

# Tribal Health Reimbursement Agreement Orientation Brief

Veteran Affairs Sharing Agreement Program with Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Programs (THP)

VA Northern & Southern California Health Care System – VISN 21 & 22

April 9, 2013

# Agenda

- IHS and THP Milestones
- Reimbursement Agreement Key Definitions
- Benefits
- Reimbursement Agreement Payment Methodologies
- IHS and THP Locations in the VISNs
- THP Agreement Implementation Process
- Detailed VAMC and CBO Process
- VHA Health Eligibility Center Training
- Implementation SharePoint Site
- Implementation Timeline
- Implementation Next Steps
- Joint Call Next Steps
- VA Office of Tribal Government Internet Site

# Indian Health Service & Tribal Health Reimbursement Agreement Milestones

- October 1, 2010: the VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Petzel, and the IHS Director, Dr. Roubideaux, signed a Memorandum of Understand (MOU)
- March – May 2012: VA and IHS and Tribal Health Programs (THP) initiated tribal consultation on a draft national agreement
- June 2012: Department of Justice provided guidance that VA's Title 38 was the authority that governed agreements between VA and IHS/ THP
  - Changed approach from one National Agreement for both to National Agreement for IHS and individual sharing agreements under 38 USC 8153 for Tribal Organizations
- August 24, 2012: Dr. Petzel signed and distributed the Dear Tribal Leader Letter with program guidance.
- December 5, 2012: VA-IHS National Agreement signed.

## The MOU and Agreements:

- ✓ Promotes quality health care through collaborative relationships and agreements
- ✓ Focuses on increasing coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans

# Reimbursement Agreement Key Definitions

- Eligible American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veteran is a Veteran who is
  - (1) eligible for services from IHS or THP in accordance with 42 C.F.R. Part 136 and
  - (2) is enrolled in VA's system of patient enrollment in accordance with 38 U.S.C. § 1705 and 38 C.F.R. 17.36 or is eligible for hospital care and medical services under 38 U.S.C. § 1705(c)(2) and 38 C.F.R. 17.37(a)-(c) notwithstanding the AI/AN Veteran's failure to enroll in VA's system of patient enrollment.
- Direct Care Services means any eligible service that is provided directly by THP at the THP facility(ies).
  - Direct care services does not include care or service referred or provided outside the THP facility(ies) through a contract established by THP .

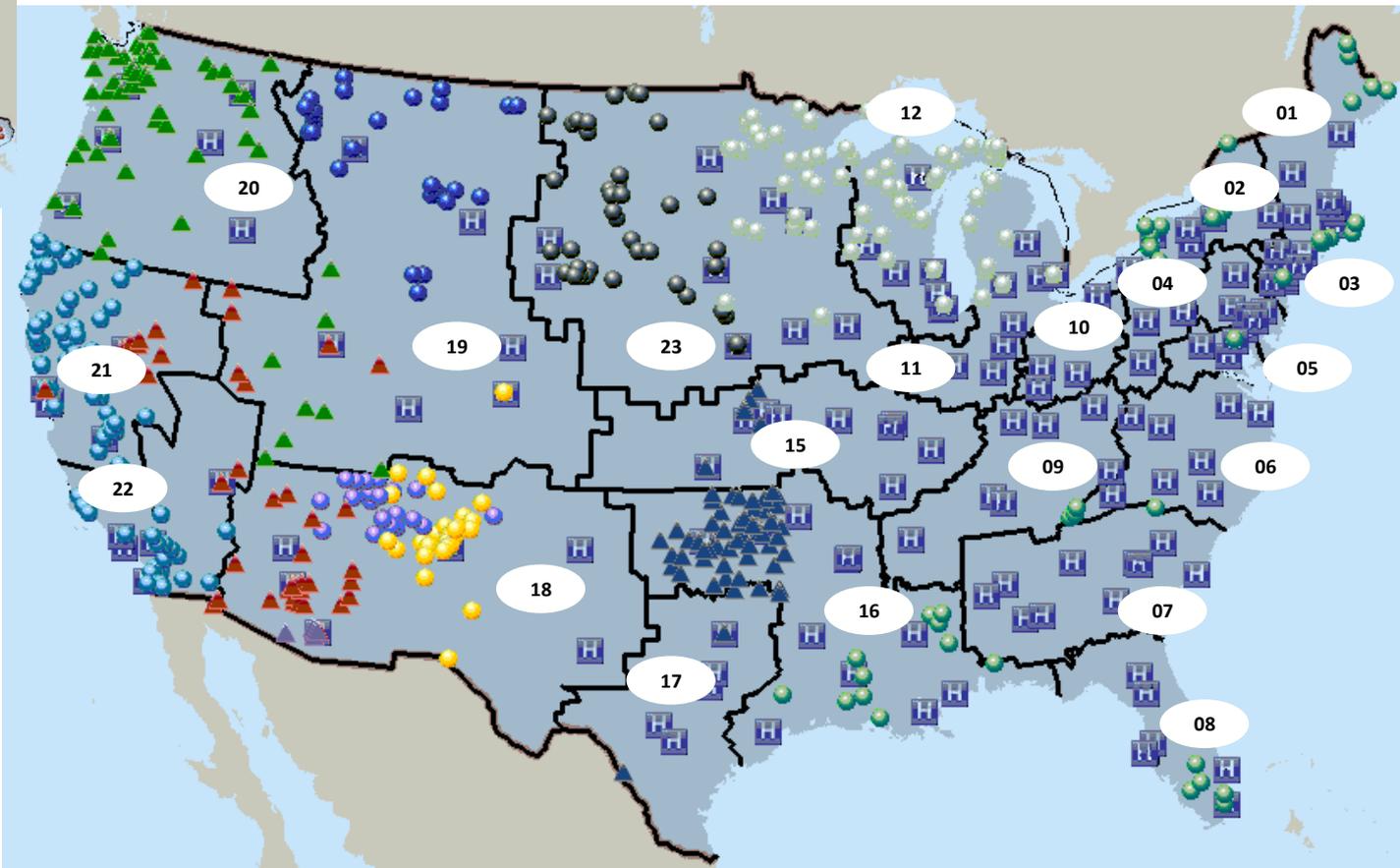
# Benefits

- **Medical Benefits Package** – VA will reimburse for direct care services provided under the Medical Benefits package available to eligible Veterans under 38 CFR § 17.38.
- **Choice of care provider** – Eligible AI/AN Veterans can choose to receive their health care from the IHS/THP facility and/or VA Medical Center (VAMC). No pre-authorization by VA will be required for direct care services provided to eligible AI/AN Veterans if care is received at the IHS/THP facility.
- **Pharmacy Options** – IHS/THP health care facilities will be reimbursed when providing a 30-day supply of outpatient medications to eligible AI/AN Veterans. After the initial 30-day supply, eligible AI/AN Veterans may obtain prescriptions using the VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) for routine, long-term outpatient medication.
- **No Copayment** – Pursuant to section 405(c) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), VA copayments do not apply to direct care services provided by the IHS/THP facility to eligible AI/AN Veterans under the National Agreement.
- **Third Party Billing** – Pursuant to section 405(c) of IHCIA, IHS/THP health care facilities will bill all third party payers, as permissible by law, prior to billing VA under the National Agreement so that VA is responsible only for the balance remaining after other third party reimbursements.

# Reimbursement Agreement Payment Methodologies

- Direct Care Services will be reimbursed according to the following payment methods and rates:
  - Inpatient hospital services are based on Medicare Inpatient Prospective Patient System.
  - Outpatient services will be based on the IHS All Inclusive Rate posted in the Federal Register annually.
  - Critical Access Hospitals will be reimbursed at the established IHS Cost-to-Charge (CTC) ratio as determined by Medicare.
  - Ambulatory Surgical Services will be reimbursed at Medicare rates.
- VA is responsible only for the balance remaining after other third party reimbursements.
- Additionally, claims will be reduced by \$15 on outpatient claims and paper claims will be reduced by \$15. This helps cover the administrative processing costs of these unique claims

# IHS and THP Locations in the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)

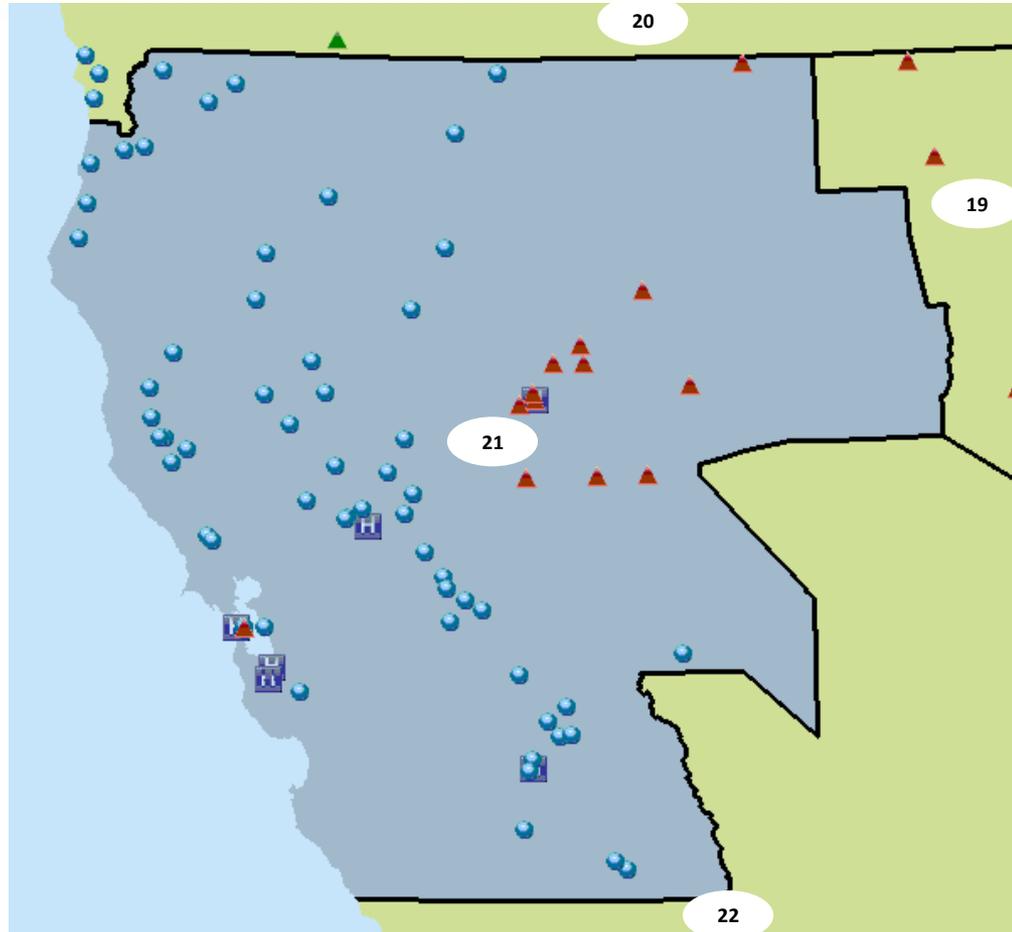
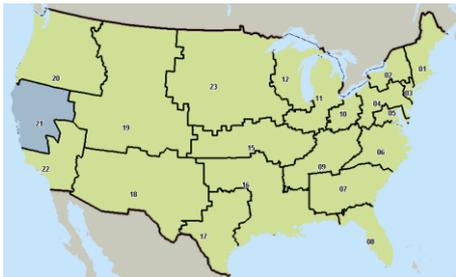


- H** VAMC
- Indian Health Services Area**
- Aberdeen
  - Alaska
  - Albuquerque
  - Bemidji
  - Billings
  - California
  - Nashville
  - Navajo
  - ▲ Oklahoma City
  - ▲ Phoenix
  - ▲ Portland
  - ▲ Tucson



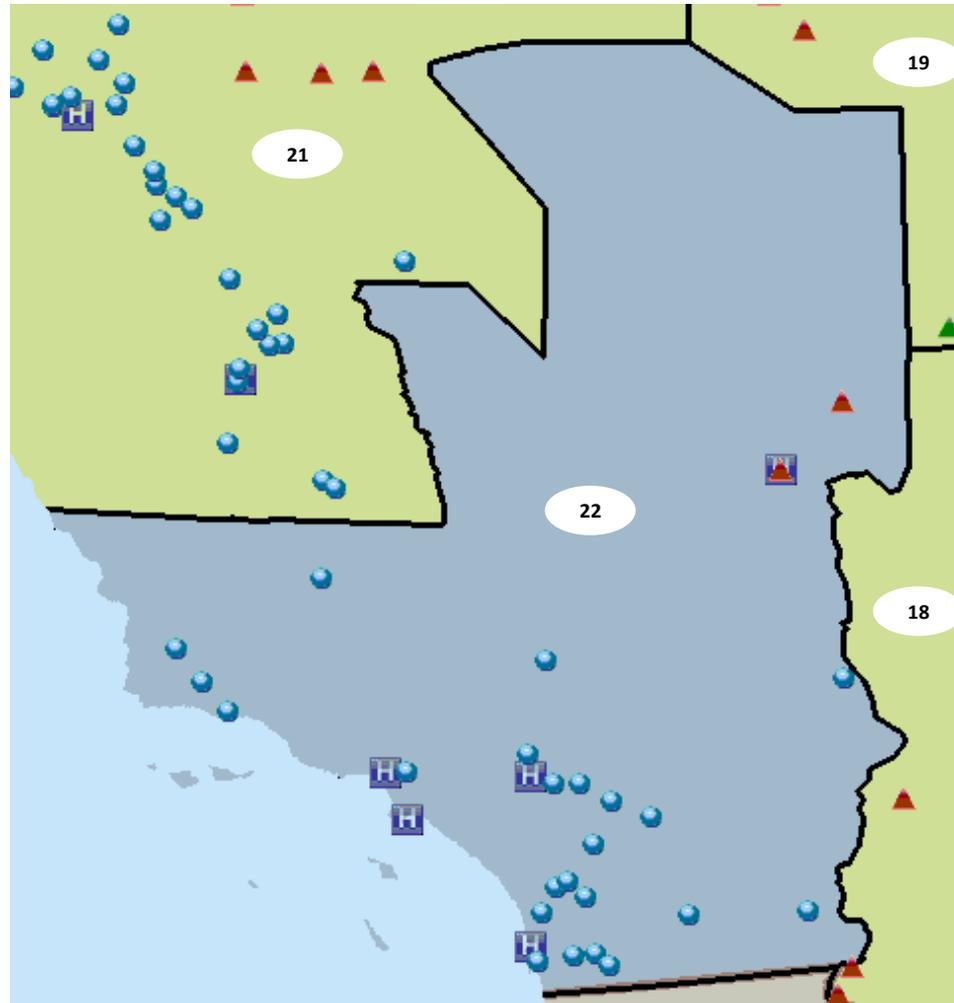
# IHS and THP Locations in VISN 21

-  VAMC
- Indian Health Services Area**
-  California
-  Phoenix
-  Portland

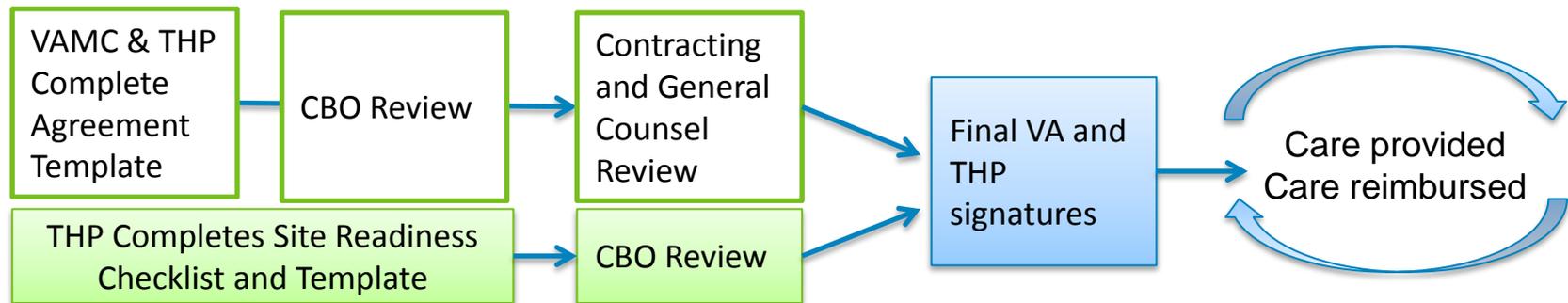


# IHS and THP Locations in the VISN 22

-  VAMC
- Indian Health Services Area**
-  California
-  Phoenix
-  Portland

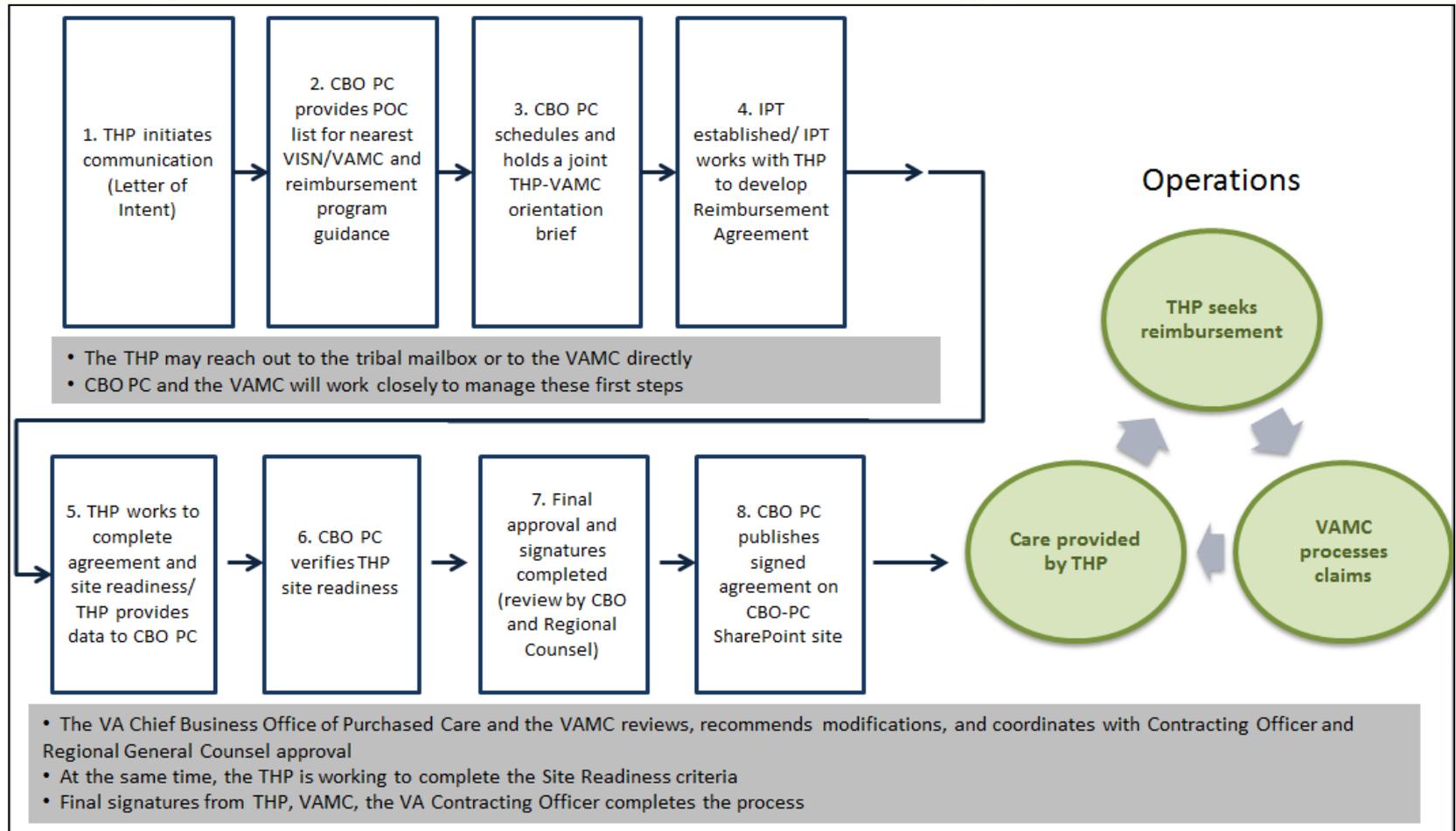


# THP Agreement Review and Approval



- Using the agreement template, the VAMC and THP work together to complete the draft reimbursement agreement.
- Concurrently, the THP works to satisfy site readiness criteria.
- Once the draft is complete, it will be reviewed by CBO and regional counsel/contracting.
- After final signatures, reimbursement for direct care can commence.

# Detailed THP Sharing Agreement Implementation Process



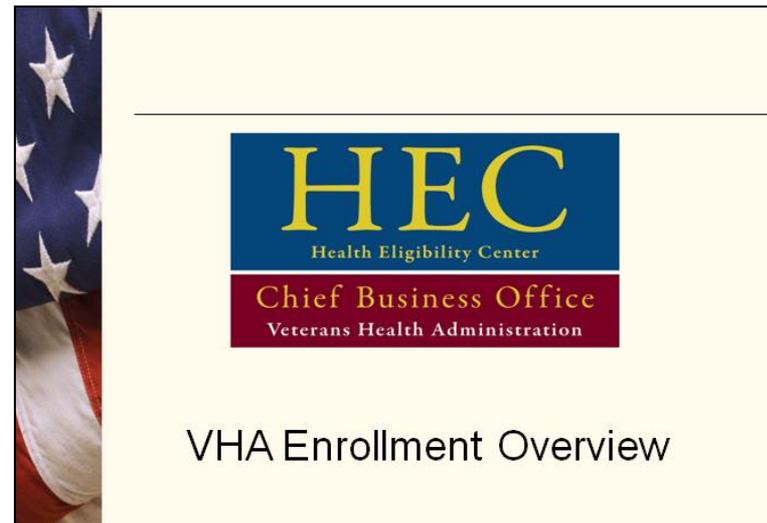
# VHA Health Eligibility Center Training

## Training

- The VHA Health Eligibility Center (HEC) provides monthly training focused on eligibility, the medical benefits package, and enrollment.

## Schedule:

- ~~Dec 18, 2012 @ 2:00 PM EST~~
- ~~Jan 22, 2013 @ 2:00 PM EST~~
- ~~Feb 19, 2013 @ 2:00 PM EST~~
- Mar 26, 2013 @ 2:00 PM EST
- Apr 23, 2013 @ 2:00 PM EST



Please email [Tribal.Agreements@va.gov](mailto:Tribal.Agreements@va.gov) to receive a calendar invite.

# VA-IHS & THP SharePoint Site

[https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS\\_and\\_THP/default.aspx](https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS_and_THP/default.aspx)

Library of Sharing Agreements

PC@HAC > IHS and THP Welcome Griffith, Kelly (CBO F

**IHS and THP** This Site: IHS and THP

IHS and THP Agreements

View All Site Content

**Lists**

- Agreement and Implementation Plan Tracker

**Documents**

- Agreement templates

**Agreements**

Recycle Bin

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**Announcements**

**Agreement Library** ! NEW 8/22/2012 10:41 AM  
by Griffith, Kelly (CBO FO CNTR) ●  
[https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS\\_and\\_THP/Agreements/default.aspx](https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS_and_THP/Agreements/default.aspx)

Add new announcement

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**Templates and Guidance** Final templates and guidance documents for IHS and THP

New | Upload | Actions | Settings

Type	Name	Modified	Modified By
	081012_THP-VA_Agreement_Template	8/14/2012 11:52 AM	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Hull, Scott (CBO FO CNTR)

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**Agreement and Implementation Plan Tracker**

New | Actions | Settings

Tribal Name	IHS or THP	Phase	Status	POC Title	VISN Number	Tribal POC Name
<b>VISN Number : 11 (1)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Count = 4</b></span>						
Grand Traverse Bay Band <span style="color: green;">! NEW</span>	Initiated	Communication	8/17: Received email from Stephanie Birdwell and Peter S. Vica <span style="color: orange;">●</span>	Vicaire, Peter S.	George.Antoine@gtbindians.com; sonya.zotigh@gtbindians.com	Tribal Council Secretary; Tribal Manager
<b>VISN Number : 12 (1)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Count = 1</b></span>						
<b>VISN Number : 23 (2)</b>						

# VA-IHS & THP SharePoint Site

[https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS\\_and\\_THP/Agreements/default.aspx](https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/HAC/IHS_and_THP/Agreements/default.aspx)

**Agreements**

IHS and THP > Agreements

### IHS/THP Agreements

Name	VISN	IHS/THP	S
<b>VISN : 16 (2)</b>			
Jack C Montgomery VAMC Agreement with Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma	16	THP	S
Tribal Resolution of Muscogee (Creek) Nation	16	THP	S
<b>VISN : 20 (20)</b>			
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0041	20	THP	S
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0043	20	THP	S
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0044	20	THP	S
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0045	20	THP	S
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0046	20	THP	S
Number 2_C03 SIGNED AGREEMENT VA260-12-A-0047	20	THP	S

Name	VISN	IHS/THP	S	Date/Time
Sharing Agreement				Hull, Scott (CBO FO CNTR) 8/13/2012 4:15 PM
Sharing Agreement				Hull, Scott (CBO FO CNTR) 8/13/2012 4:16 PM
Sharing Agreement				Hull, Scott (CBO FO CNTR) 8/13/2012 4:16 PM

**Library of all tribal agreements and IHS local implementation plans**

**Will be used to manage throughout lifecycle from drafts to final approval.**

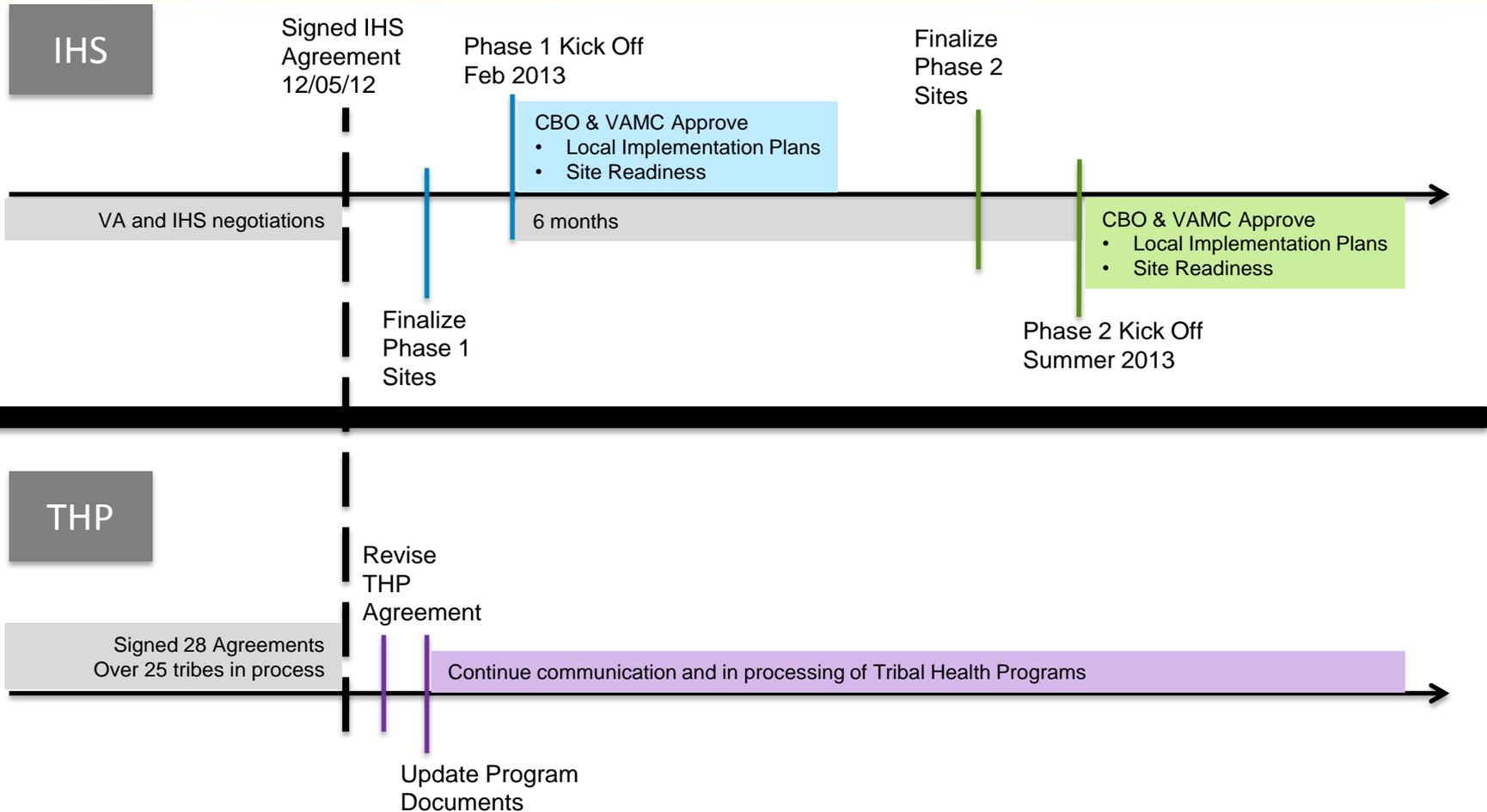
**Provides a total # by VISN**

**Utilizes workflows for tracking reviews and approval process**

## Other data needs:

- Sharing Agreement Number
- Tax ID Number/ Provider ID Number
- Vendorized; Date Vendor Sheet Submitted
- EDI Capable & Emdeon Connection
- Pharmacy Scripts Processing
- Volume Estimate
- Certification/ Accreditation
- Covered Services/ Non-Covered Services
- Received Enrollment Training
- Ability to check eligibility

# Implementation Timelines



# Implementation Next Steps

- Claims Processing and Payment
  - IHS/THP will be different than traditional claims processing
  - Due to the administrative burden of processing these non-traditional, complex claims, CBO Purchased Care will consolidate claims processing to VISN 20s Network Payment Center
- Finalizing the VA-IHS National Agreement Local Implementation Plans for Phase 1
- Continue development and implementation of VA-THP Reimbursement Agreements (not subject to phased approach).
- CBO Purchased Care Monthly Program Status
  - Holding monthly overview and program status calls for the VISNs and VAMCs
  - This call will occur every third Thursday from 1-2pm (EST). To access this call, please dial 1-800-767-1750 (Code: 35559). Please distribute this information to the appropriate members within your VISN and email the [tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov) mailbox for the calendar invite.

## Joint Call Next Steps

- The THP and VAMC should have follow-on discussions to complete the THP Agreement Template.
- Services and issues not relating to the reimbursement of direct care services should be included in appendices to the agreement (e.g., training and equipment)
- Care for non-AI/AN Veterans is not included in the VA-THP Reimbursement Agreement. If a need exists to provide care for non-AI/AN Veterans , this should be established with your local VAMC based on Non-VA Care Program criteria.
- The THP should work to meet all site readiness criteria and complete the data questionnaire template.

# Further Information

All documentation on how to establish agreements will be housed at VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Website.

<http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

For more information on getting started with Tribal Health Program agreements, send an e-mail to

[tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov)

The screenshot shows the website for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Tribal Government Relations. The header includes the VA logo, the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs", and a search bar. The main navigation menu contains links for Home, Veteran Services, Business, About VA, Media Room, Locations, and Contact Us. The page title is "Office of Tribal Government Relations". A large photo shows three people, two men and one woman, looking at a document. Below the photo, there is a news article titled "VA facilitates Veterans Track, tribal consultation during NIHB 2012" with a sub-headline "VA THP Agreement Template". To the left of the article is a sidebar with a "Veterans Crisis Line" button (1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1), a "Tribal Government PHOTO GALLERY" section, and a "MEDAL of HONOR RECIPIENTS" section. On the right side, there is a "CONNECT WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT" section with links for Locations, In the News, Upcoming Events, Policy, Planning and Legislation, and Resources.