

APPENDIX 2



**Improve the Health of
Native American Families and Children
Support a Tribal Medicaid Waiver**



Talking Points:

- Not Medicaid Expansion
- Community-based prevention and early intervention
- Accountability through documented integrated and coordinated services
- Would result in:
 - Reduced infant mortality
 - Decreased alcoholism
 - Reduced severity of chronic diseases
 - More access to and resources for health care
 - Increased average life span currently age 53 for Native Americans in Wyoming (51 on the Wind River Reservation)

(See the attached for more details.)



Wyoming Tribal Uncompensated Care Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver



Need: American Indians residing in Central Wyoming on the Wind River Reservation have long experienced lower health status compared with other Americans, including:

- Lower average life spans by 25 years
- Higher rates for chronic diseases
- Infant mortality 4 times higher

By 2022 the Wind River Reservation population is estimated to increase by 33 % to over 15,000.

Average Age of Death	Years
General Population	78.7
Native Americans in United States	71.1
Native Americans in Wyoming	53.1

Discussion: The Department of Health of the State of Wyoming and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has authority to approve 1115 waivers that are experimental, pilot or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of Medicaid.

This tribal waiver is not a financial burden to the State of Wyoming. In fact, 100% of funding is federal pass-through. This waiver initiates collaboration among the State of Wyoming, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Indian Health System (I/T – Indian Health Service and Tribal), all of which supports federal trust responsibility. Payment is a facility-based payment made for uncompensated care performed at an IHS/Tribal 638 facility.

The Indian health care delivery system has historically been underfunded through congressional appropriations.

Benefits of the Proposed Tribal 1115 Demonstration Waiver:

This Tribal 1115 Waiver will reimburse the Indian health care delivery facilities uncompensated care payments to address disproportionate health disparities for IHS eligible beneficiaries in I/T facilities.

A major component of the Uncompensated Care Demonstration project is integrating the utilization of the ***accredited medical home model throughout the I/T system.*** The integration of all systems will improve the quality of life on the Wind River Reservation.

Accountability will be accomplished by:

- Patient tracking and eligibility criteria
- Targeted case management for substance abuse and chronic disease
- Culturally appropriate programs using evidence-based guidelines and standards
- Increased patient responsibility through support, screenings and education
- Tracking referrals and follow up

Funds captured from the uncompensated care waiver will be re-invested in health care services available for IHS eligible individuals at IHS/Tribal 638 facilities. Reinvestment in services will improve health outcomes, increase access to services, eliminate disparities and result in overall budget neutrality and/or savings for the State of Wyoming.

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