



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

August 19, 2025

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

**RE:** Autism Services State Plan Amendment

This letter, in compliance with Section 1902(a)(73) and Section 2107(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act, serves as notice to all Tribal Chairs and Health Directors of the intent by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

This SPA will clarify Behavioral Health Treatment, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) service access for Medicaid beneficiaries and increase the ability for children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to receive early interventions and supports, including Tribal members that are covered by Medicaid. It is expected that these changes will improve access to autism care for Native American children once they are effective. The anticipated effective date of this SPA is April 1, 2026.

There is no public hearing scheduled for this SPA. Input regarding this SPA is highly encouraged, and comments regarding this notice of intent may be submitted to Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS Liaison to the Michigan tribes. Lorna can be reached at 517-512-4146, or via email at [Elliott-EganL@michigan.gov](mailto:Elliott-EganL@michigan.gov). **Please provide all input by October 3, 2025.**

In addition, MDHHS is offering to set up group or individual consultation meetings to discuss the SPA, according to the tribe's preference. Consultation meetings allow tribes the opportunity to address any concerns and voice any suggestions, revisions, or objections to be relayed to the author of the proposal. If you would like additional information or wish to schedule a consultation meeting, please contact Lorna Elliott-Egan at the telephone number or email address provided above.

MDHHS appreciates the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with you to care for the residents of our state.

An electronic copy of this letter is available at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >>  
Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Meghan E. Groen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meghan" being more prominent than the last name "Groen".

Meghan E. Groen, Chief Deputy Director  
Health Services

CC: Keri Toback, CMS  
Nancy Grano, CMS  
Chasity Dial, CEO, American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern  
Michigan  
Chris Poole, Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office  
Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS

**Distribution List for L 25-45**  
**August 19, 2025**

Ms. Whitney Gravelle, President, Bay Mills Indian Community  
Ms. Lucy DeWildt, Health Director, Bay Mills (Ellen Marshall Memorial Center)  
Ms. Sandra Witherspoon, Chairperson, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa & Chippewa Indians  
Ms. Sonya Zotigh, Health Director, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa/Chippewa  
Mr. Kenneth Meshigaud, Tribal Chairman, Hannahville Indian Community  
Ms. G. Susie Meshigaud, Health Director, Hannahville Health Center  
Mr. RD Curtis, Tribal President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Ms. Deanna Foucault, Health Director, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - Donald Lapointe Health/Educ Facility  
Mr. James Williams, Jr., Tribal Chairman, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Ms. Sadie Valliere, Health & Human Services Director, Lac Vieux Desert Band  
Mr. Larry Romanelli, Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Dr. Daryl Wever, Health Director, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Ms. Regina Gasco, Tribal Chairman, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians  
Ms. Jodi Werner, Health Director, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa  
Mr. Bob Peters, Chairman, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Band)  
Ms. Mallory Horwath, Interim Tribal Council Member, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi  
Ms. Dorie Rios, Tribal Chairperson, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Ms. Nichol Bremer, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians - Tribal Health Department  
Mr. Andrew Straatsma, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians – Tribal Health Department  
Mr. Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Chairman, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Ms. Priscilla Gatties, Interim Health Director, Pokagon Potawatomi Health Services  
Mr. Tim Davis, Tribal Chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Mrs. Karmen Fox, Executive Health Director, Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center  
Mr. Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Mr. James Benko, Health Director, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians - Health Center

CC: Keri Toback, CMS  
Nancy Grano, CMS  
Chasity Dial, CEO, American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan  
Chris Poole, Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office  
Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS