STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

November 3, 2025

NAME
TITLE
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

RE: Rural Access Pool Eligibility

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).

Pending CMS approval, MDHHS will update the eligibility criteria of the Rural Access Pool. MDHHS expects that tribal members will benefit by the support for rural hospitals as a result of this change. The effective date of this SPA is on or after December 1, 2025.

Due to the timing of the guidance received, it is not possible to adhere to the sixty (60 days notification. Therefore, notification is being provided as soon as possible. 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. **Please provide all input by December 18, 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 >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Sincerely,

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 25-63
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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. Winnay Wemigwase, Tribal Chairperson, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
Ms. Jodi Werner, Health Director, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
Dr. Frank Animikwam, Medical Director, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
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. Daun Bieda, Interim Health Director, Nottawaseppi 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