



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI  
DIRECTOR

November 26, 2008

Dear Tribal Chair:

**Re: Notification of intent to submit waiver extension for Section 1115 Adult Benefits Waiver**

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) intends to submit a waiver extension request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the currently existing Section 1115 demonstration known as the Adult Benefits Waiver (ABW). The ABW demonstration was originally approved for five years. It began in January of 2004 and expires on January 31, 2009.

Approval of this extension request by CMS will enable Michigan to continue to provide health care coverage to an annual average of 62,000 childless adults with incomes at or below 35 percent of the federal poverty level. Coverage will be provided through the currently established provider network at the same service levels that are now in place. Key aspects of the current ABW program which will continue upon CMS approval of Michigan's waiver extension request are:

- Only individuals with no other form of health insurance benefits, including Medicaid eligibility, are eligible for the ABW program;
- Services are provided to enrolled beneficiaries through county-operated health plans (CHPs). Benefits are provided on a fee-for-service basis in counties without a CHP;
- ABW beneficiaries are provided access to primary care as well as additional benefits such as prescription drugs and behavioral health services;
- In addition to improving the welfare of the enrollees, this program has benefited the health care system in Michigan by decreasing uncompensated care for this target population group.

You may submit comments on Michigan's waiver application requesting to extend the ABW program beyond its January 31, 2009, expiration date to [msapolicy@michigan.gov](mailto:msapolicy@michigan.gov). If you would like to discuss the waiver application in its entirety, please contact Mary Anne Tribble, Medicaid liaison to the Michigan tribes. Mary Anne can be reached at 517-241-7185, or via e-mail at [tribblema@michigan.gov](mailto:tribblema@michigan.gov).

Comments must be received by January 29, 2009. There is no public hearing scheduled for this waiver extension request.

Sincerely,

Paul Reinhart, Director  
Medical Services Administration

cc: Cynthia Garraway, Region V, CMS  
Kathleen Annette, MD, Director of Indian Health Service, Bemidji Area  
Sharon Teeple, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan  
Mary Anne Tribble, MDCH