



Medicaid, Tribes, and Washington State



Federal Trust Responsibility

Medicaid is part of the federal trust responsibility to provide health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). RCW 43.71B.901 recognizes Washington State's responsibility to act in a manner consistent with this federal duty and not interfere with federal protections for AI/AN and IHCPs.



State Savings

Under federal law, states can amend their state plan amendment so that the federal government pays 100% of the costs of services provided to an American Indian/Alaska Natives at or through a Tribal facility. Since 1996, Washington State has utilized the 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to generate millions of dollars in state savings. For 2023, these savings are estimated to be between \$189 and \$206 million.



Tribal Health Infrastructure

100% FMAP helps strengthen Tribal health infrastructure.



Health Disparities

100% FMAP reduces AI/AN health disparities.



Consultation Requirements

The Social Security Act and RCW 43.376 require the State to consult with Tribes on changes to Medicaid. When consulting with Tribes, State agencies should:

- Ensure proposed state laws, regulations, and policies are consistent with the federal trust responsibility, RCW 43.71B.901, Medicaid state plan amendments; and all other applicable federal laws and policies; and
- Make decisions based on accurate and thorough fiscal analysis and use transparency in sharing this information with Tribes.



Managed Care Organization Compliance

Managed care organizations must comply with all federal and state legal protections for AI/AN and Indian health care providers (IHCPs) particularly on issues regarding access to care and IHCP reimbursement.

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