



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

July 28, 2023

**SUBJECT: Deadline for New Veterans Benefits**

Dear Tribal Leader:

To the veterans who have defended our country, we hold no more important obligation than to provide for their health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, many men and women have returned with illnesses caused by exposure to toxic burn pits. In the past, they've struggled to secure the benefits owed to them due to the difficulty of establishing a link between burn pit exposure and their ailments.

That all changed last year when President Biden signed the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act), the most significant expansion of benefits and services for veteran exposed to toxins in more than 30 years.

Today, **I ask that you spread the word** via text messages, emails, and outreach to the veterans in your community about the upcoming PACT Act application deadline.

Although veterans can apply for new PACT Act benefits at any time, veterans who [apply](#) or who submit their "[Intent to File](#)" by **August 9th**, can receive **retroactive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022** – the day that President Biden [signed the PACT Act into law](#).

Our veterans need our help. I sincerely appreciate your commitment to supporting them and your help getting the word out about the PACT Act deadline. For more information, please visit the [PACT Act information page](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in serving Indian Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi J. Frechette".

Heidi J. Frechette  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Office of Native American Programs