



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

December 1, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Extended Public Comment Period for Traditional Health Care Practices waiver**

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), HCA seeks your input and partnership to advance initiatives impacting Tribal communities.

On October 30, HCA sent an initial Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) about [Washington state's Traditional Health Care Practices waiver – notice of application and public comment period](#).

**We are extending the public comment period — which now ends on December 20, 2025 — and offering additional public hearings.**

### **Background**

In partnership with Tribes and Indian health care providers, HCA will submit a five-year Traditional Health Care Practices waiver application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by December 31, 2025. If approved, the waiver would allow certain qualifying facilities to be reimbursed (paid) for providing traditional health care services to an eligible Apple Health (Medicaid) or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollee.

Qualifying facilities include:

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

### **Public comment period extension**

**HCA is extending the public comment to December 20, 2025.** This extension does not change our intent to submit Washington's waiver application by December 31, 2025, or the previously scheduled Tribal listening session or Tribal Consultation.

As part of this extension, HCA is offering two more public forums:

<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Zoom and call-in information</b>
<b>Friday, December 5</b> 2:30–4 p.m.	Health Care Authority Pear Conference Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor 626 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Olympia, WA 98501	<a href="#">Join on Zoom</a> Meeting ID: 817 1259 2459 Call in: 1-253-215-8782 (Tacoma) 1-253-205-0468 (U.S.) <a href="#">See more information on how to join</a>

Dear Tribal Leader  
December 1, 2025  
Page 2

Date and time	Location	Zoom and call-in information
Tuesday, December 9 10:30 a.m.–noon	Health Care Authority Fir Conference Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor 626 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Olympia, WA 98501	<a href="#">Join on Zoom</a> Meeting ID: 846 7243 0072 Call in: 1-253-215-8782 (Tacoma) 1-253-205-0468 (U.S.) <a href="#">See more information on how to join</a>

During the public forums, 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.

**The deadline to provide public comment is Saturday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.**

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

We look forward to our continued partnership with you!

### Contact

For more information about the Traditional Health Care Practices waiver, please contact Medicaid Transformation Tribal Liaison [Lena Nachand](#). For any Tribal affairs-related questions or concerns, contact Tribal Affairs Administrator [Aren Sparck](#).

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Aren Sparck  
Tribal Affairs Administrator

By email

cc: Lena Nachand, Medicaid Transformation Tribal Liaison, HCA  
Annette Squetinkin-Anquoe, Health Care Program Manager, HCA