

PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

AKÂRU' NEWS

www.pawneenationhousing.org



WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Housing Office would like to thank all of our tenants for your cooperation in getting recertifications done. The staff have worked hard to update files and get the necessary information required by policy for each of your files.

We have had a few new tenants move in to the Littlesun Addition (Eagle Chief) and we hope everyone is settling in.

The maintenance staff has started with mowing and weed eating around the units, please remember to keep your yards free of debris and toys so they don't get run over.

Please see the information on the beautification project for our homes. This will be a great project for the whole family.

We are continuing to work on workorders, if you have a work order please be patient as we have just got two of our employees back to work after a few months and will get to the workorders as soon as possible.

~ Linda Jestes, PNHA Executive Director

RURAL ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM (REPP)

The REPP Energy Coordinator has been very busy in phase II of the project working on community engagement and signing individuals up for the sensor and smart thermostats.

We were at the Steam Engine Show, hopefully we saw you there! Was a great turnout and we had a great time educating the public about R.E.P.P. and all that we are doing.

We are still taking applications for smart sensors and smart thermostats. The goal of these sensors is to help people understand their energy usage and control their energy consumption better. This will also help with future weatherization efforts in the future! These will be professionally installed, and you will be able to see your real time energy consumption. We will be rolling out these sensors and thermostats very soon! Be an Energy Champion and sign up today!

We are also looking for quality individuals to be trained and nationally certified in solar installation and construction.

(Continued page 5)

COMMISSIONER NEWS

BOARD NEWS

At the March 12, 2024 Commission meeting of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, the Board reviewed the Admissions and Occupancy Policy and approved revisions. They had discussion on the processes for the Homeownership Program and approved a Property Proposal Form. The Commissioners had discussion on ideas for the 2025 Indian Housing Plan.

At the April 10, 2024 Board meeting of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority Commissioners, the Board heard a presentation from Mr. Brian Kirk on the Tribal Home Rebate Program and was given an update on the Housing Collaboration discussed a few months ago. The Board approved the letter of support for the Solve IT Prize Grant and was updated on the Community Meeting that was held on March 19th.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Douglas Gover Miller, Seat #1
James Grant Hawkins, Seat #2
Reva Howell Garcia, Seat #3
Carol Nuttle, Seat #4
Suzy Knife Chief, Seat #5



COMMUNITY MEETING

Our Commissioners would like to thank all who were able to attend the Community Meeting on March 19. A lot of information was taken from the discussion at the meeting and the Commission will be looking at future development and assistance for our community and tribal citizens.

Thank you to the PNHA REPP Energy Coordinator, Alex and Mr. Keith Huggins with Oklahoma Community Action for their presentation on the REPP Grant and Weatherization.

HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

Our Commissioner spotlight for this edition is Ms. Suzy Knife Chief.

Ms. Knife Chief has served on the PNHA Board of Commissioners for four years and is on her second term. She also serves on the Housing Board for the City of Pawnee.

Ms. Suzy has lived in Pawnee most of her life where she has raised her four children; Jonathan Knife Chief, who is the Director of Compliance at PTDC and is married to Kirsten with three beautiful grandbabies; Montana Snell, who is the Research Specialist with PN Enrollment Department; and twin boys, Blake and Randall Knife Chief, who will be in the 5th grade. Ms. Knife Chief has an Associates Degree in Physical Education from Northern Oklahoma College, a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from Oklahoma State University and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Education: Organizational Leadership at Northcentral University.

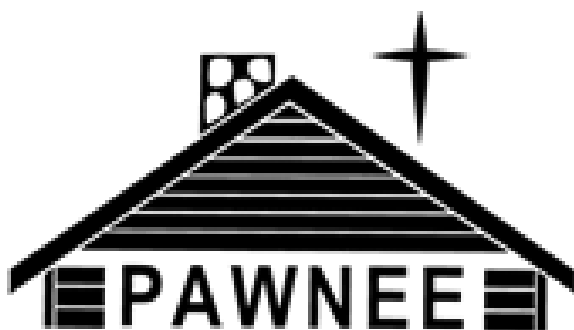
“During my time as a Commissioner, there have been forward movements such as obtaining acreage for housing development with more opportunities for grant funding using the land as leverage” says Ms. Knife Chief. She added, “There is a need to buy homes to either rent them out once renovated or have the lease to purchase option. Housing wants to continue to provide quality homes that are affordable and up to code for our community and tribal members.”



NEXT BOARD MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
May 14th at 11: 30 P.M.

NEXT BOARD MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
June 11th at 11: 30 P.M.

For a full listing of our Commission Meetings, please visit our website at www.pawneenationhousing.org.



PNHA STAFF



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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pawneenationha@sbcglobal.net

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Email: maryhawkins@pawneenationhousing.org

George Gardipe, Project Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1587

Email: pawneepower@gmail.com

Cynthia Butler, Compliance Specialist

Email: cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org

George Pratt, Maintenance Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1697

Alex McSheridan, Energy Coordinator

Email: alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org

Deni Clark, Accountant

Louie Pratt, Maintenance

Austin Clark, General Laborer (WEX)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our employee spotlight this edition is Mr. George Pratt.

Mr. Pratt is our maintenance coordinator. He takes care of all of the plumbing, construction, heating and air, and mowing. If any of our tenants have work orders to be worked on, he is usually the first one called to assess the issues. He has also spent many hours on the weekends and evenings on call for emergency calls for our tenants.

George has worked with the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority for 17 years. He said when asked, what is the best part of the job? “Doing the work. Every-day is a new day with new jobs to do.”

Mr. Pratt has been married to wife, Neva, for 35 years. After moving to Pawnee in 1979, he has raised his five kids here in this community has been here ever since.

We are glad that he has been part of the Housing team over the years. Thank you for all the hard work you have done for our Pawnee Nation Housing tenants Mr. Pratt.

REPP UPDATE CONTINUED

There are job placement and entrepreneurial possibilities along with on-the-job training after this certification process. This is completely free and aimed at people who want to work!

We are doing economics and engineering on the geothermal well conversion, and working out the legal kinks involved in the process.

Next up, we are going to start breaking ground on the geothermal well conversion and solar garden installation. Things are moving right along!

If you have any questions or comments on the REPP Program, don't hesitate to reach out to Alex McSheridan at alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org or stop by the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority office.



The REPP Program was represented at the Oklahoma Steam Engine and Gas Show in May with a booth and raffle of some REPP items. This was part of the Community engagement of the grant.

HOUSING STAFF ACTIVITIES

PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE

As many of you know, I, George Gardipe, was involved in a car accident that caused 2 brain bleeds. I won't go into details, but I am back at the office part time. I have immersed myself back into office support and completing work orders. I am also involved heavily in the REPP program (Rural Energy Project Program).

The 14 acre plot that we purchased has finally closed, and now we are in the process of seeking grants to develop new homes. We are in talks with a grant writer currently to help our office with all the development steps. We have gone through housing development training through HUD (Housing and Urban Development); however, a project this size is going to need an experienced team for a successful initiative. We are dedicated to continue any opportunity we have to attain and build new houses for the next few years to come. We have momentum in our community, and we plan on building as many new homes as we can to help support new businesses in our whole community.

More updates will be coming as we move forward with the planning and development stages. We will keep you all posted on our progress. It is exciting to see the progress that our Housing Commissioners and staff are doing to grow our community here in Pawnee.

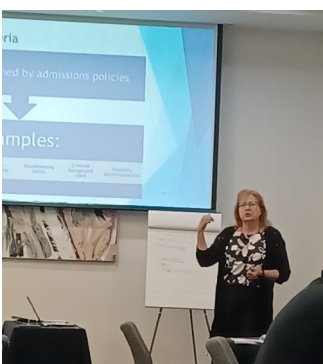
MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES



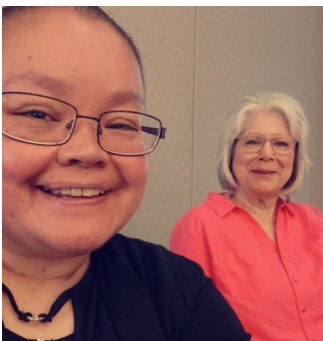
HOUSING STAFF ATTENDING ONAP TRAINING

HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) hosted a three day training on Admissions and Occupancy to help participants to gain an understanding on how NAHASDA policies and program requirements impact processes.

The training was held in Oklahoma City where staff was able to interact with other tribal and state housing authorities to hear real-life examples on the success and challenges of their policies. Training topics included eligibility requirements, wait lists, rent calculations, collections, inspections and lease compliance.



It was a great training to help strengthen our existing policies here at the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority.



HOUSING RECERTIFICATIONS

Thank you everyone for working with us on recertifications. We are now complete and everyone should have their 2024 rent rates for the year.

Reminder, that if at anytime throughout the year your household has any changes in household members or income, please report that to our office so adjustments may be made.

SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

During the months of May and June, we will be installing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in all PNHA units/homes. We will also be sharing information on a family exit plan and other helpful tips that could potentially help your family in case of a home fire.

Should you have any questions, please contact the office and talk with George Gardipe.

Home Fire Safety Checklist



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-  **Cooking Safety**
 - "Keep an eye on what you fry." Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or using an open flame.

 -  **Fireplaces, Space Heaters, Baseboards, etc.**
 - "3 feet from the heat." Furniture, curtains, dish towels and anything that could catch fire are at least 3 feet from any type of heat source.

 -  **Smoking Safety**
 - Never smoke in bed.

 -  **Electrical and Appliance Safety**
 - Always read and understand the instructions on electrical equipment.
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MAY 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

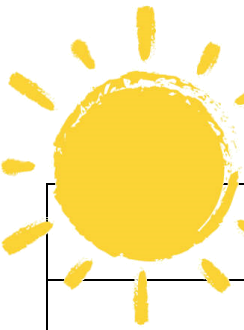
			1 1130 a Pawnee Chamber Mtg	2	3	4
5	6 6 pm City of Pawnee Council Mtg	7 530 p PBC Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14 7 am PPS Board 1130 a PNHA Meeting	15	16 1130 a Pawnee Chamber Roundtable	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Office Closed Memorial Day	28 530 p PBC Meeting	29	30	31	

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

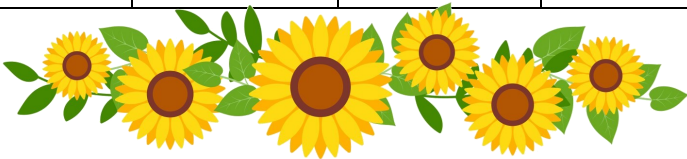
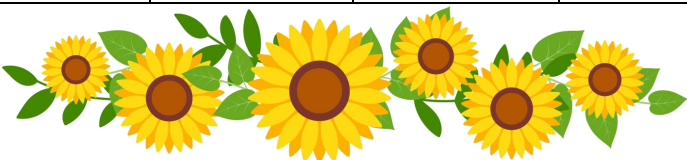
The Housing Authority will be kicking off a beautification project for units and homes. We are asking for your help to beautify our housing locations. What we are needing is you and your family's help in planting and watering newly planted trees and flowers around the units. This would be a great project for the

and we are looking forward to seeing all the spring flowers in bloom. If you would like to help by participating to take care of the flowers, please email Ms. Mary Hawkins or call the office and we will start planting. We also ask that once the flowers are planted that parents please watch the kids so they do not destroy the plants. We look forward to hearing from you all!





June 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PBC Quarterly Mtg PBMR Fish Fry 630 p
2	3 Filter Changes	4 530 p PBC Meeting	5 1130 a Pawnee Chamber Mtg	6	7	8 Wild West Show
9	10	11 7 am PPS Board 1130 a PNHA Meeting	12	13	14	15 Old Time Sat Night
16 Fathers Day	17	18 530 p PBC Mtg	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Filter Changes	28	29
30						

DOG WASTE CLEAN-UP

It has come to our attention that with all the new pets in the neighborhood in Littlesun Addition (Eagle Chief), that some owners are not cleaning up after their pets when letting them out in the yard to poop. We are asking that you please help keep the yards cleaned up of the dog waste and dispose of the waste appropriately. Thank you for attention on the matter.

POLICY REMINDER

We had to send out several policy reminders on the Comfort Pet Policy and the Smoke Free, Drug Free, and Weapon Free Policy this past month. Please be sure that you are aware of the policies that you sign when you become a tenant of the Housing Authority. Thank you for your attention and for following the policies that are in place here at the Housing Authority.

PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Ready to assist you in achieving your wellness goals



Train With
MARLIN MILLER
NASM Certified Personal Trainer, owner & founder at Massters of Gravity

- Health & fitness consultations
- One on one coaching & training
- Macronutrient education
- Goal setting, support, & accountability

THURSDAYS 12 PM - 6PM

PAWNEE NATION WELLNESS CENTER
806 Morris Road
Pawnee, OK 74058

Participants must be signed up with the Pawnee Nation Diabetes Program Wellness Center

Participants must complete a pre-diabetes risk assessment

Participants must do blood pressure, weight, and BMI screening.

Make Appointment or Walk-In
918-762-9762

More Information:
Contact the Diabetes Program (918) 762-9760

RED, WHITE, AND BOOM HEALTH FAIR!

Pawnee Nation Proudly Presents

**WHEN: JULY 3RD, 2024
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(HEALTH WALK WILL START AT 9:30 AM)**

**LOCATION: 806 MORRIS RD
WELLNESS CENTER/GYM
PAWNEE, OK 74058**

EDUCATION, LOTS OF GOODIES, DOOR PRIZES, AND A FREE MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED.

MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE TO RECEIVE MEAL

HOSTED BY
DIVISION OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
(918)762-9734
LISA GOODY
EMAIL:
LG1178@PAWNEENATION.ORG

PAWNEE NATION SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Pirau Park
(Behind the Pawnee Roundhouse-900 Agency Road)
Saturday, June 29th • 9:00 AM

Limit (15) teams: Ages 16+
\$30 entry per team (2 people)
Double Elimination
Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

Pre-registration begins on June 3, 2024 and ends on June 29th, 2024.

Contact SAP at 918-762-2143 or ortiz.mike@pawneenation.org
Registration will be open June 3, 2024 at 8:00AM until all slots are full.

78TH ANNUAL PAWNEE INDIAN VETERANS Homecoming

JULY 4-7, 2024

MOSES YELLOWHORSE MEMORIAL FIELD
Pawnee, Oklahoma

FLAG RAISING AT 7:00AM + PARADE IN AT 7:30PM

THURSDAY JULY 4, 2024 TINY TOTS - BOYS AND GIRLS (AGES 0-7)	SATURDAY JULY 6, 2024 HAWKCHIEF RUN AT 7:00AM PARADE AT 10:00AM
FRIDAY JULY 5, 2024 BATTLE OF THE BANDS HANDGAME AT 1:00PM SELECTION OF THE 2024-2025 HOMECOMING PRINCESS SPECIAL MEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE SPONSORED BY HERB ADSON JUNIOR MEN'S/WOMEN'S (AGES 8-17)	BATTLE OF THE BANDS HANDGAME FINAL AT 2:00PM WOMEN'S FANCY BUSTLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST HONORING OUR VETERANS DANCE CONTEST MEN AND WOMEN COMBINED (VETERANS ONLY) 49 CONTEST
SUNDAY JULY 7, 2024 TAILDANCING AT 2:00PM MEN AND WOMEN GOLDEN AGE CONTEST (AGES 55+)	



PAWNEE NATION PRINCESS CROWNED

Congratulations to the newly crowned 2024-2025 Pawnee Nation Princess, Miss Cora Pratt. She was crowned on April 14th by the Pawnee Nation Princess Committee at the PN Campgrounds.

Princess Cora is the daughter of Warren (Jr) and Christa Pratt and the great granddaughter of Duane and the late Henrietta Pratt and Rick Haught and the late Carolyn Brown.

Miss Cora is a member of the Skidi and Chaui Bands. She is a sophomore at Pawnee Public Schools and is active in Beta Club, gifted and talented, and the Northern Plains Indian Club. She competes on the Black Bear golf team and trains at the Studio K Ballet School. Her future plans are to attend OU and work towards a degree in the Nursing field and profession. She is also a member of the Cushing Indian Baptist Church and has traveled the country with her father and brothers as a part of the Native Gospel team, “The Tribe of Judah”.

Congratulations Miss Cora! We look forward to seeing you represent as the 2024-2025 Pawnee Nation Princess.

Cora Marie Pratt, “Sku,” which means “On that Good Road”.



WEBSITE, FACEBOOK

For more information about the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, please visit our website at www.pawneenationhousing.org or visit us on Facebook at Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, for news and updates.

WELCOME TO THE PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

Pawnee Nation Housing Authority

638 likes · 681 followers

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority provides rental units to tribal members with affordable housing

Message Liked ...

PNHA ANNOUNCES NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority announces a new position

Page · Property Management Company

126 Eaglechief Dr, Pawnee, OK, United States, Oklahoma

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

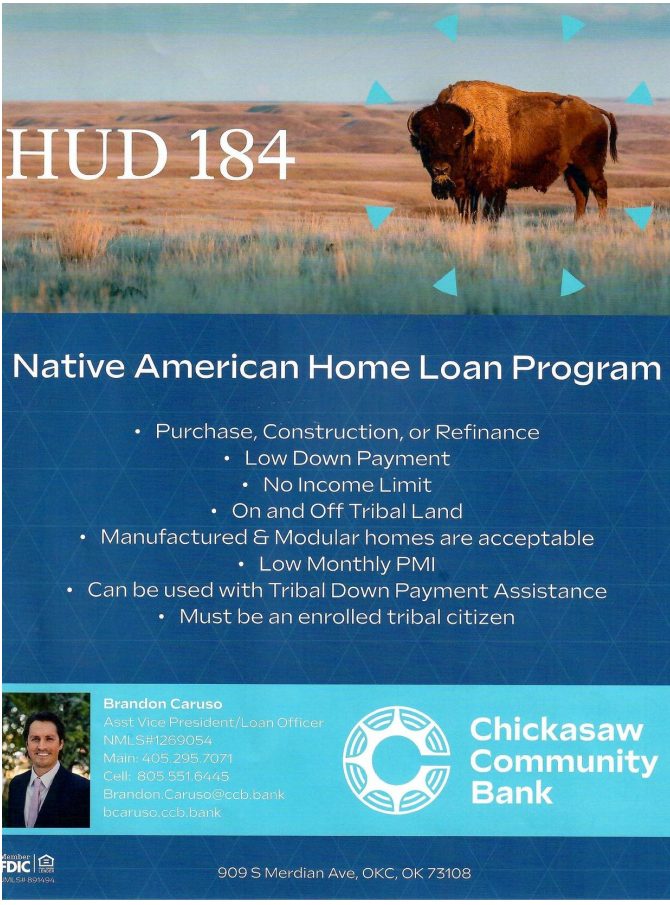
The Housing Authority has several programs for the youth who play sports or participate in extracurricular activities. This program offers assistance to parents in the amount of \$200.00 to help pay for fees, sports gear, sports shoes, etc. This program is income and Pawnee jurisdiction based.

Applications can be picked up at the Housing office or downloaded from the Housing website.

APPLICATION & WAIT LIST PROCESS

What happens after you turn in an application? Here are the steps the Housing Office uses to process applications.

1. A written application by a responsible member of the family will be obtained from each family seeking admission with all supporting documentation and identification attached.
 2. Processing: Verified information will be analyzed and a determination made with respect for the following:
 - a. Verification of applicant as a family - Background checks, Landlord check
 - b. Eligibility of applicant with respect to income limits for admission - Income verification with employer
 - c. Size of unit required for the family
 - d. Preference and/or Priority of applicant family - Priority #1 - Pawnee Tribal Members, Priority #2 - Pawnee Descendancy, Priority #3 - Other federally recognized tribes. Preference - Veterans, Elders and disabled
 - e. Determination of eligibility with respect to standard of admission of Housing programs.
 4. After all verification is cleared, the application is forwarded to the waiting list based on preference, priority, family size and income.
 5. Applicants should update their application annually to remain on the waiting list.
 6. Once a unit becomes available the next applicant on the waiting list will be contacted.
- A deposit of \$300 and first months rent is due before the applicant moves in.




HUD 184


Native American Home Loan Program

- Purchase, Construction, or Refinance
 - Low Down Payment
 - No Income Limit
- On and Off Tribal Land
- Manufactured & Modular homes are acceptable
 - Low Monthly PMI
- Can be used with Tribal Down Payment Assistance
 - Must be an enrolled tribal citizen

Brandon Caruso
Asst Vice President/Loan Officer
NMLS#1269054
Main: 405.295.7071
Cell: 805.551.6445
Brandon.Caruso@ccb.bank
bcaruso.ccb.bank



**Chickasaw
Community
Bank**

 909 S Meridian Ave, OKC, OK 73108

HUD 184 LOANS

Are you interested in learning more about HUD 184 Loans? The Housing Office would like to set up a class for anyone who is interested in learning more about this HUD program.

If you are interested, please let us know by calling the office or emailing Cynthia Butler to get on the sign-up for this presentation to be offered.

HOMEBUYERS CLASS

If you are interested in taking a homebuyers class, we have resources available at the Housing Office. Please come by or visit our website for resources and information. Classes are held online or if we get enough people who are interested, we can have a class set up. Let us know if you are interested!

VA NEWS BLOG POST

April 1, 2024

Mike Catalano

Public Affairs Specialist, VHA Office of Tribal Health

Title: American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans: apply for your copayment exemption today

Subtitle: VA is here to walk you through your application

Description: More than 4,000 American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans have been approved for the copayment exemption and we are here to help you apply

Tags: Copayment Exemption; Native Veteran; American Indian/Alaska Native Veteran

If you are an eligible American Indian/Alaska Native Veteran, effective January 5, 2022, you no longer have to make copayments for health care and urgent care received through VA. You can also get reimbursed for copayments paid on or after January 5, 2022.

So far, more than 4,000 Native Veterans have been approved for this exemption. Over 168,000 copayments totaling more than \$3 million have been exempted and/or reimbursed.

We encourage you to apply and welcome the opportunity walk you through the process or answer any questions. Please call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

How to apply:

You can apply for the copayment exemption by completing these three steps:

- Make a copy of only one of the following official Tribal documents, including, but not limited to:
 - ◊ Tribal Enrollment or Citizenship/Membership ID Card, or
 - ◊ Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or
 - ◊ Documentation issued by a Tribe on official letterhead indicating individual affiliation.
- Fill out VA Form 10-334 and make a copy. The form can be found at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-334>.
- Mail both documents to:
 - VHA Tribal Documentation
 - PO Box 5100
 - Janesville, WI 53547-5100

The Office of Tribal Health welcomes the opportunity to provide outreach in your community

VA established the Office of Tribal Health in June 2022. The Office is led by Dr. Christie Prairie Chicken and regularly provides outreach around the nation, including Indian Country. If you would like the Office of Tribal Health to provide outreach in your community and/or attend an event to help with copayment exemption applications, please send an email to VHAOfficeofTribalHealth@va.gov.