

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services



**Brigadier General
Jamison A Herrera
Acting Cabinet Secretary**

**Beverly Charley
Tribal Liaison**

New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services



Mission

The NM Department of Veteran Services is committed to working with and responding to all joint Veterans' related issues and concerns for the State Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes.

Benefit and Purpose:

Seek out Community and to support N.M. Native American Veterans by creating a foundation and relationship with each Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes Veterans Representatives.

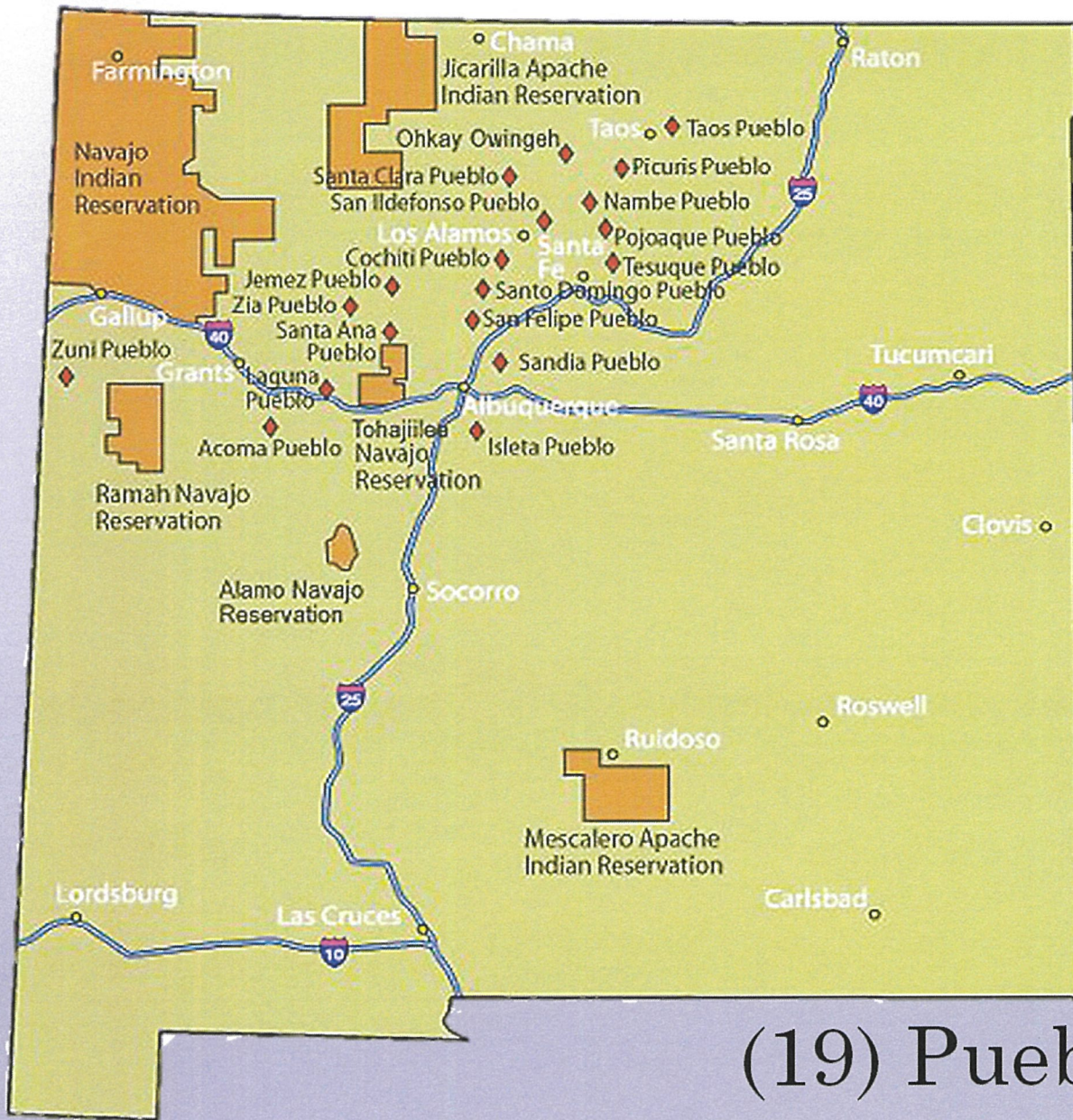
New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services



Native Americans have served in the United States Military at three times the rate of any other ethnic group and have the highest rate of combat service.

Since 2018, the Native American Veterans Program serves approximately 40,000 Native Veterans in tribal communities across New Mexico.

We strive to uphold the treaty obligations to Native American tribes by utilizing outreach to educate and assist all eligible Native American Veterans and their families with State and Federal Claims, enroll into the VA Healthcare and to address the needs, concerns, and issues with the Veterans and their families.



(19) Pueblos
(1) Navajo Nation
(3) Apache Tribes and Nations

New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services



NMDVS Tribal Liaison

New Mexico Native American Veterans Statewide: 40,000+/-

19 Pueblos: (US Census 2020-2021)

Pueblo of Acoma	115+-	Pueblo of Picuris	4+-	Pueblo of Santa Clara	89+-
Pueblo of Cochiti	126 +-	Pueblo of Pojoaque	208+-	Pueblo of Santo Domingo	500+-
Pueblo of Isleta	278+-	Pueblo of San Felipe	115+-	Pueblo of Taos	100+-
Pueblo of Jemez	71+-	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	50+-	Pueblo of Tesuque	5+-
Pueblo of Laguna	600+-	Pueblo of Sandia	17+-	Pueblo of Zia	20+-
Pueblo of Nambe	97+-	Pueblo of Santa Ana	40+-	Pueblo of Zuni	427+-
Pueblo of Okay Owingeh	92+-				

1 Pueblo: (Borderline) Ysleta Del Sur 80+-

4 Nations / Tribes: (US Census 2020 – 2021)

Navajo Nation	14,000+-	Jicarilla Apache Nation	50+-	Mescalero Apache Tribe	400+-
		Fort Sill Apache Nation	115+-		

1 Nation: (Borderline) Southern Ute Nation 920+-

New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services Tribal Liaison



Accredited - Native American VSOs: RED (8) Representatives: BLACK

Pueblo of Acoma
Nolan Valdo
Pueblo of Jemez
Gail Romero
Pueblo of San Felipe
James Cavelario
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Joscelyn Lister
Pueblo of Taos
Laquita Cruz
Pueblo of Tesuque
Jeannette Jagles
Pueblo of Zia
Angela Salas
Ysleta del Sur
Tricia Boodhoo

Pueblo of Isleta
Fred Lujan
Ulysses Abeita
Pueblo of Santa Clara
Virginia Salazar-Halfmoon
Pueblo of Zuni
Tyler Lastiyano
Kathy Natachu
Angela Waseta-Rivera
Carlyle Quam
Pueblo of Laguna
Christine Sarracino
Patrick Aragon
Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Avelino Calabaza
Sam Lovato

Mescalero Apache Tribe
Kelton Starr
Navajo Nation
Bobbie Baldwin
Lori John
Janice Author
Lou Barber
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Lyle Atole
Adrian Julian

Continued collaboration and partnership with Native American VSOs (8) in assisting all NM Veterans - Provide continuous on-going mentorship of Native American VSO's including the Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes.



VA Veteran Tribal Population:

Navajo Nation:	25,000	Acoma Pueblo:	196
Cochiti Pueblo:	128	Isleta Pueblo:	233
Jemez Pueblo:	68	Laguna Pueblo:	202
Nambe Pueblo:	118	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo:	308
Picuris Pueblo:	137	Pojoaque Pueblo:	246
Sandia Pueblo:	217	San Felipe Pueblo:	89
San Ildefonso Pueblo:	113	Santa Ana Pueblo:	31
Santa Clara Pueblo:	711	Santo Domingo Pueblo:	135
Taos Pueblo:	388	Tesuque Pueblo:	46
Zuni Pueblo:	316	Zia Pueblo:	23
		Total:	28,705

“Leave No Veteran Left Behind”

GOALS:

- **Monthly N.M. Native American Veteran Collaboration meetings / Quarterly (In Person) Meetings at different Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes**
- **Establish overall Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes focusing outreach on Tribal Lands, VSO Training, and any other NMDVS Services**
- **Continue to use all available fundings to train Native American VSOs to be NACVSO (National Accredited Veteran Service Officers)**
- **Provide Public Information Officer (PIO) assistance to amplify messaging**
- **Serve as Point of Contact with ongoing communication between State and affected Indian Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes**
- **Increase the number of Native American/Native Veterans to State and Federal Benefits**
- **Sustain government to government working relationships.**
- **Assist Veterans not eligible for VA resources to obtain services.**
- **Assist with Coordinating Veterans Resource Fairs via Tribal Lands**



“Leave No Veteran Left Behind”

Healthcare Coordination Division

Highly Rural Transportation Services



Advocating, on behalf of veterans and their families, with their healthcare-related needs. The division develops and coordinates veteran programs and outreach that promote transportation to VA medical appointments

Newly added Rural areas:

- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Navajo Nation, Alamo
- Navajo Nation, Ramah

Appointments:

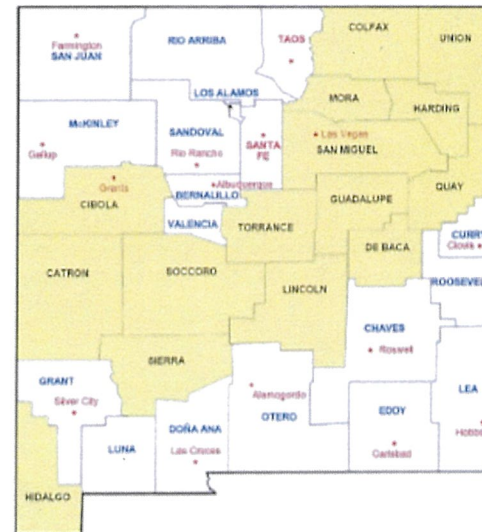
Transportation provided to the VA medical center or VA-approved medical facility.
 Veteran must live in a highly rural county in New Mexico (see map.) Veterans or their family members may call 3-days in advance to reserve a ride. Call the Highly Rural Transportation Program at the number below:

505-429-5906

Eligible Highly Rural Counties in NM (shaded in yellow)

Catron	Cibola	Colfax	De Baca	Guadalupe
Harding	Hidalgo	Lincoln	Mora	Quay
San Miguel	Sierra	Socorro	Torrance	Union

The 15 Counties Served by the DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program



Transportation Reservation Line:
 505-429-5906

PACT Acts on Tribal Lands:

Collaborated with the Department of Veterans Affairs to attend and support PACT Acts/Resource Fairs for Native American Veterans on Tribal Lands

- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Santa Clara / Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Navajo Nation, Fort Defiance
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Navajo Nation, Shiprock, NM
- Pueblo of Zuni

Stand Downs/Resource Fairs - Tribal Lands:

- Church Rock, NM
- Taos, NM
- Albuquerque, NM



ONE on ONE Assistance / Collaboration

- Assisted Navajo Nation Veterans with (2) Missing Headstones
- Assisted with (7) Navajo Nation Code Talkers Headstones either to be replaced and/or ordered
- Assisted with US Flags at time of Death to those immediate funerals on Tribal Lands.
- Collaborated with Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes with wheelchairs, walkers, and other resources
- Continued Collaboration with the Native American Training Institute (NATI) and the Southwest Native American Veterans Association (SWNAVA) keeping open dialogue for the Spring 2023 and upcoming training conference in the for Spring 2024
- Collaborating with each Pueblo, Nation, and Tribe in Health, Benefits and Education Outreach ie. VBOC, Women's Veterans Conference, Suicide Training, and VSO Training
- Assist and support consistent visits with the Pueblo of Isleta with conducting Resource Fairs for Veterans regarding Suicide preventions, State and Federal Claims for two months.
- Working and assisting Borderline Native American Veterans for appointments to Federal Claims process



Support/Outreach:



- Seek out Native American Veterans to assist with State and Federal Benefits
- Continued collaboration with the NM Indian Affairs Department (NMIAD) and respond to those veterans with immediate needs for guidance and assistance ie. Constituent issues regarding Native American Veterans, and their families
- Have doubled in numbers to hire VSOs in each Veterans Service offices, (To present, have (24) NMDVS VSOs on hand) Who have will assist, mentor, and guide current Native American VSOs in applying for Federal and State Benefits.
- Continue to build relations with each Pueblo, Nation, and Tribe, conducting onsite visits, having virtual monthly meetings and quarterly in person meetings. Encourage Veterans within each Pueblo, Nation, and Tribe to apply for benefits
- Continued virtual and onsite participation with all Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes in Collaboration with access to over 40 organizations, Agencies, and providing benefits, services, and resources to tribal lands and near tribal lands.
- Continued data sharing and information exchanges with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos in providing a Survey to all NM Native American Veterans Representatives.



Events:

- Acting Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera attended Eastern Navajo Agency Commanders meeting covering (31) Navajo Nation Chapters House Veterans Organization monthly meeting
- Attended Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) NM Veterans Business Summit in Las Cruces, NM – outreaching to Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur, questioning what resources used in NM
- NMDVS leads Veterans Advisory for Governor’s office, having (2) Native American Veterans: Fred Lujan from the Pueblo of Isleta and Gilbert Platero from The Navajo Nation
- Collaborating with Run for the Wall (RFTW) New Mexico State Coordinator to retrieve Bios and Pics from the different Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes
- Attended and spoke at Veterans Day, at Navajo Nation, Beclabito Chapter House
- Tribal liaison attended Pueblo of Zuni Veterans Social Dinner
- NMDVS State Employees continue Annual training to Building Cultural Equity with Native Nations
- Attend / Support / Learn – from weekly Tribal Leaders / Tribal Liaison meetings

Event Days listed in the last year:

- Internet/Tribal connect virtual meeting
- Indian Day at the Legislature
- Military Day at the State Fair
- Military/Veterans Day
- The Miguel Trujillo Day 75th Anniversary



Juan P. Quintana Jr. WWI, Jicarilla Apache Nation



NMDVS strives to assist Native American Veterans and their families who are eligible for services to State and Federal Benefits.

We dedicate our work in Honor of those who served before us.

Please Contact:



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