



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
Director's Office

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg. L
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September 12, 2017

Dear Tribal Health Leader,

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in keeping with the DHSS responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of a proposed future Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA).

The Department intends to submit a SPA to implement the Asset Verification System (AVS), as mandated by Section 1940 of P.L. 110-252 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008. The proposed SPA explains that Alaska will be hiring a contractor to implement the system.

The AVS will gather disclosed and undisclosed assets in financial institutions for individuals applying for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid categories, including Long Term Care and the Medicare Premium Assistance categories.

These categories have limits to the amount of assets the applicant or recipient Medicaid households can have and still be eligible for Medicaid. The system will help ensure assets are being verified and counted correctly for Medicaid applicants and beneficiaries, including tribal members, when determining Medicaid eligibility. It will also reduce the number of Medicaid cases that owe overpayments due to non-disclosure of assets over the limit. Tribal Health Organizations will have more assurances that their members have correctly determined Medicaid eligibility, which will assist with planning care. There will be no other impact to Tribal Health Organizations or the Indian Health Service.

There are no changes to the asset limits with the implementation of the new system.

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed amendments are due on October 13, 2017, by 5:00 PM. If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting or discussion regarding the amendments, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date on this letter. Please direct all written correspondence to Courtney O'Byrne King, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 4501 Business Park Blvd, Building L, Anchorage, AK 99503 or courtney.king@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Courtney King".

Courtney O'Byrne King, MS
Medicaid State Plan Coordinator

cc Jon Sherwood – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Karen Forrest – Deputy Commissioner, DHSS
Margaret Brodie, Director, Division of Health Care Services
Renee Gayhart – Tribal Health Program Manager