



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

October 23, 2020

RE: Tribal Notification to Request Advice and Comments Letter 20-17: Elimination of Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Resource Standard

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 pm Mountain Time (MT) November 21, 2020**, regarding State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0016 which eliminates the resource standard for certain Medicare Savings Program (MSP) categories of eligibility.

Effective January 1, 2021, the New Mexico Human Services Department proposes to eliminate the resource standard for the following MSP categories: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLIMB) and Qualified Individuals (QI1). This change will enable more low-income individuals to access assistance through MSP categories so that Medicare is more affordable. This change also streamlines the administrative burden for MSP applicants and the Income Support Division as there will be no resource standards. The change will allow HSD to simplify renewals of MSP categories through implementation of an automated ex-parte process that allows for seamless transition from Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) categories to MSP categories.

Tribal Impact

The Human Services Department anticipates this change will have a positive impact on Native Americans, pueblos and IHS and tribal health care providers. The proposed change will allow more individuals to access assistance.

Tribal Advice and Comments

Tribes and tribal health care providers may view the proposed changes on the HSD website at: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx>, Tribal Notification **20-17**.

Important Dates

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 pm Mountain Time (MT) on November 21, 2020. Please send your comments to the MAD Native American Liaison, Theresa Belanger, at (505) 827-3122 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: <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/written-tribal-consultations.aspx> 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 November 21, 2020. This request may be made to: Theresa.Belanger@state.nm.us or by calling (505) 827-3122.

Sincerely,



Nicole Comeaux, Director
Medical Assistance Division

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