



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

**Anchorage**

3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923  
Main : 907.269.7800  
Fax: 907.269.0060

**Juneau**

350 Main Street, Suite 404  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Main: 907.465.3030  
Fax: 907.465.3068

April 5, 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 Medicaid state plan amendment.

**Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:**

~~Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allows approved public health emergency (PHE) 1135 waiver authority flexibilities to be extended for up to one year after the end of the PHE.~~ The department temporarily suspended Medicaid fee-for service prior/service authorization requirements during the public health emergency via the 1135 waiver authority. The department intends to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to ~~extend the department's approved 1135 waiver authority flexibility to continue~~ the temporary suspension of Medicaid **State Plan** fee-for-service prior/service authorization requirements in the behavioral health Medicaid program through one year after the end of the PHE. This request provides the department time to enact regulations revising the Medicaid fee-for service prior/service authorization requirements.

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

The department anticipates the proposed SPA will facilitate improving access to care for Alaska Medicaid participants by decreasing administrative burden and reducing barriers to care which should positively impact Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native and American Indian beneficiaries.

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

The department anticipates the proposed SPA will assist all Medicaid providers of fee-for-service behavioral health providers by improving access to care for Alaska Medicaid participants, decreasing administrative burden, and reducing barriers to care.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment:**

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendment are due no later than **Wednesday, May 5 17, 2023**, by 5:00 PM AST. 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. All written correspondence should be directed to Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or [emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov](mailto:emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu  
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator