

## Fee-for-Service programs for American Indian/Alaskan Natives

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### Overview

This program was created in response to concerns expressed by the Washington State Tribes and the Urban Indian Health Organizations regarding accessibility of services.

Individuals enrolled in Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) who identify as American Indian and/or Alaska Native (AI/AN) are exempt from the requirement to enroll in a managed care organization for physical and behavioral health (substance use disorder and mental health) treatment.

The program was expanded to Apple Health clients without a managed care plan in 2021 to include all individuals who are not enrolled in a managed care plan. The Fee for Service (FFS) program serves 315,639 individuals.

### Background

As of April 1, 2016, all AI/AN Apple Health clients were given the opportunity to seek substance use disorder services through the Fee-for Service (FFS) program instead of through the behavioral health organization for their region. On July 1, 2017, mental health services were added to the FFS program.

### Eligibility

Effective January 1, 2020, under the FFS program, behavioral health services are not purchased, provided, or authorized by managed care organizations (MCOs). These services provided are based on medical necessity and determined by the provider agency enrolled with HCA in the FFS program. FFS clients may also choose to enroll in a MCO at any time, effective the first day of the following month.

### Authority

The FFS Program operates under the authority of the Medicaid 1915 (b) Waiver as it exempts the

AI/AN population from mandatory enrollment in managed care for behavioral health services.

### Fiscal year 2023 total budget

\$13,340,082.00

### Rates

Substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) fee schedules are available online at: [FFS Fee-schedules](#)

### Key partners

Washington State Tribes, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

### Oversight

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) has oversight of providers who have registered through the provider entry portal to provide behavioral health services to AI/AN FFS Apple Health clients.

### More information

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