



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

October 22, 2025

NOTICE

Subject: **Washington state’s Traditional Health Care Practices waiver —
notice of Section 1115 waiver application and public comment period**

Effective date: If approved, the Traditional Health Care Practices waiver could begin as soon as July 1, 2026

The Health Care Authority (HCA), in partnership with Tribes in Washington state, will submit a five-year Traditional Health Care Practices waiver application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This waiver is a Section 1115 waiver, and if approved, could begin as soon as July 1, 2026.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people have long recognized that traditional health care practices are essential to healing and wellness. The 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington state have rooted these practices—often called Traditional Indian Medicine—in their cultures. For years, Tribes have championed the recognition of these valued practices and worked toward sustainable funding to expand and ensure timely access to this vital care.

About the waiver

The Traditional Health Care Practices waiver is one way we can ensure Tribes are recognized — and paid — for providing traditional health care services. Under this waiver, CMS would allow certain types of facilities to provide traditional health care services as “qualifying facilities,” including:

- Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities
- Tribal facilities
- Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs), depending on state funding from the Legislature

When a qualifying facility provides traditional health care services to an eligible Apple Health or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollee, Medicaid will reimburse (pay) that facility for the service. This is a significant step in:

- Improving access to culturally relevant, holistic care
- Addressing health disparities
- Promoting health equity
- Helping preserve cultural practices
- Helping Tribes provide whole-person care for their communities through a stronger, more effective health care system for Native people

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

**DATE: October 22, 2025
TIME: 10:53 AM**

WSR 25-21-155

Public comment period

As part of the waiver application, HCA is holding a public comment period **from November 5 to December 5, 2025**. During this time, people can share their input on the waiver application or other comments about traditional health care practices.

Public comment is open to anyone who would like to share their input, especially Tribal Nations, Indian health care providers, UIHOs, Tribal health organizations, and Native-serving organizations. We also encourage health care and social service providers, hospitals and health systems, community-based organizations, the public, and anyone else interested in sharing their input.

The deadline to provide public comment is Friday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Public hearings

In partnership with Lummi Nation and Yakama Nation, we will offer two public hearings to share information about the waiver. During the hearings, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Attendees can attend in person, join virtually, or call in.

Tribe	Date and time	Location	Zoom and call-in information
Yakama Nation	Fri., November 14, 2025 1–2:30 p.m.	Legends Casino Hotel 580 Fort Road Toppenish, WA 98948	Join this public hearing on Zoom Meeting ID: 817 3643 0815 Call in: 1-253-215-8782 (Tacoma) 1-253-205-0468 (U.S.) See more information on how to join.
Lummi Nation	Wed., November 19, 2025 1–2:30 p.m.	2616 Kwina Road Bellingham, WA 98226	Join this public hearing on Zoom Meeting ID: 875 6272 8945 Call in: 1-253-215-8782 (Tacoma) 1-253-205-0468 (U.S.) See more information on how to join.

More information — including full details about the waiver and other ways to provide public comment — are available on our [Traditional Health Care Practices waiver page](#).

Contact

For additional information, contact Medicaid Transformation Tribal Liaison [Lena Nachand](#).