

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation Signs Monumental Agreement with VA



Chairperson Liana Onnen of Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and Mike Frueh, Director, Veterans Benefits Administration, Loan Guaranty Service sign the NADL MOU agreement.

Editors Note: The following article was submitted by Ivonne Perez, loan specialist for the Native American Direct Loan program in Loan Guaranty Service.

On May 5, 2015, leaders of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and Mike Frueh, director of Loan Guaranty Services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, signed the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement enabling Veterans of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi “Keepers of the Fire” to use their richly-deserved VA home loan benefit on tribal land. The VA is happy to announce this agreement has been signed with Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation.

Organizers of the historic event say the signing of this intergovernmental document exemplifies the commitment of both organizations to provide housing for Native Americans, something that chairperson Liana Onnen of Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation says is very important.

“We recognize the great need of affordable housing throughout Indian Country,” Onnen said. “The Native American Direct Loan program provides a viable opportunity in homeownership and improvement benefits for our returning warriors right here at home.” Onnen added that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is enthusiastic to move forward the partnership with VA.

Following the monumental signing, a Veterans Resource Fair provided information about VA health, education, compensation, pension, and vocational rehabilitation benefits.

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation is located in Kansas and encompasses 121.429 square miles with over 5,000 enrolled members, many of which are Veterans. Native Americans have the highest percentage of military enlistment of any demographic. Once these brave men and women return from

serving their country, many Native American Veterans choose to make their home on the reservation. This dream can now become reality for Prairie Band of Potawatomi Veterans.

The NADL program is a direct loan from the VA for Native American Veterans to use to build, remodel or purchase a home on Federal Trust Land, and is a NO Down Payment, low interest, low closing cost, fixed rate loan that is purely funded by the VA. There is no mortgage insurance therefore lowering the monthly payment even more.

In order to make it possible for Native American Veterans to take advantage NADL program, a Memorandum of Understanding must be negotiated and signed by the Tribe and the VA. Ninety-one tribes have signed a MOU with the VA to offer the NADL loan to their Veterans.

For more information, on the Native American Direct Loan Program please go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp>.