



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H., Director

July 28, 2021

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 21-16: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Dear Tribal Leadership, Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Providers, and Other Interested Parties:

Seeking advice and comments from New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their health care providers is an important component of the government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico. In accordance with the New Mexico Human Services Department's (HSD's) Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments process, this letter is to inform you that HSD, through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), is accepting written comments until **5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) August 30, 2021**, regarding proposed State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0009 Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Effective October 1, 2021 the New Mexico Human Services Department proposes to implement updates to outdated language and include new strategic objectives, performance goals and plan administration to the CHIP SPA. The changes will align language with current eligibility standards for the state's Medicaid mandatory and optional eligibility groups under Title XXI of the Social Security Act Section 1902 (e)(14), 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 457.40 (b) and provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This amendment does not make changes to eligibility, benefits or payment methodology.

Tribal Impact

There is no anticipated financial or tribal impact associated with this state plan amendment. The proposed changes are being made to update outdated language and align the state plan language with current eligibility standards.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal health care providers may view the proposed changes on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/>, Tribal Notification **21-16**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time (MT) on August 30, 2021. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 670-8067 or by email to Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. All written comments received will be posted as they are received on the HSD website at: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations/> along with the applicable notification letter. The public posting will include

the name and any contact information provided by the commenter.

Tribal Leadership may request a government-to-government consultation by August 30, 2021. This request can be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 670-8067.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, Director
Medical Assistance Division

cc: Lorelei Kellogg, HSD/MAD Deputy Director
Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, HSD/MAD