



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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October 19, 2022

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 future Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). (*This opportunity for consultation runs concurrently with public comment on proposed regulations.*)

### Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department intends to submit a SPA with a new effective date for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) state plan services rates. The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, via the corresponding regulatory process, seeks to permanently adopt the 10% increase for all HCBS (including waiver) services previously (temporarily) authorized under disaster-relief state plan amendment (dSPA) and Appendix K processes. This change in the fee schedule requires a state plan update.

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

The department anticipates the proposed change in HCBS reimbursement to positively impact Alaska Native and Native American Medicaid beneficiaries. The increased reimbursement intends to assist providers of HCBS services to stabilize and continue to provide services to beneficiaries, which should help ensure access to care for beneficiaries in this challenging landscape.

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

The department anticipates the proposed change in HCBS reimbursement to assist tribal health programs, or the Indian Health Service, that provide HCBS services to Medicaid beneficiaries as it intends to assist all providers to continue offering HCBS services, and help ensure access to care. (reducing strain on the tribal system...?)

### Mechanism and timeline for comment

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than the close of business, on December 5, 2022. If seeking an in-person meeting regarding the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or [courtney.king@alaska.gov](mailto:courtney.king@alaska.gov).

*Comments received in response to this consultation letter are considered for consultation and not as comments on the regulations. Comments on the regulations are not considered comments for consultation on the SPA. **You must do so separately if you wish to provide comments for consideration in both the SPA and the regulations processes.** To locate the regulations, please refer to the State of Alaska web page at the "[Public Notices](#)" link*

Sincerely,

/s/

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator