

November 15, 2024

Ms. Kate Friedman
Project Officer
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

RE: Arizona's 1115 Waiver Amendment: Traditional Health Care Practices Acceptance Letter

Dear Ms. Friedman,

This letter serves as the State of Arizona's formal written acknowledgement of the award and acceptance of the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) for the "Traditional Health Care Practices" amendment to the demonstration titled, "Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)" (Project Number 11-W-00275/9).

With this amendment, Arizona will have expenditure authority to provide coverage for traditional health care practices received through Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities or facilities operated by Tribes or Tribal organizations. Coverage of these traditional health care practices will be available to all AHCCCS members who are able to receive services delivered by or through these facilities. Implementation of the amendment will be subject to the approval of the state legislature as Arizona is required to secure non-federal share for the expenditures authorized by this amendment.

This federal approval represents a critical first step toward allowing traditional healers to bill for services under Medicaid, further broadening access to culturally appropriate health coverage for AHCCCS members. This action is the culmination of nearly a decade of work and partnership. AHCCCS submitted the nation's first-ever request for traditional healing reimbursement through Medicaid in 2015 and again in 2020. Throughout this process, AHCCCS has engaged traditional healers representing Tribal nations throughout the state.

My team and I sincerely appreciate the hard work, professionalism, and continued support of the CMS staff and leadership who worked to finalize the waiver request. We value our partnership and look forward to continuing working with you to further advance the objectives of Arizona's Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

Carmen Heredia
Director