

VA

State Home
Construction Grant
Program

National Historic
Preservation Act

Program Alternative

October 16, 2024



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Government-to-Government

VA acknowledges that consultation is a two-way, Nation-to-Nation exchange.

VA HPO staff will meet with any Tribal or Native Hawaiian leader or their Section 106 contacts that request a private or one-on-one meeting or discussion concerning the proposed nPA.

Please email historicpreservation@va.gov to arrange.



Introductions



Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Purpose of Meeting



Overview of VA's State Home Construction Grant Program



Need for a nationwide Programmatic Agreement (nPA)



Goals of proposed nPA



Open discussion



Next steps



VA State Home Construction Grant Program Overview



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

State Home Construction Grant Program

- The State Home Construction Grant Program is a partnership between VA and state agencies to construct, renovate, or upgrade state-owned and operated nursing homes, domiciliaries, and/or adult day health care facilities. For a SHCGP grant, VA may reimburse applicants up to 65% of the cost of a project, pursuant to 38 CFR § 59.80(a).
- At present, there are 170 active SVHs nationwide.
- None have been yet been built and operated by a Tribe, but the *Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020* amended the statutory authority of the SHCGP to include Indian Tribes in the definition of “state” and “state home.”



SVHs Nationwide



Example SHCGP Projects

Roof
replacements

HVAC system
improvements

Patient room
upgrades

Kitchen
renovations

Nurse call
system
installations

Camera
replacements

Upgraded locks
and “wander
guards”

Additions to
existing
facilities

Construction
of new
facilities

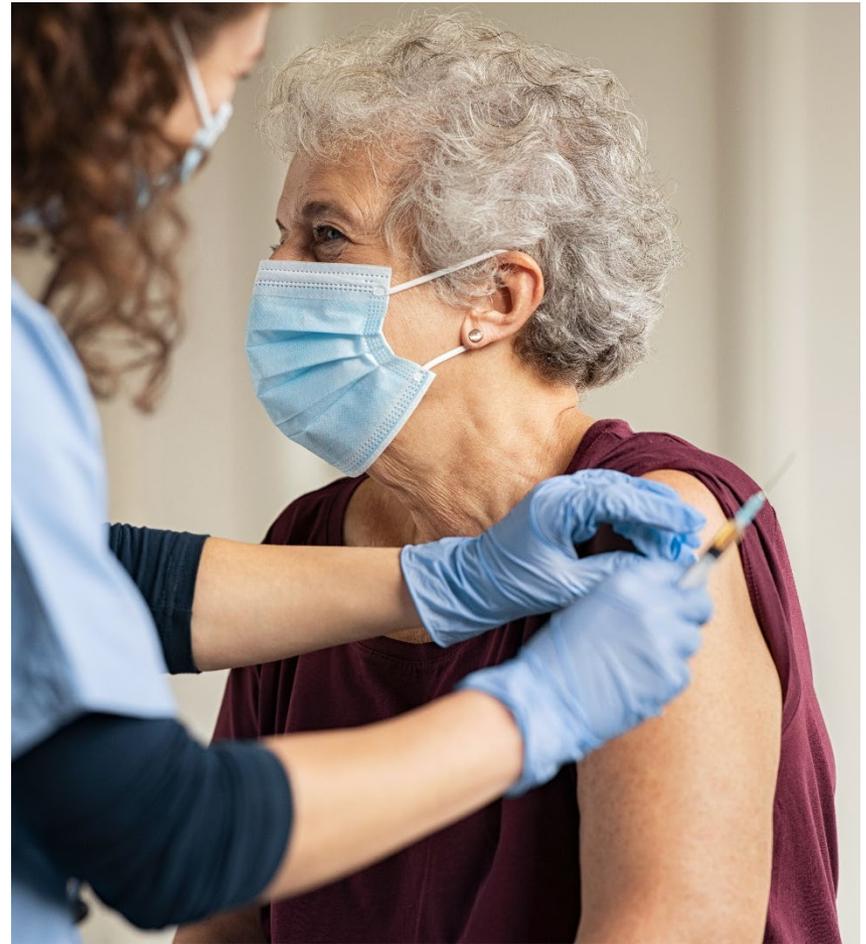


Need for a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement



COVID-19 Pandemic

- Nursing homes, including SVHs, were particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress provided VA with emergency funds to help SVHs install infection-control measures, upgrade safety systems, and improve infrastructure, resulting in dozens of emergency consultation efforts.
- The ACHP recommended development of a program alternative to follow during a healthcare crisis, especially when VA serves as a grantor of federal funds to non-federal applicants.



Opportunities for Clarity

- Procedures in a healthcare emergency
 - Reduction in number of expedited consultation requests
- Agency roles/responsibilities
 - Grantor of funds not facility operator
- Applicant roles/responsibilities
 - Best design practices
- Differences in emergencies
 - Human
 - Natural
 - Long-term health-related



Goals of a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement



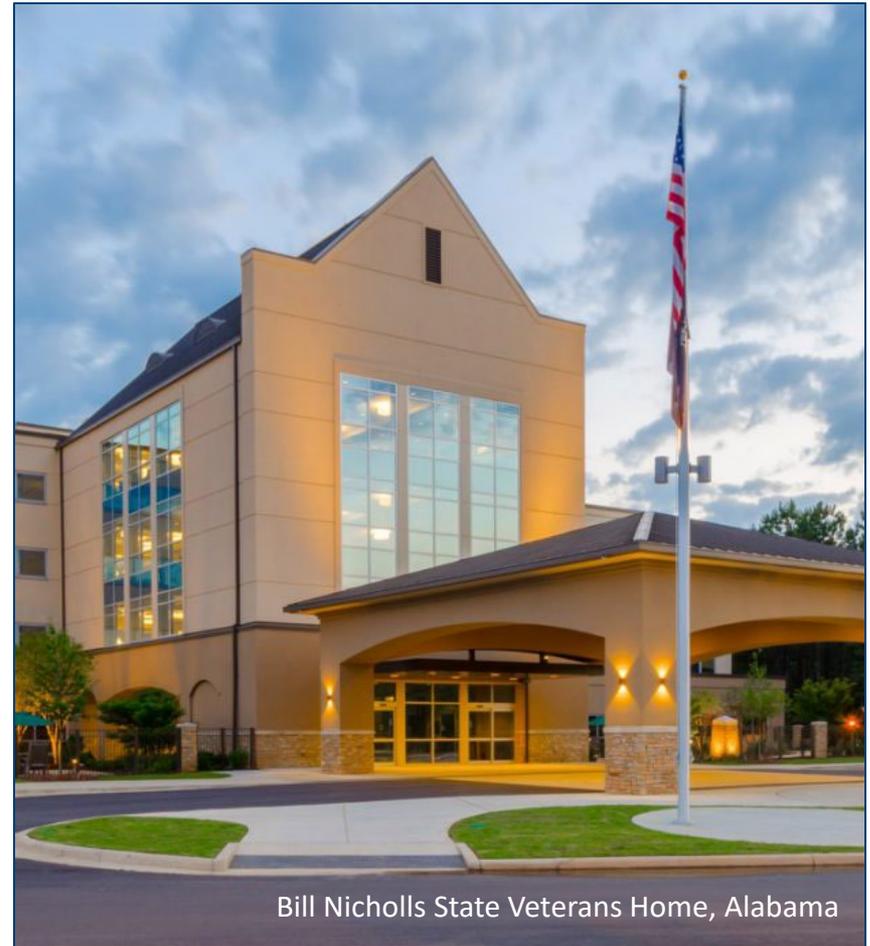
Applicability

- Limited to SHCGP
- Use of agreement does not guarantee award of VA funds
- States and Tribes are not required to use SHCGP funds to build SVHs
- Would not apply when National Historic Landmarks are within the APE



Proposed Exemption for Renovations

- Building is forty (40) years of age or less (i.e., constructed after 1984) or has been determined not historic through consultation with respective SHPO &
- Undertaking is limited to the interior of the building and/or
- Undertaking involves exterior modifications but there are no historic properties within the APE



Bill Nicholls State Veterans Home, Alabama

Flexibility in Timelines

Exempted Actions

No change

Ongoing Pandemic

Retention of seven (7) day review for rehabilitation and renovation undertakings
Use of 30-day review for proposed demolitions, facility replacements, and construction of new facilities

Emergency/Disaster Recovery

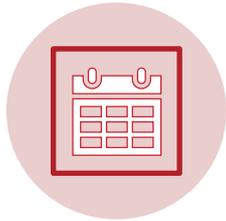
Expansion of the 30-day schedule to 90 days



Discussion



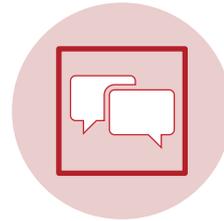
Next Steps



VA WILL ACCEPT
COMMENTS THROUGH
NOVEMBER 16, 2024.



VA WILL REVIEW ALL
COMMENTS PROVIDED



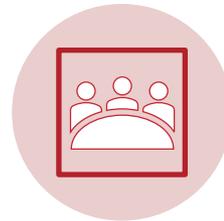
VA WILL POST
COMMENTS AND
RESPONSES



VA WILL DISTRIBUTE A
DRAFT NPA IN LATE
2024



VA WILL ACCEPT EARLY
COMMENTS VIA EMAIL



VA WILL HOST
MEETINGS IN EARLY
2025



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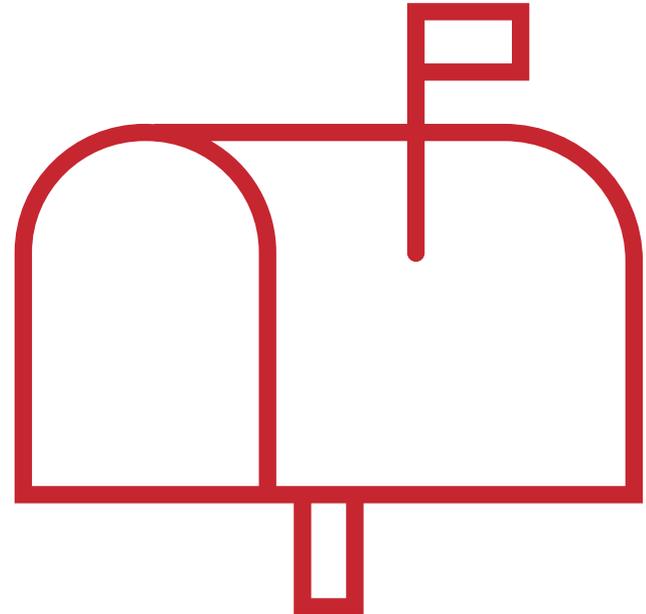
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Participation

- Participate in meetings
- Comment on drafts
- Website -
<https://www.cfm.va.gov/historic/ProposedProgramAlternatives.asp>
- Email –
historicpreservation@va.gov



Thank you



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