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State/Territory Name: AK

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 25-0009

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) Summary Form (with 179-like data)
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

December 18, 2025

Heidi Hedberg
Commissioner
Department of Health
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923

Re: Alaska State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0009

Dear Commissioner Hedberg:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 25-0009. This amendment proposes to expand transportation services allowed under administrative case management for tribal health organizations.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Section 1905 of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations at 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 440.170. This letter informs you that Alaska's Medicaid SPA TN 25-0009 was approved on December 18, 2025, effective July 1, 2025.

Enclosed are copies of Form CMS-179 and approved SPA pages to be incorporated into the Alaska State Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Garza at (206) 615-2542 or via email at maria.garza@cms.hhs.gov

Sincerely,

Wendy E. Hill Petras,
Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

Cc: Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health @ emily.ricci@alaska.gov
Christal Hays, Alaska State Plan Coordinator @ christal.hays@alaska.gov
Eva Venema, Alaska State Plan Coordinator @ eva.venema@alaska.gov

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 5 — 0 0 0 9

2. STATE

AK3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT

XIX



XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2025

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION
42 CFR 440.170(a)

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 26 \$ 0b. FFY 27 \$ 07. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT
Attachment 3.1-A, Pages 9 a - d

Attachment 3.1-D, page 1

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

Attachment 3.1-A, Pages 9 a - d

Attachmet 3.1-D, page 1

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

Allow additional services allowed under administrative case management of transportation overseen by state or other governmental entities. SPA expands allowed services that can be billed through tribal health organizations managing transportation services to include taxis, wheelchair vans, transportation network companies, lodging, and meals.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT



COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED



NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL



OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

12. TYPED NAME
Emily Ricci13. TITLE
Deputy Commissioner & Medicaid Director14. DATE SUBMITTED
September 29, 202515. RETURN TO
Dept of Health Commissioner's Office
c/o Christal Hays
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503**FOR CMS USE ONLY**16. DATE RECEIVED
September 29, 202517. DATE APPROVED
December 18, 2025**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL
July 1, 2025

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Wendy E. Hill Petras21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

12/16/25 AK authorizes P&I changes to add Attachment 3.1-D, page 1 to the review package.

AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES
PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY

24. Any other medical care and any other type of remedial care recognized under State law and specified by the Secretary.

A.1. Transportation

☐ No limitations

☒ With limitations

(1) Transportation services will include

☒ Wheelchair van

☒ Taxi

☒ Stretcher car

☒ Bus passes

☒ Secured Transportation

☒ Air Transportation

☒ Ferry Transportation

☒ Meals

☒ Lodging

☒ Escort

☒ Other transportation (please describe)
- Shuttle Services

A.2. Brokered Transportation

☒ Provided under section 1902(a)(70)

Alaska's statewide transportation broker for non-emergency transportation is not a government entity and does not directly provide transportation services.

The statewide brokerage is cost effective because the system does not add any new services and thus incurs no additional costs. Administrative process streamlining also ensures cost effectiveness.

The State assures it has established a non-emergency medical transportation program in order to more cost-effectively provide transportation, and can document, upon request from CMS, that the transportation broker was procured in compliance with the requirements of 45 CFR 92.36 (b) – (f).

(1) The state will operate the broker program without the requirements of the following paragraphs of section 1902(a)

- ☐ (1) Statewideness (indicate areas of State that are covered)
- ☐ (10)(8) Comparability (indicate participating beneficiary groups)
- ☒ (23) Freedom of choice (indicate mandatory population groups)

(2) Transportation services provided will include

- ☐ Wheelchair van
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Stretcher car
- ☐ Bus passes
- ☐ Secured Transportation
- ☒ Air Transportation
- ☒ Ferry Transportation
- ☐ Meals
- ☐ Lodging
- ☐ Escort
- ☒ Other transportation (please describe)
Transportation Network Companies

(3) The State assures that transportation services will be provided under a contract with a broker who:

- ☒ is selected through a competitive bidding process based on the State's evaluation the broker's experience, performance, references, resources, qualifications, and costs;
- ☒ has oversight procedures to monitor beneficiary access and complaints and ensures that transport personnel are licensed, qualified, competent, and courteous;
- ☒ is subject to regular auditing and oversight by the State in order to ensure the quality of the transportation services provided and the adequacy of beneficiary access to medical care and services;
- ☒ complies with such requirements related to prohibitions on referrals and conflict of interest as the Secretary shall establish (based on prohibitions on physician referrals under section 1877 and such other prohibitions and requirements as the Secretary determines to be appropriate);

(4) The broker contract will provide transportation to the following categorically needy mandatory populations:

- ☒ Low-income families with children (section 1931)

- ☒ Low-income pregnant women
- ☒ Low-income infants
- ☒ Low-income children ages 1 – 5
- ☒ Low-income children ages 6 – 19
- ☒ Qualified pregnant women
- ☒ Qualified children
- ☒ IV-E Federal foster care and adoption assistance for children
- ☒ TMA recipients (due to employment)
- ☒ TMA recipients (due to child support)
- ☒ SSI recipients

(5) The broker contract will provide transportation to the following categorically needy optional populations:

- ☒ Optional low-income pregnant women
- ☒ Optional low-income infants
- ☒ Optional targeted low-income children
- ☒ Individuals under 21 who are under State adoption assistance agreements
- ☒ Individuals who meet income and resource requirements of AFDC or SSI
- ☐ Individual who would meet the income and resource requirements of AFDC if childcare costs were paid from earnings rather than by State agency
- ☒ Individuals who would be eligible for AFDC or SSI if they were not in a medical institution
- ☐ Individuals infected with TB
- ☒ individuals screened for breast or cervical cancer by CDC program
- ☐ Individuals receiving COBRA continuation benefits
- ☒ Individuals in a special income level group, in a medical institution for at least 30 consecutive stays, with gross income not exceeding 300% of SSI income standard
- ☒ individuals receiving Home and Community Based waiver Services who would only be eligible under State plan if in a medical institution
- ☐ Individuals terminally ill in in a medical institution and will receive hospice care
- ☐ Individuals aged or disabled with income not above 100% FPL

- ☐ Individuals receiving only an optional State supplement in a 209(b) State
 - ☒ Individuals working disabled who buy into Medicaid (BBA working disabled group)
 - ☐ Employed medically improved individuals who buy into Medicaid under TWWIIA Medical Improvement Group
 - ☒ Individuals disabled age 18 or younger who would require an institutional level of care (TEFRA 134 kids)
- (6) The State will pay the contracted broker by the following method:
- ☐ Risk capitation
 - ☐ Non-risk capitation
 - ☒ Other – broker makes direct payment to individual providers then submits a claim to Medicaid. Brokers are paid a brokerage fee

A.3. Governmental Agency

Administrative case management of transportation as a state plan function is preferred and overseen by the state or other governmental entities.

Vehicles (including taxis, wheelchair vans, transportation network companies and buses), air and ferry transportation and transportation related expenses (including meals and lodging) arranged by a government entity other than the state does not require purchase through the broker contract.

METHODS OF ASSURING TRANSPORTATION

I. Optional Medical Services –

Alaska uses a transportation broker under the state plan brokerage authority at 42 CFR § 440.170(a)(4) for air and ferry transportation only and 42 CFR § 440.170(a) authority for other transportation-related expenses.

- A. Necessary medically related transportation services include transportation provided by ambulance, taxicab, ferry, or other common carriers.
- B. Transportation services include expenses for transportation determined to be necessary by the agency to secure medical examinations and treatment for a recipient 42 CFR § 440.170(a).
- C. Included under transportation services are the costs of necessary food and lodging for the recipient and, in accordance with 42 CFR § 440.170(a)(3), an escort to accompany the recipient.

II. Transportation Assurances –

The Medicaid agency assures it meets the minimum requirements in section 1902(a)(87) of the Social Security Act.

III. Administrative Services –

Administrative case management of transportation as a state plan function is performed and overseen by the state or other governmental entities.

Coverage of EPSDT mileage reimbursement paid to the beneficiary shall be claimed as administrative expenses.