



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 12, 2023

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

On behalf of the Department of Health (the department) and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed state plan amendment (SPA).

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department intends to submit a SPA to comply with Section 1002(a) of the SUPPORT Act, which mandates a revision to the criteria for Medicaid eligibility for young adults formerly in foster care. The SPA amends the former foster care children eligibility group by adding individuals who turned 18 years old on or after January 1, 2023, if they were receiving Medicaid while in foster care under the responsibility of *any state* (and meet other eligibility criteria). Previous federal standards required Medicaid coverage of only those individuals who were in the Alaska foster care system.

Anticipated impact on Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries:

The proposed SPA will expand former foster care children coverage eligibility to include a larger pool of individuals. As a result, the state anticipates the proposed SPA may nominally increase the number of Alaska Natives and American Indians eligible for Alaska Medicaid.

Anticipated impact on tribal health programs and the Indian Health Service:

The state anticipates the proposed SPA may have a small impact on tribal health programs and the Indian Health Services through an increased number of individuals eligible for Medicaid, which will result in a slight increase in Medicaid recipients.

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than **January 27 February 13, 2023, by 5:00 PM**. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or Emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator