

September 20, 2013

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader (I/T/U):

Consultation with New Mexico's Indian Nations, Tribes, Pueblos and their healthcare 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) Tribal Consultation requirements, this letter is to inform you that HSD is proposing new rules to incorporate elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that include enrollment opportunities for previously ineligible individuals and amending existing eligibility rules to incorporate ACA and other federal mandates. HSD will issue interim rules to start the process for the enrollment of newly eligible individuals effective October 1, 2013.

HSD is seeking advice, questions and comments from Native American communities on these proposed and interim eligibility rules. You may send your comments or questions to our Native American Liaison for the Medical Assistance Division (MAD), Theresa Belanger at (505) 827-3122 or by email at: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us. The proposed and interim rules are located for your review on MAD's website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/TribalConsultation.html>.

Important Dates:

Comments will be received through **October 20, 2013**, to allow time for interested parties to submit their comments. All comments will be reviewed and recorded. HSD will incorporate recommended changes to these proposed rules whenever feasible. All comments and responses will be compiled and available after **December 22, 2013**.

The tentative public hearing date for the eligibility proposed rules is **December 6, 2013**. You will receive formal notice of the actual date, time and location of the hearing at least 30 days in advance.

The proposed rules have a projected effective date of **January 1, 2014**.

You will be receiving in the coming weeks the various Centennial Care benefit plan descriptions: Medicaid, managed care Medicaid, and the Alternative Benefit (for the newly eligible individuals).

Thank you in advance for your input and for your continued support of HSD's Native American initiatives.

Sincerely,



Julie B. Weinberg, Director
Medical Assistance Division