



A Continuing Tradition of American Indian and Alaska Native Military Service

American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) have a proud tradition of serving in the Armed Forces. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

- an estimated 177,000 AI/AN Veterans live in the United States.
- AI/AN Veterans have an average life expectancy that is 4 years shorter than that of the general U.S. population.
- AI/AN Veterans face a significantly higher risk of chronic illness.
- AI/AN Veterans are more likely to lack health insurance and have a disability than Veterans of other races.

Coverage by Agency & Insurance Types (cont.)

Medicaid

Medicaid covers children, pregnant women, parents, childless adults in Medicaid expansion states, and people with disabilities. Income limits vary by state, but are typically at or below 133% of the federal poverty level.

Learn more by downloading the “Medicaid Basics” brochure at <http://go.cms.gov/AIANMedicaidBasics>

Health Insurance Marketplace

Insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace can supplement coverage from other agencies. It may provide access to some doctors and specialists unavailable from VA. Also, your family members who are not enrolled in a VA health care program can purchase coverage through the Marketplace. To enroll, please visit healthcare.gov

American Indians and Alaska Natives have special protections. Learn more at www.healthcare.gov/tribal



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Support for Veterans Health Care Coverage

- Where to Go for Assistance
- Coverage by Agency and Insurance Type



HealthCare.gov

Where to Go for Assistance

Tribal Veterans Representatives

A Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) acts as a liaison between tribal communities and Veterans Affairs (VA). These representatives are a good place to start when accessing health coverage. They:

- help Veterans access VA benefits
- assist Veterans with filing claims
- provide Veterans information about services available through VA, the tribal community, federal and state governments, and other sources

TVRs are trained by VA, but employed by tribes. Contact your tribal government to find out if it has a TVR.

Learn more about TVRs at www.ruralhealth.va.gov/native/programs/tribal-veterans.asp

VA Regional Specialists

If your tribe doesn't have a TVR, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations employs regional specialists who can assist Veterans with accessing services. They can connect you with:

- a TVR with another tribe
- a nearby state VA service office
- other federal or state agencies
- private organizations

Find your regional specialist at www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/contact.asp



Coverage by Agency & Insurance Types

Eligibility and Services

AI/AN Veterans may receive health care from multiple agencies and under more than one insurance plan. Even with coverage from VA or Indian Health Service (IHS), Veterans may also want to enroll in Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance.

Veterans Health Administration

Veterans should sign up for VA health benefits as soon as possible after leaving military service. Learn more at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply

VA operates its own health facilities throughout the country. Learn more at www.va.gov/health

If a VA medical facility is inaccessible, the Veteran Choice Program (VCP) makes it possible to receive needed care from a health care provider in your community.

Indian Health Service

If you are an AI/AN Veteran and receive services from an IHS or tribal facility, VA will reimburse all IHS and some tribal health facilities for care provided to Veterans enrolled in VA Health if that care is included under VA Health benefits.

For more info on IHS go to www.ihs.gov

Medicare

People who are 65 or older or permanently disabled may be eligible for Medicare. It covers hospital stays, doctor visits, and treatments ordered by your doctor. Part D prescription drug coverage is available through private insurers.

Learn more at www.medicare.gov