



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

August 30, 2021

NAME
TITLE
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

RE: Notice of Intent to Submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to Include New Transportation Provider Qualifications

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 Medicaid SPA request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Based on CMS guidance issued on July 12, 2021, states must submit a SPA to describe the mechanism it will use to ensure non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) providers and individual drivers meet transportation provider requirements set by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The SPA will require family members and foster parents of beneficiaries and taxicab drivers to meet new qualifications in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement for providing transportation services. The Act statutorily requires Medicaid transportation providers and individual drivers to not be excluded from participating in federal health care programs, included on the MDHHS sanctioned provider and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services exclusion lists, or convicted of a felony criminal offense relating to a controlled substance. Providers will be required to report any felony conviction relating to a controlled substance and traffic violations.

The Act requires these provider qualifications to ensure program integrity. This SPA may impact Native American beneficiaries who receive transportation from family members or foster parents who do not meet the statutorily required qualifications. Drivers who do not meet these qualifications will not receive Medicaid reimbursement for providing transportation services. The anticipated effective date of this SPA is October 1, 2021.

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 October 14, 2021.**

In addition, MDHHS is offering to set up group or individual consultation meetings to discuss the SPA, according to the tribes' 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,



Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration

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

Distribution List for L 21-55
August 30, 2021

Ms. Whitney Gravelle, President, Bay Mills Indian Community
Ms. Audrey Breakie, Health Director, Bay Mills (Ellen Marshall Memorial Center)
Mr. David M. Arroyo, Chairman, Grand Traverse Band Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Mr. Soumit Pendharkar, 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. Warren C. Swartz, Jr., President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Ms. Kathy Mayo, Interim 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
Mr. Daryl Wever, Health Director, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Ms. Regina Gasco-Bentley, 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. Kelly Wesaw, Health Director, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Potawatomi
Mr. Jamie Stuck, Tribal Chairman, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Ms. Rosalind Johnston, Health Director, Huron Potawatomi Inc.- Tribal Health Department
Ms. Rebecca Richards, Tribal Chairwoman, 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. Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Mr. Leonid Chugunov, 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
Daniel Frye, Director, Indian Health Service - Bemidji Area Office
Lorna Elliott-Egan, MDHHS