State of Alaska
Department of Health

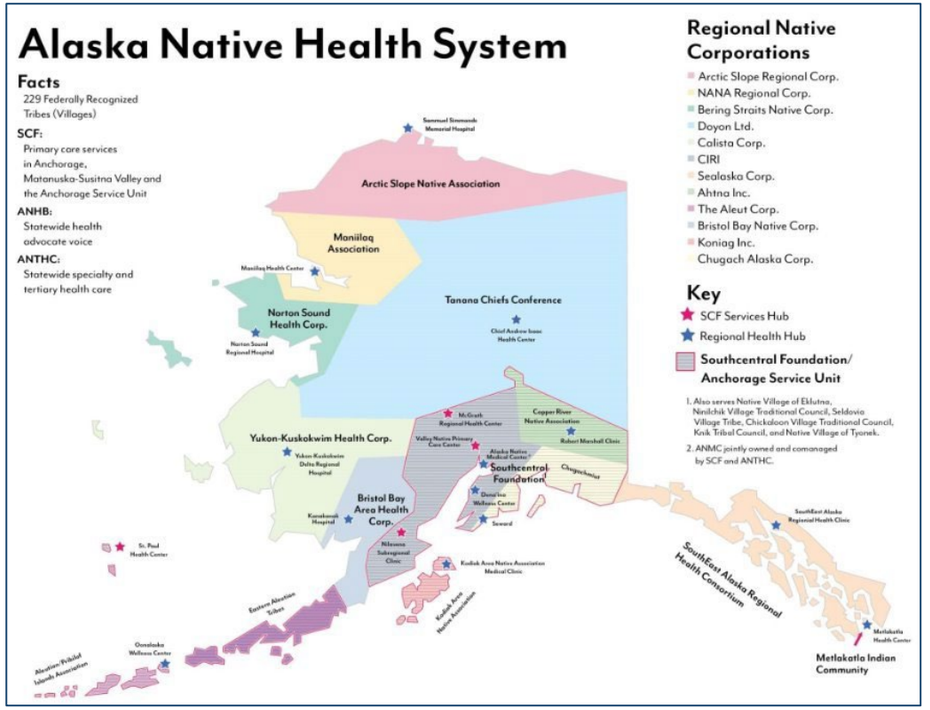
Alaska Traditional Health Care Practices

1115 Demonstration

Submission Planned November 2026

Background

- Alaska's 229 federally recognized Tribes represent more than 180,000 Tribal and AN/AI members, including nearly 80,000 Medicaid enrollees[1]
- THCPs are defined and validated by Tribes and complement provider-led health care teams
- Medicaid coverage for THCPs would provide financing to expand access to culturally appropriate Medicaid service options for AN/AI Medicaid beneficiaries



[1] At the end of state fiscal year 2026

Goals and Objectives of this Demonstration

Primary Objective: Sustainably provide culturally appropriate Medicaid service options for AN/AI Medicaid beneficiaries by covering traditionally grounded care services within the Alaska Tribal Health System

Goal: Support whole-person health and wellness

Allow Medicaid coverage of THCPs within the Alaska Tribal Health System

Demonstration Features

Who Would Be Eligible (Pending CMS Approval):

- Meet the definition of Alaska Native or American Indian;[1]
- Be enrolled in Medicaid; and
- Be eligible to receive services by or through a Tribal health program[2]

Benefits Coverage & Delivery:

- Broad array of THCPs, reflecting regional nature of Alaska Tribal Health System and wide-ranging histories of Tribes
- Delivered by THCP practitioners (also referred to as traditional healers or Tribal doctors) through facilities operated by Medicaid-enrolled Tribal health programs
- Reimbursement at same rate as other tribal clinic services (i.e., All-Inclusive Rate)
- AN/AI individuals exempt from cost sharing requirements

[1] Defined as “Indians or Indian” in 25 U.S.C. § 1603(13)

[2] Using the definition of Tribal health program in 25 U.S.C. § 1603(25)