



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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October 16, 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 Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA). This opportunity for consultation runs concurrently with public input on proposed regulations.

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

The department proposes to submit a SPA for the following:

1. Extend Medicaid postpartum coverage period from 60 days to 12 months for individuals who are eligible for and enrolled in Medicaid during their pregnancy.
2. Add an optional Medicaid eligibility category for pregnant women with countable income between 201%-225% of the federal poverty limit (FPL).

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

The department anticipates that this proposed SPA will positively impact tribal beneficiaries. Extending postpartum coverage will help ensure that women recovering from childbirth receive medical care for any complications of delivery and can transition from obstetric to primary care. Additionally, more pregnant beneficiaries will have access to Medicaid coverage due to the increased income limit.

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

The department anticipates that this proposed SPA will positively impact the Indian Health Service and Alaska tribal health programs. The tribal health programs may see an increase of prenatal and postpartum services, which the department anticipates will positively impact the health of these individuals and decrease other healthcare related costs and services.

**Mechanism and timeline for comment**

Written comments regarding the proposed amendments are due no later than 5:00pm, November 27, 2023. 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 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