

# Fee-for-Service Program for American Indian/Alaska Natives

## Overview

In response to concerns expressed by the Washington State Tribes and the Urban Indian Health Organizations, individuals enrolled in Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and are exempt from a requirement to enroll in a managed care organization for physical and behavioral health (substance use disorder and mental health) treatment.

## Background

As of April 1, 2016, all AI/AN Apple Health clients receiving behavioral health services through a behavioral health organization (BHO) were transitioned to the Fee-for Service (FFS) program. In the FFS program, Medicaid services are not purchased, provided or authorized by BHOs or managed care organizations (MCOs). Services provided are based on medical necessity and determined by the provider agency.

## Eligibility requirements

As of July 1, 2017, any Apple Health client who identifies as AI/AN has the opportunity to seek treatment from a non-tribal provider without getting authorization from a BHO or MCO. They may also choose to enroll in a BHO or MCO at any time, effective the first day of the following month.

## Authority

The Medicaid 1915 (b) waiver that is the authority for the Medicaid managed care program for behavioral health exempts this population from mandatory enrollment.

## 2020-2021 budget

Title XIX (Medicaid)

## Rates

Substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) fee schedules are available online at

[www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/prior-authorization-claims-and-billing/provider-billing-guides-and-fee-schedules](http://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/prior-authorization-claims-and-billing/provider-billing-guides-and-fee-schedules).

## FY 2017 costs and numbers served

From April 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, a total of 4,315 people identified as AI/AN Apple Health clients not enrolled in managed care received SUD services.

From July 1, 2017, to present, a total of 1,893 persons identified as AI/AN Apple Health clients not enrolled in managed care received MH services. The total Medicaid cost from April 1, 2016 to present is \$7.79 million.

## Key partners

- Washington State Tribes
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## Oversight

HCA's 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 Apple Health clients.

## For more information

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