

# Tribal Veterans

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## Native American Veterans

According to the Department of Defense, American Indians and Alaska Natives have one of the highest representations in the armed forces. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs consults with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments to develop partnerships that enhance access to services and benefits by Veterans and their families. USDVA is committed to ensuring that Native American Veterans and their families are able to utilize all benefits and services they are entitled to receive.

Native American Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. USDVA benefits include [disability compensation](#), [pension](#), [education and training](#), [health care](#), [home loans](#), [insurance](#), [vocational rehabilitation and employment](#), and [burial](#). See our [Veterans](#) page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

## Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program

This program helps eligible Native American Veterans finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land or reduce the interest rate on such a USDVA loan. Native American Veterans may use these direct loans to simultaneously purchase and improve a home or refinance another USDVA direct loan made under NADL to lower the interest rate.

Learn more about the [NADL Program](#).

## Office of Tribal Government Relations

The USDVA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) consults with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments to develop partnerships that enhance access to services and benefits by Veterans and their families. OTGR also sponsors regional training sessions for Tribal leaders and Veteran Service Organizations to increase access to Veteran access to USDVA Healthcare and benefits through informative presentations and interactive discussions.

The OTGR team works to strengthen and build closer relations between the USDVA, tribal governments and other key federal, state, private and non-profit partners in an effort to effectively and respectfully serve Veterans across Indian Country. This work is done in the spirit of government to government consultation and collaboration, respectful of the special relationship that exists between the United States and tribal governments.

Our efforts focus on three important goals: facilitating USDVA's Tribal Consultation Policy, facilitating increased access to health care and promoting economic sustainability (highlighting opportunities for

Veterans to access fiscal, educational, housing and other special programs and benefits through the USDVA).

We bring key partners to the table to address important issues raised by tribal leaders. Linking decision makers and stake holders to tribal leadership ensures Indian Country's Veterans know who we at USDVA are, what USDVA offers Veterans and how to reach USDVA to ensure access to the full range of services and benefits our Veterans have courageously earned through their service.

To contact a staff member or locate an OTGR Specialist, visit the [Contact Us](#) page.

## Find a USDVA Facility

Use the [facility locator](#) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

## Contact Your County Veterans Service Office

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of Veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect Veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with the USDVA.

- Visit the [CalVet](#) website for more information, **OR**
- Find the [CVSO](#) closest to you, **OR**

CalVet strongly recommends you to work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

## eBenefits

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

## Questions/Comments

Email us at [CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov)

## Sources

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/Veteran-tribal.asp>

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