

Indian Health Service/Tribal Health Program/ Urban Indian Organization (I/T/U) Healthcare Reimbursement Agreement Program (RAP)

March 11, 2026

VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

OVERVIEW OF THE VA I/T/U RAP

Since 2012, VA has administered the Indian Health Services/Tribal Health Program/Urban Indian Organization (I/T/U) [Reimbursement Agreement Program \(RAP\)](#).

Purpose of the program is to provide reimbursement to I/T/U health care facilities for services provided to dually eligible American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans

Do **not** require VA preauthorization

Are **not** subject to VA Copay

Care is not considered VA Care

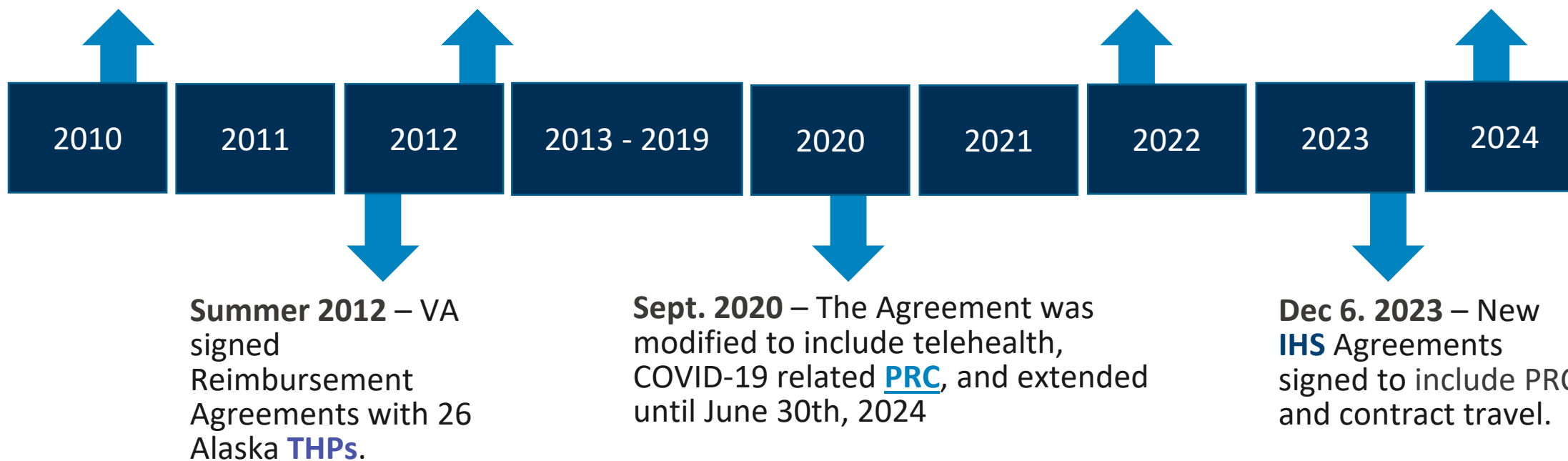
Timeline of the VA RAP

Oct. 2010 – VA and **IHS** renewed and signed an agency level **MOU** to improve access to care, care coordination, and resource sharing. The MOU was updated in 2021.

Dec. 2012 – The National VA-**IHS** Reimbursement Agreement was signed and individual THPs began establishment.

Feb. 2022 – The RAP program scope expanded to include **UIOs** to increase access to Tribal care in urban locations.

July 2024 – New **THPs (L48)** and **UIO** agreement released



The RAP by the Numbers

As of February 2026:



132 Tribal Health Program (THP),
65 Indian Health Service (IHS), and
12 Urban Indian Organization (UIO)



During FY25, VA spent \$27 million in reimbursements for AI/AN

Key Benefits

BENEFIT	DESCRIPTION
Collaboration	Promotes resource sharing through collaborative relationships both inter-governmental by sharing resources and with the community.
Choice of Provider and Access	Eligible AI/AN Veterans can choose to receive their health care from an I/T/U facility in a culturally sensitive environment, often closer to their home.
Supports Economic Sustainability	VA reimbursement can support facility budgets. THP facilities must bill the Veteran's Other Health Insurance (OHI) prior to billing VA. VA will reimburse for the balance remaining after OHI reimbursements up to the Agreement rates (except for Medicaid, which consider their payments in full).
No Prior Authorization	I/T/U facilities that provide direct care services to eligible AI/AN Veterans do not require VA preauthorization to receive reimbursement from the VA.
No Copayment	VA copayments do not apply to direct care services delivered by the I/T/U healthcare facility to eligible AI/AN Veterans under agreements with VA. (Pursuant to section 405(c) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA))
Outpatient Pharmacy Benefit	Facilities will be reimbursed for outpatient medications dispensed by the facility that are on the IHS/THP facilities formulary. UIO medications must be on VA formulary. This is not limited to emergent prescriptions.

Sharing Agreements are the authority to enter the relationship.

- Different from other VA Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), Sharing Agreements, or Interagency Agreements (IAAs)
- Not part of VA purchased care programs.
 - Community Care Network (CCN)
 - Veteran Care Agreement (VCA)
 - Local Contracts
- Program managed by the Office of Integrated Veteran Care (IVC) but agreements are established between the local VAMC and I/T/U facilities.



AI/AN Care Options



ITU Direct Care

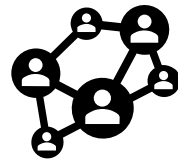


IHS/THP PRC



I/T/U

No VA referral needed



Community Providers

IHS/THP referral required

No VA referral needed

Reimbursement Agreement Program



VA Direct Care



VAMC

No VA referral needed



VA Purchased Care

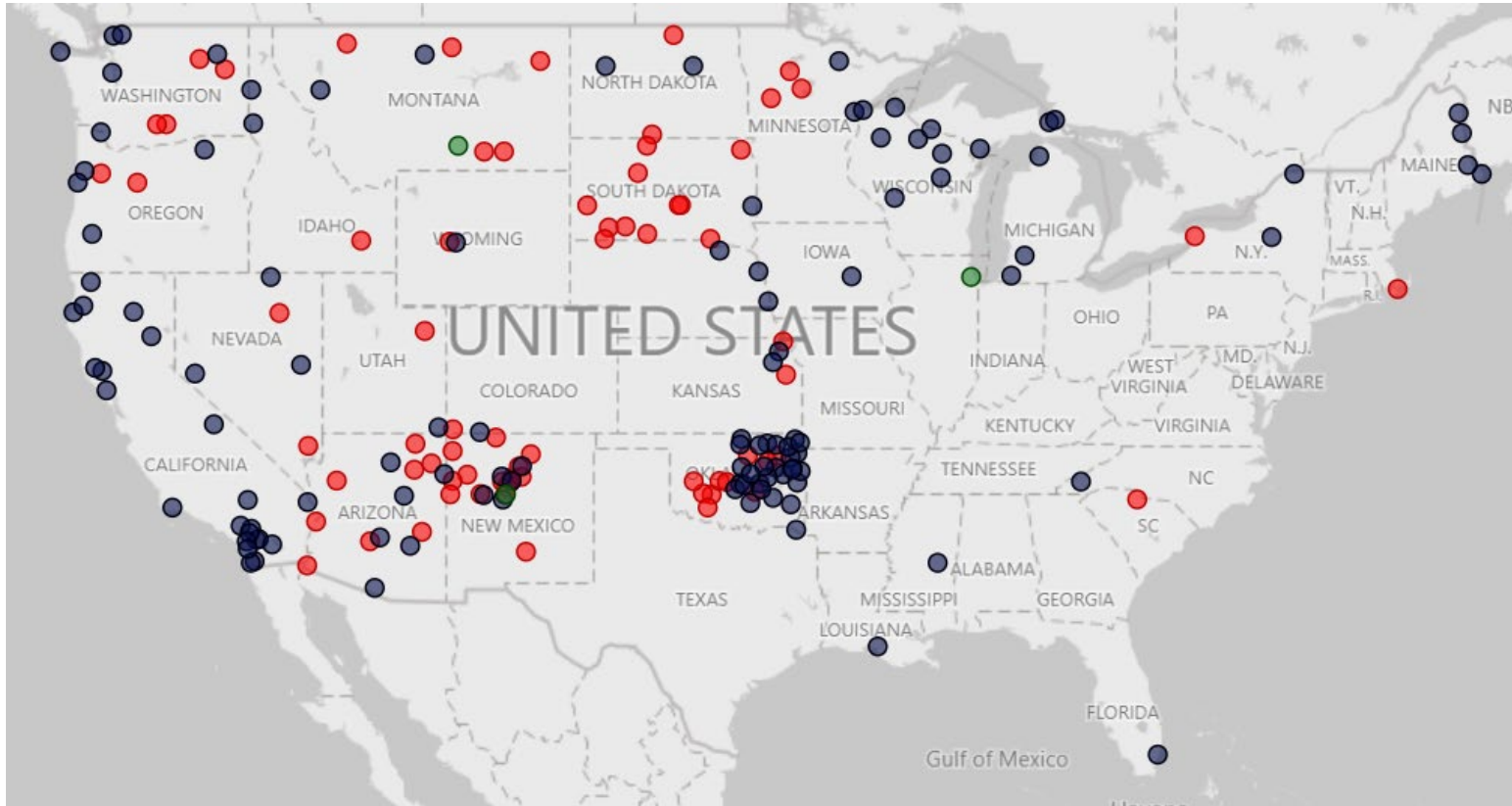


Community Providers

VA referral required

Not part of the Reimbursement Agreement Program

I/T/U Facility Locations



IHS	THP	UIO	Total
65	132	12	209

Visit the [VA website](#) for complete I/T/U facilities listing.

Updated February 2026

USET - ITU RAP Participating Tribes / Tribal Health Facilities

State	Tribes
Florida	Seminole Tribe of Florida
Louisiana	Chitimacha Health Clinic
Maine	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Passamaquoddy Health Center Mi'kmaq Nation Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point Health Center
Massachusetts	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Health
Mississippi	Mississippi Band of Choctaw
North Carolina	Eastern Band of Cherokee
Texas	Tigua Tribe Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Virginia	Nansemond Indian Nation Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe



Scope of Services

- **Direct Care Services:** health care services provided directly by I/T/U facilities
- **Purchased/Referred Care and Contracted Travel:** healthcare services purchased by IHS/THP facilities

Generally, VA will reimburse for services that are part of VA's Medical Benefits package such as:

- ✓ Outpatient, inpatient hospital, surgical, and mental healthcare, including care for substance abuse
- ✓ Outpatient prescription pharmaceutical drugs
- ✓ Emergency care (Direct Care - PRC would follow VA payment regulation)
- ✓ Telehealth

Scope of Service, Special Eligibility

- Veterans must meet special eligibility for some limited benefit services.
- Medical records may be required to determine eligibility.

Limited Benefits include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Dental Care
- ✓ Long Term Care/Residential Treatment

I/T/U RAP Reimbursement Rates

SERVICE	RATE INFORMATION
Outpatient Services	IHS and THP - IHS All Inclusive Rate (AIR) published in the Federal Register UIO - Medicare rates
Inpatient Hospital Services	IHS, Lower 48 THP and UIO: Medicare rates Alaska THP: IHS AIR Inpatient Hospital Per Diem (excludes Physician/ Practitioners Services). Professional charges will be paid at the Alaska Fee Schedule.
Ambulatory Surgical Services	IHS, Lower 48 THP and UIO: Medicare rates Alaska THP: IHS AIR
Durable Medical Equipment	IHS and Lower 48 THP : Reasonable Billed Charges Alaska THP and UIO: Medicare rates for DMEPOS
Outpatient Pharmacy	IHS: Billed charges THP and UIO: Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) plus dispensing fee
Purchased Referred Care/ Contract Travel	IHS and THP: What the Tribe paid with EOB submission. Does not eliminate PRC requirements to seek OHI UIO: PRC and Contract Travel is not Reimbursable

Program Requirements, Summary

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Reimbursement **Agreement** – Executed with VA and THP/UIO. IHS is signed Nationally.
- Complete **Implementation Plan** and Required Document

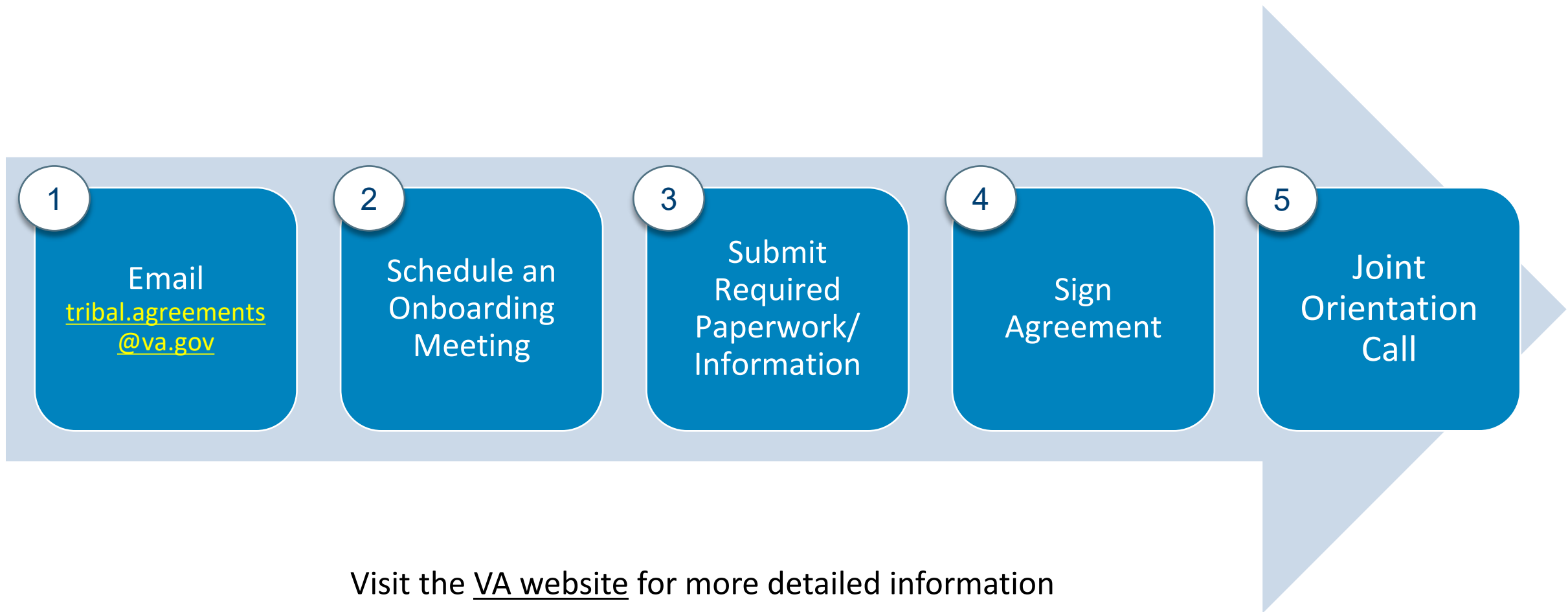
VETERAN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Native Status** – eligible for services from IHS/THP/UIO in accordance with 42 CFR part 136
- **VA Eligible** for VA services provided under 38 CFR 17.38 the Medical Benefits Package

BILLING REQUIREMENTS

- **Timely filing** – submit claims within 36 months of date of service
- Use **CMS guidelines** for submitting Direct Care claims (except for pharmacy) and VA invoice submission process for PRC/ CT
- Use of **EDI** accepted and referred

Initiating a Reimbursement Agreement



The screenshot shows the VA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the VA logo, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs name, a search bar, and links for 'Contact us' and 'Sign in'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'VA Benefits and Health Care', 'About VA', and 'Find a VA Location'. The main content area is titled 'Community Care' and includes a sidebar menu with options like 'Community Care Home', 'Veteran Care', 'Family Member Care', 'For Caregivers', 'For Providers', 'Overview', 'COVID-19 Guidance', 'Veteran Care', 'Community Care Network', 'Veterans Care Agreements', 'Types of Care', and 'Urgent Care'. The main text area is titled 'IHS/THP/UIO Reimbursement Agreements Program-Information for Providers' and contains introductory text about the program and its expansion in 2023 and 2024.

To contact someone in VA's RAP:
Tribal.Agreements@va.gov

Participating facilities with
payment questions, contact:
vha_104p_ops_western_region_nw@va.gov
ihs_thp_support@va.gov

- **Website** <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info-IHS-THP.asp>
- **Provider guide** – The guide contains specific operational details, hosted on website



Contact

tribal.agreements@va.gov