

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT POLICY 07-001

SUBJECT: TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 2007

- 1.0 POLICY: The Arizona Department of Veterans Services (ADVS) is committed to consulting with the 22 federally-recognized tribes in Arizona prior to undertaking any action or policy that will, or is reasonably believed to, have the potential to affect a tribal community or its members. To the fullest extent possible, ADVS will integrate input generated from tribal consultation into their decision-making processes to achieve mutually acceptable solutions.
- 2.0 AUTHORITY: Arizona Revised Statutes §41-604, Duties and Powers of the Director and Executive Order 2006-14.
- 3.0 RESPONSIBILITY: The Deputy Director is designated as (1) the central point of contact for tribal government contacts; (2) implementing policies regarding the provision of service to eligible state citizens residing in Arizona tribal communities; (3) reviewing such policies annually; and (4) submitting an annual report to Governor and Legislature outlining actions taken as a result of the policies.
- 4.0 DEFINITIONS
"Consultation" means the direct and interactive involvement of Arizona tribes in the development of agency policies on matters that have tribal implications. Consultation is the active, affirmative, and collaborative process of (1) identifying and seeking input from appropriate Native American governing bodies, community groups and individuals; and (2) considering their interest as a necessary and integral part of the agency's decision-making process. This definition adds to any statutorily mandated notification procedures. The goal of notification is to provide an opportunity for comment; however, with consultation procedures, the burden is on the federal agency to show that it has made a good faith effort to elicit feedback.

"Native American tribe" means an Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a.
- 5.0 PROCEDURES
5.1 As the agency develops strategic plans or makes management decisions, the Deputy Director determines if there is potential impact on Arizona Native American veterans.
5.2 When a management decision has the potential for impact on Arizona Native American veterans, the Deputy Director is responsible for:
5.2.1 Traveling to tribal governments to meet with representatives and requesting their input.
5.2.2 Working with the Native American Tribal Council established by the agency to request feedback on specific issues.
5.2.3 Contacting tribal representatives by telephone or other means to obtain their input.
5.2.4 Consider opinions and concerns expressed by the tribes as management before decisions are finalized.
5.3 The Deputy Director or designee will participate in outreach events that are sponsored by tribal governments, ensuring that the agency is available to provide services to veterans and their families.
5.4 The Deputy Director or designee will partner with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct outreach to Arizona Native American veterans.
- 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION: Implementation shall occur on the effective date of the order and shall continue until changes require a revision.

Director, Joey Strickland