



Department of Health Care Services  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** May 10, 2016

**TO:** Tribal Chairpersons, Designees of Indian Health Programs, and Urban Indian Organizations

**FROM:** Original Signed By Sandra "Sam" Willburn, Chief,  
Primary, Rural, and Indian Health Division

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Proposed Change to the Medi-Cal Program

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding a proposed change to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Medi-Cal Program that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCS is forwarding this information for your review and comment.

DHCS is required to seek advice from designees of Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on Medi-Cal matters having a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). DHCS must solicit the advice of designees prior to submission to CMS of any State Plan Amendment, waiver requests or modifications, or proposals for demonstration projects in the Medi-Cal program.

Please see the enclosed summary for a detailed description of this DHCS proposal.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [1115wholepersoncare@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:1115wholepersoncare@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

**Contact Information**

California Department of Health Care Services  
Medi-Cal Quality and Monitoring Division  
Whole Person Care Program, Attn: Gloria Petrul  
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4400  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

In addition to this notice, DHCS plans to cover this proposal in the next quarterly Medi-Cal Indian Health webinar. Please note that Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also request a consultation on this proposal at any time as needed.

Enclosure



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs Notice**

**PURPOSE:**

DHCS proposes to amend the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) of Waiver 11-W-00193/9 (Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver) to expand the definition of an allowable Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilot Lead Entity to include "Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal health programs operated under a Public Law 93-638 Contract with Federal Indian Health Services (IHS)."

**BACKGROUND**

DHCS is currently operating a five-year Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver (Medi-Cal 2020) through which much of the Medi-Cal program now operates. The waiver operates from 2016 through 2020. The WPC Pilot program is a part of the Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver. The WPC Pilots provide up to \$1.5 Billion over five years for local entities to design pilot programs to coordinate of health, behavioral health, and social services, as applicable, in a patient-centered manner with the goals of improved beneficiary health and well-being through more efficient and effective use of resources.

The WPC pilots currently allow a county, a city and county, a health or hospital authority, or a consortium of any of the above entities serving a county or region consisting of more than one county, or a health authority, to apply (as a WPC Pilot "Lead Entity") to DHCS to have their pilot application and funding request approved. Pilots must provide a source of non-federal share (50% of the program funding) to support the project. More information about WPC is available at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/medi-cal-2020-waiver.aspx>

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

The State of California proposes to amend the STCs of Waiver 11-W-00193/9 (Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Waiver) to expand the definition of an allowable WPC Pilot Lead Entity to include "Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal health programs operated under a Public Law 93-638 Contract with IHS."

**IMPACT TO TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

The proposed amendment will allow Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Health Programs operated under a Public Law 93-638 Contract with IHS to act in a Lead Entity role in the design, application, and operation of a WPC Pilot, which will benefit the Medi-Cal population that these entities serve by allowing the pilot to be specifically designed to serve this population.

**IMPACT TO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)**

Tribal health programs operating under a Public Law 93-638 contract with the IHS that participate in Medi-Cal as a FQHC will be eligible to participate as noted in the paragraph above.

**IMPACT TO INDIAN MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES**

The proposed amendment will allow Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal health programs operating under a Public Law 93-638 contract with the IHS to act in a Lead Entity role in the design, application, and operation of a WPC Pilot, which will benefit the Indian Medi-Cal beneficiaries that these entities serve by allowing the pilot to be specifically designed to serve this population.

**RESPONSE DATE**

Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations may also submit written comments or questions concerning this proposal within 30 days from the receipt of notice. Comments may be sent by email to [1115wholepersoncare@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:1115wholepersoncare@dhcs.ca.gov) or by mail to the address below:

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