



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

May 26, 2023

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to report continued progress in establishing a new Reimbursement Agreement template for Tribal Health Programs (THP). The VA-Reimbursement Agreement Program (RAP) is a means for VA to reimburse Indian Health Services (IHS), Tribal health program (THP), and Urban Indian Organization (UIO) for healthcare services provided to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans. The Reimbursement Agreements establish the basic underlying terms for reimbursement from VA to the THP. The new Agreement will replace and expand upon the prior Agreement between the parties regarding reimbursement for direct health care services, originally offered in 2012 and amended four times.

Regarding the topic of adopting a new Agreement template, VA held two listening sessions on December 16, 2021, and January 13, 2022, with open comments period through February 13, 2022. In August 2022, VA issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter presenting a draft THP Agreement template and held an in-person consultation on September 27, 2022, and a virtual consultation session September 30, 2022, with comments open through November 1, 2022.

VA has incorporated feedback from the listening sessions, consultation, and written comments to develop an updated draft THP Agreement template for your review (Attached).

Please find attached a draft THP Agreement template for your reference and review. VA would like to invite tribal leaders (or their representative designees) to provide feedback and comments to assist in finalizing the THP Reimbursement Agreement template for the lower 48 states.

An in-person roundtable is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023, from 10:45 AM CDT to 12:00 PM CDT as part of the 2023 Tribal Self-Governance Annual Conference. The event will take place at the River Spirit Casino Resort, 8330 Riverside Pkwy. Tulsa, OK 74137. More information on the conference can be found at <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/event/2023sgconference/>.

Written comments may also be submitted to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov by July 20, 2023. For additional information regarding this effort, please contact Kara Hawthorne at tribal.agreements@va.gov.

VA is working separately with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service (IHS) on an Agreement for IHS facilities and is working directly with Alaska Tribes on an Agreement template for Alaska THPs.

We look forward to meeting with you and we appreciate your support as we move forward together to enhance and improve the health care experience for our American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary P. Peabody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Peabody, MPH
Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health
for Integrated Veteran Care

Enclosure: Draft THP Reimbursement Agreement