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After VA waives copays, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans save \$2.5 million in health care costs

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it has exempted or reimbursed more than 143,000 copayments totaling approximately \$2.5 million for more than 3,800 eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

This is a result of VA's [new 2023 policy](#) that eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are no longer required to make copayments for VA health care, urgent care, or prescriptions. Under this policy, VA also reimburses for copayments paid on or after Jan. 5, 2022.

"To live their best lives, Veterans need access to affordable health care," said **VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** "This copayment exemption honors our treaties with sovereign nations and the distinguished service of American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans."

Eligible Veterans include any American Indian and Alaska Native Veteran who [meets the definitions of "Indian" or "urban Indian"](#) under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

VA is continuing to receive, review, and process documentation for the copayment exemption. To apply for the copayment exemption, Veterans should mail 1) a completed [VA Tribal Documentation Form \(VA Form 10-334\)](#), and 2) a copy of official tribal documentation to VHA Tribal Documentation at P.O. Box 5100, Janesville, WI 53547.

Find [more information](#) on the copayment exemption for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

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