

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Navajo Nation; Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapi counties (Arizona)
 (e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Navajo Nation (AZ, NM, UT), Hwy 264 & BIA 12, Window Rock, AZ 86515
 (e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (select one) :

Type III: Public Practice (awardee obligation at least 49% FTE or 19 hr/week)

For Type I or II Private Practice:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Must cover(check at least one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p>May cover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beef Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Cattle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Swine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poultry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Ruminant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

For Type III Public Practice:

Employer: Government/ University Position Title: Public health Veterinarian

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Extension outreach, research

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked above, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

 %

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 1500 characters).

* Provide Veterinary public health services to the local remote communities and region, extension education and field support public health activities including surveillance and outreach, investigate and respond to Zoonotic, FAD and animal emergencies during natural and man-made disasters, help support economic development of rural resources on the Navajo Nation through the protection of public health, and help conduct field research to improve public health on the Navajo Nation. This position activities cover 3 of the largest counties in the United States, that are also among the most impoverished and least served with Veterinary services.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 1500 characters or less).

*Zoonotic Disease and plant poisoning outbreak investigations, assist FADD activities, emergency disaster response, extension education and outreach, public health disease surveillance and education outreach, field research related to the improvement of protecting public health. Other duties include fulfilling the roles equivalent to State and Federal public health Veterinarians including regulatory over-site, governmental consultation and disease investigation. In addition some local research relevant to the Nation and Veterinary Medicine is undertaken and part time instruction of Veterinary technician students at the Tribal University.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 750 characters or less).

* Efforts have been made to increase salaries and benefits, yet with governmental and Tribal college positions, there is a difficulty trying to maintain a competitive package. In addition, there has been a decline Navajo tax base. The Nation Veterinarian positions have been prone to high levels of turn over due to low level of pay, difficulty obtaining housing and remote location of the positions. As an example, two positions have gone unfilled for over twelve years with the Navajo Nation government's Veterinary Program, despite advertisement and recruitment efforts. The current Navajo Nation Government Tribal Veterinarians support for the VMLRP, will help in recruiting and retaining Tribal area Veterinarians with the VMLRP assistance.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 2000 characters or less).

*At full staffing, the Navajo Nation used to have five Tribal Veterinarians and two University educator Veterinarians, and one Federal public health Veterinarian. For the last 8 years, there have been only two Tribal Veterinarians and two University Veterinarians responsible for an area slightly larger than the state of West Virginia and a human population of ~250,000 (2010 census), and a livestock census of over 271,000 head of cattle, sheep, goats and horses. The area is already economically depressed, livestock production is a large part of the economy and an endemic area for diseases like plague and tularemia. As a sovereign Tribal Nation, the Tribal and University Veterinarians are often asked to act in the role of "State" and "Federal" Veterinarian roles as well as providing clinical medicine, public health emergency activities and teaching Veterinary technicians at our Navajo University. In addition as states do not have a direct role in public health on the Navajo Nation, the role of public health Veterinarian fall to the Indian Health Service which has not had any public health Veterinarian for the Navajo region for several years. The current depressed staffing has detrimental effects on the health & moral of the Veterinarians that currently work for the peoples of the Navajo Nation and NE Arizona, and puts both the livestock economy at risk (due to reduced service delivery, potential disasters and FAD's), public health at risk (due to less surveillance and early treatment), and stretches already limited tribal resources. Further, it puts the four neighboring states at risk, not having full staffing of local government and FADD trained Veterinarians able to respond in a rapid and direct manor during times of emergency. In addition, we are at extreme risk of losing current Veterinarians from the Navajo Nation due to low pay relative to similar positions and the high debt service the new graduates are faced with largely prevent replacement.

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Peter Mundschenk for Scott Bender Navajo Tribal Veterinarian

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: AZ Dept of Agriculture for Navajo Nation

Email: pmundschenk@azda.gov

Telephone Number: 602-542-4290
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0050 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.