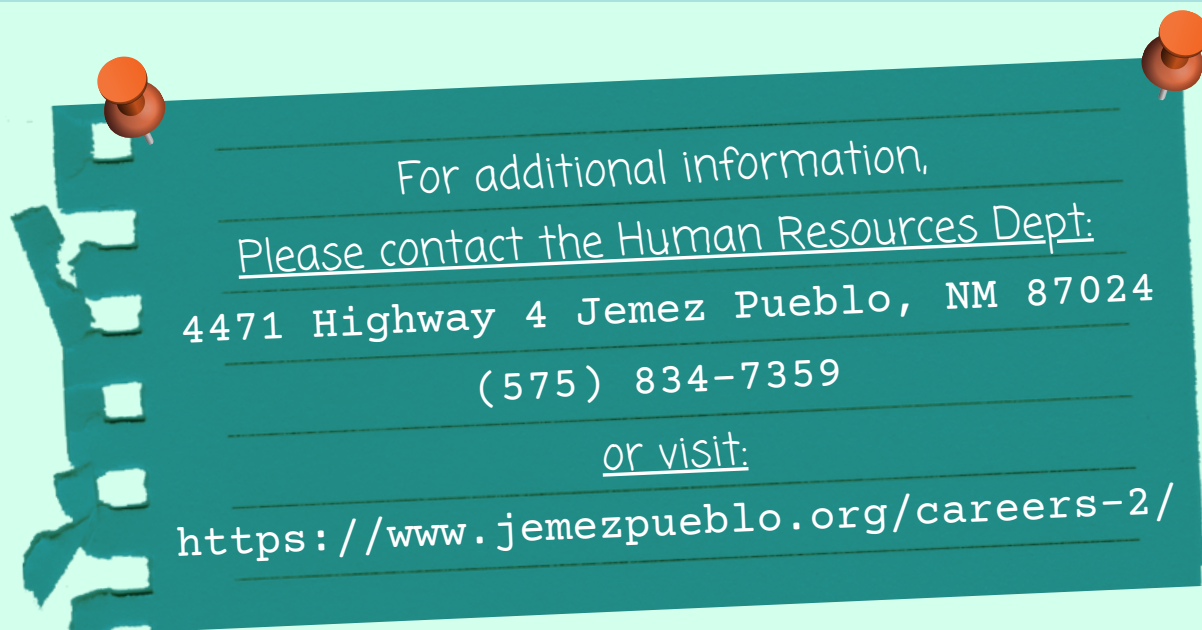
MAY 25- JEMEZ VALLEY ELEMENTARY- KINDERGARTEN @ 10 AM

MAY 26- WALATOWA HEAD START @10AM



Education VACANT POSITIONS

- Family Services Coordinator
- Librarian
- Library Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Creative Team Member
- Student Program Coordinator
- Child Care Provider
- Education Transportation Facility Coordinator
- Education Assistant Cook
- Education Administrative Assistant



ANNOUNCEMENTS



NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE (NNMC)

PARTNERSHIP WITH LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)

COME AND BECOME A RADIATION CONTROL TECHNICIAN (RCT) WHILE YOU LEARN & EARN

Program Benefits

- Tuition, books and fees (exception of graduation fee) paid by LANL.
- Students are paid while attending classes, LANL training and security clearance preparation.
- Internships and RCT shadowing opportunities, as available.
- Conversion to full-time employment as an RCT upon graduation with an AA degree in Radiation Protection, and after all LANL eligibility requirements are met.

Program Requirements

- Accuplacer score (ENG: 5/ Math: Algebra 41), ACT 16 or SAT (Math 370/Verbal 400), and a 3.0 GPA, which also needs to be maintained throughout the program participation.
- Application process includes a resume and a current transcript through <https://lanl.jobs> using IRC120340.
- Upon successful completion of the program, students will commit to LANL as an RCT for no less than 2 years. Failure to fulfill this commitment shall result in repayment of all tuition and fees to LANL.
- More info: nmmc.edu/rct or email rctcareers@lanl.gov

FALL 2023

Apply by June 09, 2023 through IRC120340

For more info, contact Junior Hamilton @ 505.500.2234



Native American Scholarship Program



New Mexico Gas Company's annual Native American Scholarship Program (NASP) provides financial assistance to support post-secondary education for Native American students in New Mexico who demonstrate a desire to engage in their future through continuing education.

What sets this program apart is that NASP assists students in pursuit of certification from a trade school or specialized technical training associated with a license or certificate, in addition to an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree. Funds are awarded directly to the recipient and can be used for any education-related expenses.

There are 20 initial or renewal scholarships of \$2,000 each available. Applications for this year's scholarships will be accepted April 3 to May 5, 2023.

For more information, visit www.nmgco.com/en/native-american-scholarship-program or e-mail questions to nasp@nmgco.com.



Use the camera on your phone to open the NASP application with this QR code.



A Natural Choice.

RE-NORMALIZING JEMEZ

TO PROTECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND WAY OF LIFE

BY KEVIN SHENDO

As I reflect on my work in education over the last 20 years, changes within our community, and my own upbringing; it is evident that our Jemez Towa language is shifting with the younger generations, as English is becoming more dominant.

Jemez used to be the language of Jemez:

I remember the days when all you heard was Jemez Towa being spoken at the schools, on the playgrounds, in the plaza, at the meeting halls, in society houses, at community events, in tribal program/government offices, and in the homes. Spoken not only by all the adults, but by all the children and youth as well.

When did this change and why?

While one cannot point to an exact point in time, it seems Jemez became more accommodating to non-Jemez speakers and the allowance, plus tolerance of English into different settings. I remember when my grandparents spoke to anyone, speaker or not, it was strictly in Jemez and all were forced to listen and learn, then eventually speak. Today you hear grandparents and parents, speaking to their children and grandchildren in English or translating if they are a non-speaker or not fluent. Rather than reinforcing our language, accommodations are made reinforcing English and minimizing the importance and value of our Jemez Towa language. The US Education system is also monolingual English based, enforcing English based standards and English Language Literacy by 3rd Grade, thus diminishing the value of all other languages that aren't English.

It takes One Generation to lose a language:

As has been experienced in different communities internationally, it takes only One Generation to lose a language and it takes Three Generations (Grandparent, Parent & Child) to bring a language back. Today, we are faced with our generation of Jemez children, majority of whom are not fluent speakers or are choosing to speak English to their peers rather than Jemez. So we are at a critical time where either we take action as a community to control the direction of our language shift to strengthen Jemez or we stand to eventually lose Jemez as a viable, living language.

What Actions can we take to Strengthen our Jemez Towa Language?

Re-Normalize Jemez, so that our Jemez Towa Language is the primary and dominant language spoken within Jemez Tribal lands and within all tribal, community, school and government settings. As speakers of the language, make a conscious effort of only speaking in Jemez and staying in the language at all times, regardless of whether one is fluent or not, fully understands or not. This way all are exposed to the language at all times, in all settings and immersed so that one will pick up, learn and eventually speak the language. Express the importance of our language with your children and grandchildren that it should be spoken at all times. Not just when they have a Jemez Towa language class or are at an Immersion program/school BUT that Jemez is to be spoken at all times, especially within our community.

Most important, model use and speaking of the language so that your children and/or grandchildren see and hear you communicating with them directly in Jemez and DON'T translate.

RE-NORMALIZING JEMEZ (CONT.)

Protecting and Securing our Sovereignty:

As a Sovereign Tribal Nation/Government, we need to prioritize the speaking of Jemez as our Grandparents and Ancestors did; it is why we are able to speak it fluently today. Ask yourself one question: Which Sovereign Government in this world prioritizes the language of their oppressors over their own? Now ask yourself, why do we choose to prioritize English over Jemez, within our tribal lands, our schools, programs and government offices located within our reservation boundaries? It is important to note that our Language and our Lands are what make us a Sovereign Tribal Nation/Government. Once we lose our language or our lands, we can no longer exercise our rights as a people separate and apart from the United States and any other country.

We are fighting for the return of our sacred sites and our ancestral homelands, but if we don't continue to strengthen and maintain our language, what claim will we continue to have to that which we hold most sacred? Without a language, our spiritual, ceremonial and ancestral connections to these places will be lost, as all that defines us Jemez people; our songs, prayers, ceremonies and rituals, are rooted in our language and once that is lost, so too is our Jemez way of life. We will only be Jemez in name with no connections to our sacred and ancestral sites, to our ancestors and spirits. At which time, we stand to lose our status as a Sovereign People, Government, Nation, and the hold, protections on all our lands can then be challenged.

What future do we want to leave for our children, grandchildren and the generations yet to be born?

Our actions or inactions will determine their fate. I do hope and pray that we all move forward with a Good Heart and Breath, but more important with One Heart and Breath, in prioritizing the strengthening of our language. We all have a tremendous responsibility, so let us uphold that responsibility and enforce, reinforce the language within all of Jemez and be the role models to guide and teach our children, grandchildren, youth and elders our Jemez Towa language. Just as our parents, grandparents and ancestors did for us, let us leave our children, grandchildren and the generations yet to be born the sacred gift of our language, so that we can all remain connected and that our sacred and ancestral lands remain protected and in our hands. May we forever remain a Sovereign People within our homelands.

Brain Research and Learning/Speaking more than one language:

Everyone's brain is made up of neurons, which have a cell body, and dendrites, which are the connections between neurons. This is what we call "grey matter." Bilingual people have more of these neurons and dendrites compared to people who speak only one language. This means that their grey matter is denser. Bilingualism also has an impact on white matter – that is, a system of nerve fibres which connect all four lobes of the brain. This system coordinates communication between the different brain regions, helping your brain to learn and function.

Given the measurable impact of language learning on the brain, it boosts other skills:

1. Better Academic Performance
2. Improved Concentration
3. A more Powerful Memory
4. Stronger Communication Skills
5. More Creativity

Language learning skills will help learners in all areas of their lives. These skills will improve their mental abilities, and help them with problem-solving and decision-making. Ultimately, this all goes towards enriching one's personal, social and professional relationships.



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS ACP?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC administered and US Government funded program designed to help homes pay for internet service through their Internet Service Provider.

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT JEMEZ?

Jemez' internet service is provided free of charge through the Jemez Pueblo Tribal Network or JNET and funded by COVID Treasury funds. However, the Treasury funds will eventually expire and new funding will be needed. The funds through ACP can be used to improve internet connectivity and expand services to all tribal members and households.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help support internet connectivity in Jemez and keep it free by signing up for ACP through JNET. The Jemez Education Department can assist you with applying for ACP and uploading supporting documentation.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If your household income is at/below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or a member of your household qualifies for any of the programs listed below, you are eligible for ACP:

- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
- Federal Pell Grant
- WIC
- SNAP
- Medicaid
- Public Housing
- SSI
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribal TANF
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Tribal Head Start (Income based)
- Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians and more.



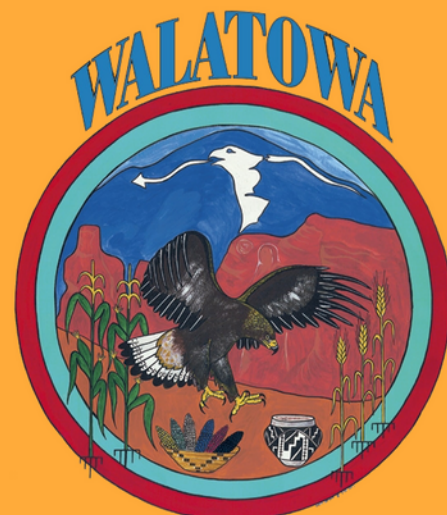
FOR HELP APPLYING OR
MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

DEPT. OF EDUCATION
(575) 834-9102

JNET DIGITAL
NAVIGATOR
(575) 834-6500

OR VISIT

WWW.FCC.GOV/ACP



PUEBLO of JEMEZ