How can my tribe connect with the Office of Tribal Government Relations?
The Office of Tribal Government Relations has tribal government relations specialists located throughout the country. Our specialists are knowledgeable of the opportunities, available services and benefits offered to tribes, Veterans, and widows, to include caregivers. The specialists work closely with tribal leaders, service providers, VA colleagues from each of the three VA administrations, federal agency partners, state governments and private entities to facilitate positive government to government communication and ongoing collaboration to effectively serve tribes.

Contact Us

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Working Together to Better Serve Indian Country’s Veterans

VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations is focused on tribal government engagement, concentrating on building partnerships, sharing agreements and forming enduring relationships to serve our Nation’s heroes.
Strengthening Relationships, Enhancing Service

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) created the enhance access to programs and services for Indian Country’s American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans, widows and caregivers.

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are more likely to lack health insurance than other Veterans. 1) They are also more likely than non-Native Veterans to have a disability, service-connected or otherwise. 2) VA is here for them, with services and benefits that provide treatment and support our Veterans have earned.

For more than 200 years, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans have bravely served our Nation in the U.S. military. VA is here to work with tribes to serve our warriors.

Why do tribal governments need to get involved?

Awareness

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans who live in Indian Country may not be aware of opportunities available to them as Veterans. Tribal governments play a valuable role not only in educating the Veterans they represent about VA benefits and services, but also through engagement in policy making, partnerships and advocacy. Tribal government leadership also has a critical role in educating the VA about the needs and priorities of Veterans living in Indian Country.

Access

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans now have increased health care options through reimbursement sharing agreements with the VA, regardless of whether they choose to seek care through a VA or a tribal health facility. Tribal Health Programs can be reimbursed for care provided to eligible, VA-enrolled Veterans. This is particularly helpful to Veterans living in rural areas, far from VA facilities. These agreements also create resource-sharing opportunities between VA and Tribal Health Programs which means more resources are available to support the collective health and wellness of tribal communities.

Opportunity

VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations helps tribal governments connect with VA’s National Cemetery Administration. The Administration offers grants to establish cemeteries on tribal lands. Ground breaking for new construction or improvements to existing Veterans cemeteries on tribal lands is already underway.

Our office is also exploring ways to work collaboratively with VA’s Veterans Benefits Administration and tribal governments to increase the use of the Native American Direct Loan program to foster home ownership among American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.