

# 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](http://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; San Juan, McKinley, Sandoval, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Cibola, Bernalillo, Socorro, (NEW MEXICO)

(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, (P.O. Box 9000), Window Rock, AZ 86515

Navajo Technical College, Lower Point Rd, Crownpoint, NM 87313

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage:  Moderate Priority  High Priority  Critical Priority

### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

**Type I Shortage: Private Practice**

Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

**Must cover**(check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**

Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

**Must cover** (check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**May cover**

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**X Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)

**Employer:** Tribal Government/University      **Position Title:** Veterinarian

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

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Food Animal Rural area (Reservation) Beef Cattle, Swine, Small Ruminant medicine and preventative health.
- Other: University Veterinary Teaching (technician), Extension outreach, research

**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 200 words or less).**

Acceptance of this Veterinary Shortage Situation nomination and eventual filling of the position would enhance availability of local veterinary services to animals residing on premises of the Navajo Nation thereby improving accessibility to veterinary care and contributing to overall improvement of animal and public health in this remote region of the state.

**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 200 words or less).**

The principal veterinary activity of this shortage situation is clinical medical and surgical practice, including the diagnosis and treatment of livestock, livestock preventative herd health, disease and plant poisoning outbreak investigations, Foreign Animal Disease investigations, emergency disaster response, extension education and outreach, public health disease surveillance and education outreach. Other duties include fulfilling the roles equivalent to State and Federal Veterinarians, to include regulatory oversight, governmental consultations and disease investigations. In addition some local veterinary medical research relevant to the Nation is undertaken by Tribal Veterinarians and Tribal veterinarians participate in the direct supervision and training of students as Veterinary Technician.

**Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).**

Efforts have been made to increase veterinary salaries and benefits, yet, as with governmental and Tribal college position, there are difficulties establishing and maintaining competitive salaries and benefits packages. The Navajo Nation Veterinarian positions have historically been prone to high turnover associated with low salary, difficulty obtaining housing in the area and the remote location of the available veterinary positions. Two Navajo Nation Government Veterinarian Program positions have remained unfilled for over six years despite advertising and recruitment efforts. The current Navajo Nation Government Tribal Veterinarians support the VMRLP and firmly believe that VMRLP assistance is critical for the recruitment and retention of Tribal Veterinarians for this area.

**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 250 words or less).**

At full staffing, the Navajo Nation had four Tribal Veterinarians and two university veterinarian instructors. For the last 6 years, there have been only two Tribal Veterinarians and two University Veterinarians responsible for an area slightly larger than the state of West Virginia with a human population of ~250,000 (2010 census) and livestock census of over 271,000 head of cattle, sheep, goats and horses. The area is economically depressed and livestock production is a large part of the economy. As a sovereign Tribal Nation, the Tribal and University Veterinarians are often asked to perform roles comparable to "State" and "Federal" veterinarian, provide clinical medical services and have teaching responsibilities in the Veterinary technician training program. The short staffing situation has detrimental effects on the health & moral of the veterinarians that currently serve the peoples of the Navajo Nation and NW New Mexico. The short staffing impacts the livestock economy as a result of reduced services, delayed delivery of services, and delayed ability to respond to Foreign Animal Disease investigations, emerging disease investigations and potential disasters. Further, inadequate veterinary staffing of the local tribal government and insufficient locally available Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians places four

neighboring states at potential risk due to an inability to rapidly respond to emergency animal disease incidents. Additionally, the Navajo Nation is at risk for loss of veterinarians on staff due to lower salaries than other Government agencies and the veterinary graduates facing high debt service.

**(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 on Page 1, 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.**

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**Minimum Service time required for each shortage type**

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

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: Ellen Mary Wilson, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: Ellen.wilson@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: 505-841-6161  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 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 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001  
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