

# Financial Support & Benefits

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**U.S. Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

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University Family Care



# 2023 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

APRIL 19-20, 2023 | PHOENIX, ARIZONA

 arizona coalition  
for military families



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# Financial Support and Benefits

April 19, 2023

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# Understanding the Unique Needs of Rural Communities

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Session 3

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# Facilitators

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**Joy Sprink**  
Special Projects  
Arizona Coalition for  
Military Families

# Agenda

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**Overview**

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**Veterans Medical  
Leadership Council**

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**Phoenix VA  
Healthcare System**

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**Q&A**

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**Closing**

# Overview

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## Partnerships

## Resources for Veterans and Veteran Supportive Organizations

## Uniqueness of Rural Communities, Access to Services, Barriers, Topography and Transportation Needs

# Panel Discussion



**Moderator: Joy Sprink**

**Tom Eisiminger** - Veterans Medical Leadership Council - President

**Andrew Taylor** - Prescott VA Healthcare System - Rural Health Coordinator

**Shawndin Tracy** - Phoenix VA Healthcare System - Facility Rural Health Coordinator

**Joshua Wear** - Northern Arizona Rural Health Coordinator

**Laura Ybarra** - Native American Advocate Program RN/Coordinator, Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System





**Veterans Medical  
Leadership Council**



Tom Eisiminger, Jr.  
President

*president@arizonavmlc.org*

Veterans Helping Veterans Avoid Crisis



## Mission Statement

To provide a forum for community leaders to advocate for initiatives that enhance the quality of Veteran healthcare and services, and to assist Arizona Veterans in crises that fall outside state and federal funding guidelines.

## 2022 Impact

**\$475,395**  
total distribution

**\$4M+**  
raised and dispersed since inception

**\$10,000**  
in gift cards

**\$2,300**  
average support per veteran

**437**  
Veterans and families helped

**75%**  
of funding goes to housing

## **2022 Impact**

Returning Warrior **\$325,395**

Native American Sustainability for Veterans and those in Uniform (NASVU) **\$100,000**

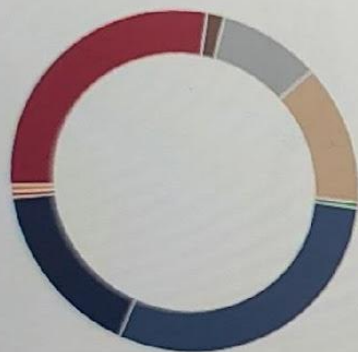
Mental Health **\$50,000**









Total Distribution **\$475,395**

### **ESTIMATED NEED**

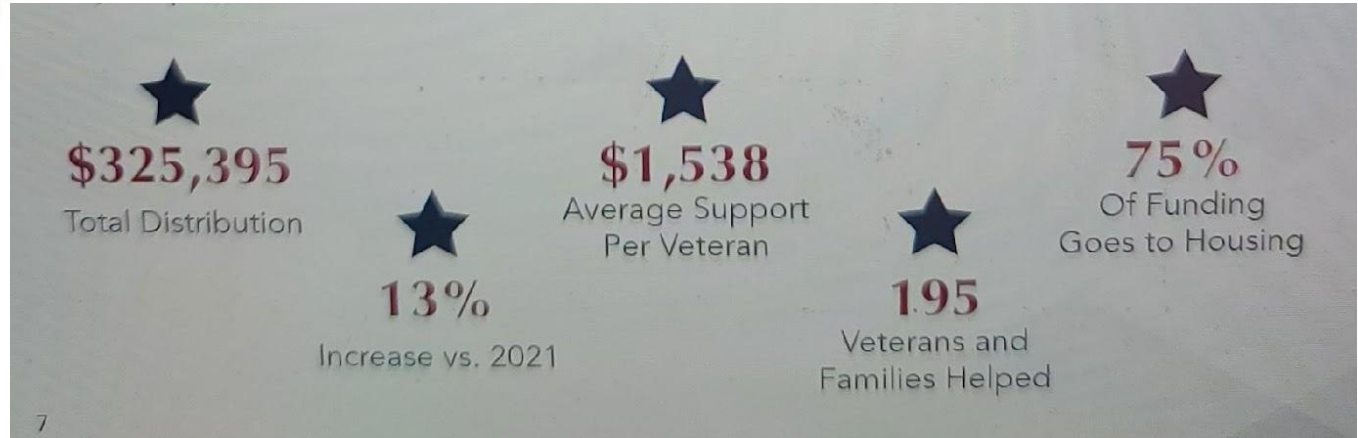
1200 Veterans in need per year within the State of Arizona (PHX, Prescott, and Tucson) – we helped 195 in 2022. We are just scratching the surface. The need in Phoenix alone is estimated to be 400 Veterans per year. We only met 49% of the need in Phoenix VA Medical Center.

## Veterans by Era of Service

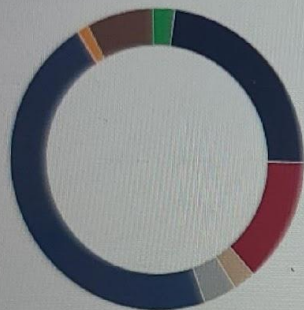


 Gulf War - 54	 Peacetime - 57
 Korea - 3	 Vietnam - 34
 OEF - 19	 WWII - 1
 OIF - 27	 Not Indicated - 1
 OND - 1	

# Returning Warrior Program



## Veteran Demographics - Q3 and Q4 CY2022



American Indian or Alaska Native - 2

Black or African American - 19

2 or More Ethnicities - 3

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander - 2

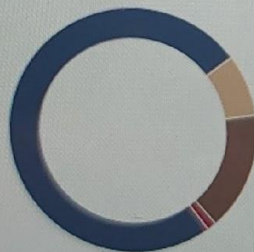
Hispanic or Latino - 11

White - 38

Undetermined - 1

Not disclosed - 6

## Assistance for Veterans



Housing - \$229,361

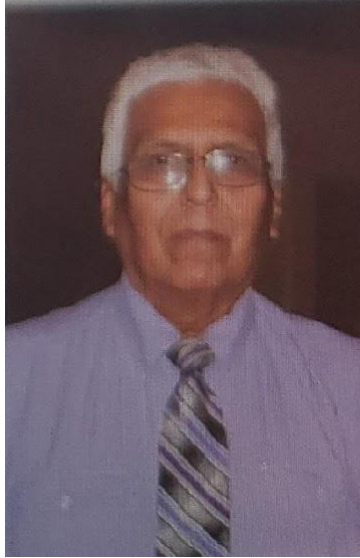
Utilities - \$24,847

Transportation - \$48,344

Other - \$3,444

## Native American Sustainability for Veterans and those in Uniform (NASVU)









Veterans Medical  
Leadership Council



[arizonavmlc.org](http://arizonavmlc.org)





# Southern Arizona Veterans Affair Health Care System: Native American Advocate Program


Laura Ybarra, RN, MSN, PHN

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# Southern Arizona Veteran Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

- Located in Tucson, AZ
  - Joint Commission-accredited
  - Provides a full range of services
  - It consist of inpatient (295) authorized beds
  - Outpatient, specialty care and Administrative support services
  - Provides tertiary-level care
  - Offers graduate medical education and research.
- 

# SAVAHCS - CATCHMENT AREAS

## VA Facilities

- Tucson Medical Center
- 7 Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)
- Rural Health Coordination Centers
  - Casa Grande



## Service Locations

- Tucson
- Safford
- Green Valley
- Cochise County
- Pinal County
- Yuma
- Sierra Vista
- Casa Grande



# TRIBES SERVED BY SAVAHCS

- Tohono O’odham Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Cocopah Tribe
- Quechan Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health  
Administration

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

[www.va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care](http://www.va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care) | [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



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**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



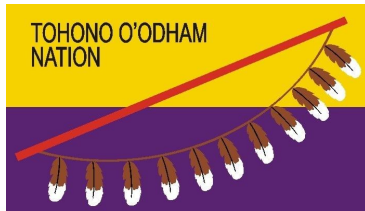
# NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS POPULATION

- Population: 1480
- Males: 1265
- Females: 215
  - As of 1/24/2023



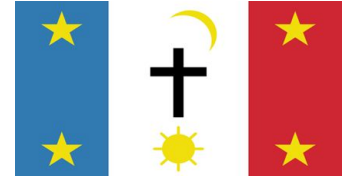
# TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

- Population enrolled members: 35,898 (A. Lewis, personal communication, March 20, 2023)
  - 1500 enrolled with Mexico address
  - 11 district/Sonora Mexico
- Size: 2.8 million acres (Approximately size of Connecticut)
- 62 Miles of AZ/Mexico Border on the Nation's Land
- 60% members living off the Nation
- 40% on the Nation





# PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE



- **Population: Approximately 21,233 Tribal Members** (NCAI, 2001-2022)
- **Population: Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land: 3,742 Tribal Members** (City Population, 2022).
- **5 Tribal Communities:**
  - New Pascua Reservation (Southwest of Tucson)
  - Old Pascua City of Tucson
  - Barrio Libra City of South Tucson
  - Marana Northwest of Tucson
  - Guadalupe Southeast Suburb of Phoenix
- **Reservation: Resides on 2,256 acres near Tucson,**
- **Approximately: 60 miles north of U.S.-Mexican Border** (Native American Advancement, Initiatives & Research, 2023)





## REFERENCES

**Census Reporter. (2021). Pascua Pueblo Yaqui reservation and off-reservation trust land.** Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land - Profile data - Census Reporter

**City Population (2022). Pascua Pueblo Yaqui.** Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation - Profile data - Census Reporter

**National Congress American Indian (NCAI). (2001-2023). Pascua Yaqui Tribe.** Pascua Yaqui Tribe | NCAI

**Native American Advancement, Initiatives & Research (Feb. 2023). Pascua Yaqui Tribal community profile.** Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona | Native American Advancement, Initiatives, and Research

# Closing

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# Q & A



# Session Evaluation

We want to hear from you!

