



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

December 16, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: Tribal Consultation rescheduled for the 1115 Waiver to Reimburse for Traditional Health Care Practices (THCP)**

**Purpose**

The Health Care Authority (HCA) received approval from the legislature to apply for a section 1115 waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with the intent to provide coverage of traditional health care practices. As required under 42, C.F.R. Sec. 431.408(b), HCA is collaborating with tribal leaders of Washington State to establish support for this new opportunity that will eventually increase access and improve health care among our tribal communities.

HCA, in partnership with Washington State tribes and urban Indian communities who have provided valuable input, has developed a draft application for submittal to CMS under the social security act to provide expenditure authority for coverage of THCP services. While a consultation meeting occurred on 12/16/25, HCA determined it necessary to reschedule it due to low attendance and unforeseen weather conditions.

**HCA will hold the Tribal consultation on Friday, January 9, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Our entire team at HCA, have every community's health, wellbeing and safety in our thoughts during this season. Moving forward, we trust that all our efforts will continue as planned with this important initiative.

**Contact**

For information about the Traditional Health Care Practices waiver, please contact Medicaid Transformation Tribal Liaison, Lena Nachand at [lena.nachand@hca.wa.gov](mailto:lena.nachand@hca.wa.gov). Please contact Aren Spark, Tribal Affairs Administrator, via email at [aren.spark@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.spark@hca.wa.gov), if you have tribal affairs-related questions.

Sincerely,

Aren Spark  
Tribal Affairs Administrator

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Enclosure

By email

cc: Christine Winn, Deputy Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lena Nachand, Tribal Liaison, OTA, HCA  
Annette Squetimkin-Anquoe, Health Care Program Manager, OTA, HCA