



HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

Susana Martinez, Governor
Brent Earnest, Secretary-Designate
Nancy Smith-Leslie, Acting Director

Date

<First Name> <Last Name>, <Title>

<Name of Tribe>

<Address>

<City>, NM <Zip Code>

RE: Tribal Consultation Letter 15-3: Request for comments on the updated Streamlined Application

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 state's Tribal Consultation requirements, this letter is to inform you that the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) intends to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to update the integrated and streamlined application for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other health insurance affordability programs, as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). HSD is seeking feedback and comments from Native American communities on the SPA and related streamlined application.

The ACA made a number of changes to simplify the Medicaid enrollment process. As part of these changes, all states were required to use a single, streamlined application or approved application beginning on October 1, 2013. HSD was granted approval from CMS to implement an alternative application that facilitates enrollment for Medicaid, CHIP and other insurance affordability programs as well as for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Cash Assistance and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) programs. Beginning on October 1, 2013, the single application replaced most other application forms as the primary means for individuals to apply for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, Cash Assistance, and LIHEAP benefits.

To further meet CMS requirements, incorporate additional feedback from stakeholders, and make the application process easier, HSD has revised the single application and the *Yes New Mexico* online application process. The changes will be implemented in March, 2015.

HSD does not anticipate a negative service or financial impact to individuals, Tribes, or their healthcare providers with the proposed amendment of the Medicaid State Plan.

We welcome your comments and feedback on the draft changes. Comments will be received through 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST) on Friday, February 20, 2015. All comments will be

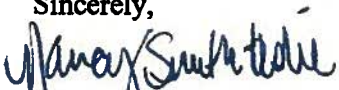
reviewed and recorded. HSD will consider this feedback as it makes any changes to the application, and will compile and submit all comments with the final SPA submission. The SPA will be submitted to CMS on March 31, 2015.

Copies of the draft SPA, application and screen shots from the *Yes New Mexico* online application are posted on the HSD website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx>.

You may send your comments/questions to our Native American Liaison for Medicaid, Theresa Belanger at (505) 827-3122 or by email at Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us.

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

Sincerely,



Nancy Smith-Leslie
Acting Medicaid Director

cc: Theresa Belanger, Native American Liaison, MAD
Kari Armijo, Health Care Reform Manager, MAD