



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

October 23, 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am happy to announce that, on October 21, 2015, the *Federal Register* published a notice announcing the implementation of the Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) demonstration program. (80 FR 63822).

This innovative program combines the efforts of both HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bring comprehensive health and housing services to Native American veterans who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and who live on or near an Indian reservation or Indian area. For the first time, housing providers in Indian Country will have access to a program that provides a kind of rental assistance that is similar to HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. This new program has been customized to work for tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) that administer Indian Housing Block Grants and other federal assistance programs.

Participation in Tribal HUD-VASH will be limited to 30 tribes. Tribes will be selected based on the greatest need. Those tribes with the highest number of Native American veterans, based on data from the VA and Census, will be invited to apply to the program. Within the next two weeks, selected tribes from each geographical region of the country will receive a letter from HUD, inviting them to apply for this funding. Awardees will be announced by HUD by the end of December 2015.

The Department is hopeful that a successful demonstration program this year will lead to an expansion of the program in future years. The Obama Administration is determined to end veterans' homelessness, including for those Native American vets who live on reservations or in other Indian areas. The Tribal HUD-VASH program will be another way to provide not only housing, but holistic case management services to this underserved population.

You will be kept informed of this important program's status as it is implemented during its demonstration phase. Thank you for your continued support of and participation with HUD's Office of Native American Programs to bring housing assistance to low-income tribal members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy Akers".

Randy Akers
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs