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**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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WDVA Bulletin No.

TO: Tribal Veterans Service Offices

SUBJECT: 2016 American Indian Veterans' Service Grants

In accordance with the newly revised Wis. Stats. s. 45.82(4) and Wisconsin Administrative Code Section VA 15, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) announces the 2016 American Indian Veterans' Service (AIVS) Grant for improvement of services to tribal veterans, on a reimbursable basis. The WDVA shall twice yearly reimburse grant recipients for documented expenses, subject to the statutory annual reimbursement limit, not to exceed \$15,000.00.

To apply for a grant, the federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands shall do the following:

1. File a grant application (WDVA 0056B) with WDVA for the current fiscal year (7/1/15 – 6/30/16).
2. File a Grant Agreement (WDVA 0056C) with the WDVA for the current fiscal year (7/1/15 – 6/30/16). The grant agreement must have your tribe's name inserted in the four appropriate places and be signed by a Tribal Government official and your Tribal Veterans Service Officer.
3. File a federal benefits service delivery report (WDVA 0056D) with WDVA for the preceding fiscal year (7/1/14 – 6/30/15), not "calendar" year as requested in previous years.
4. The grant application must include a statement in the application cover letter which addresses the respective tribe's success in meeting the previous years' (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) goals and objectives as well as including their goals and objectives for the current fiscal year (7/1/15 – 6/30/16).

The application packet for the **2016 AIVS Grants**, WDVA 0056, is available online at http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/newsMediaDocuments/WDVA%20Toolkit/WDVA_0056_TVSO_Grant_Packet_2015.docx. Completed application materials referenced above must be mailed or faxed to the address/fax no. listed above, no later than **Friday, November 13, 2015**. Indicate in transmittal envelope or cover sheet that it is the **2016 AIVS Grant**. Applications may also be scanned and emailed to VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov. Please use "**2016 AIVS Grant**" in the subject line.

In those cases where a federally recognized tribe or band also has status as a county, the governing body of the tribe or band may apply for an AIVS grant or for a county veterans' service grant under Wisconsin Administrative Code VA 8, but is not eligible for a grant under both programs.

With the passage of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, as referenced above, the WDVA shall provide AIVS grants on a reimbursable basis, to the governing bodies of federally recognized American Indian tribes and bands (hereafter referred to as Tribe). Only the following expense [categories], as defined by WDVA and subject to change in subsequent years by rule, are eligible for reimbursement this application period:

1. **Information technology**: means computer equipment and/or database infrastructure to assist Counties with the processing of USDVA Disability Claims).
2. **Transportation for veterans** (e.g., senior centers, VA hospitals, veterans homes, veteran and military organizations, etc..) **and service to veterans with barriers** (e.g., economic, health, limited transportation services in county).
Special outreach to veterans: means outreach efforts to veterans regarding state and federal veterans' benefit programs and services (e.g., marketing, advertisement, promotional materials, news letters).
3. **Training and services provided by the department and the federal department of veterans affairs**: means formal training/conferences (including associated travel expenses: mileage, meals, room and board, registration fees), sponsored by the department and federal department of veterans affairs for training in processing USDVA Veterans disability claims and applications for state benefits.
4. **Salary and fringe benefit expenses incurred in 2015; salary and fringe benefit expenses incurred in 2016, except that total reimbursement for such expenses shall not exceed 50 percent of the applicable maximum grant.**

To request reimbursement for documented expenses, a Tribe must complete **WDVA FORM #0056F** (Tribal Veterans Service Reimbursement Grant Worksheet) and submit to WDVA as follows:

1st Reimbursement Grant Period: **WDVA FORM #0056F** must be provided to WDVA by January 15, 2016 for documented expenses incurred July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

2nd Reimbursement Grant Period: **WDVA FORM #0056F** must be provided to WDVA by June 15, 2016 for documented expenses incurred January 1, 2016 – May 31, 2016.

WDVA FORM #0056F can be completed and submitted to WDVA as many times as a Tribe deems necessary throughout the fiscal year. However, the WDVA will only reimburse a Tribe for documented and allowable expenses, twice yearly in accordance with Wis. Stats. § 45.82(4) and following each of the two reimbursement grant periods reference above. A Tribal Government official must certify that the completed Tribal Veterans Service Reimbursement Grant Worksheet is complete and accurate.

A letter announcing the availability of the AIVS Grant is also being sent to the Tribal President/Chairperson of each of the eleven federally recognized tribes and bands referenced in VA 15.01.

For questions regarding the **2016** AIVS Grant, please call 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387) and ask to speak with Chad McCafferty, or submit an email to *VetsBenefitsGrants@dva.wisconsin.gov*