



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

November 9, 2021

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
CITY STATE ZIP

Dear Tribal Chair and Health Director:

**RE:** Intent to Remove Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) Benefit from the Section 1915(c) MI Health Link Waiver

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 waiver amendment applications for the Sections 1915(b)/(c) MI Health Link Waivers to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The following changes will be made to the applications:

Remove the PERS benefit from the MI Health Link Section 1915(c) waiver. PERS is an electronic device that enables enrollees to secure help in an emergency. The enrollee may also wear a portable “help” button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the enrollee’s phone and programmed to signal a response center once a “help” button is activated.

The PERS benefit will remain available to all MI Health Link members as a Plan Supplemental Benefit. Members who are eligible for PERS will be able to access this benefit regardless of their level of care determination (LOCD) status.

MDHHS expects this change to have no impact on Native American beneficiaries that qualify and choose to utilize the waiver services. The anticipated effective date of this waiver amendment is January 1, 2022.

The Section 1915(b)/(c) MI Health Link Waiver amendment applications can be found online under the ‘spotlight’ link at [www.michigan.gov/mihealthlink](http://www.michigan.gov/mihealthlink). The documents are drafts and will be updated as needed until submitted for approval by January 10, 2022. At that time, the final version of the application will be posted online.

There is no public hearing scheduled for these waiver amendments. Input regarding these waiver amendments 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 December 27, 2021.**

In addition, MDHHS is offering to set up group or individual consultation meetings to discuss the waiver amendments, 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](http://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 21-77  
November 9, 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