CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-20

Title: Support for the Inclusion of Urban Indian Organizations in Washington's Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver Amendment for Traditional Medicine Practices

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's citizens reside in villages and urban communities throughout the United States, with approximately 8,200 citizens residing in Washington state and 7,000 in the Seattle area; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's citizens in Washington and across the country rely on the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) for medical services; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a framework for a demonstration initiative that would enable states to submit Section 1115 Demonstration Waivers to Medicaid reimbursement of traditional health care practices; and

WHEREAS, this CMS framework authorized IHS clinics, Tribal clinics, and UIOs as eligible facilities for receiving reimbursement through Medicaid for traditional health care practices, but permitted each state to specify which eligible facilities would be included in its waiver; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, CMS approved four states (Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Oregon) to amend their Section 1115 waivers to authorize Medicaid reimbursement for traditional health care practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Washington's Health Care Authority began developing and soliciting public comment on an amendment to its Section 1115 waiver to authorize Medicaid reimbursement for traditional health care practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, Washington's Health Care Authority notified the state's UIOs via a memo and a delegate meeting with the American Indian Health Commission that UIOs will be excluded as eligible entities in the application the state will submit to CMS; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of UIOs in CMS reimbursement for traditional health care practices is broadly supported across Indian Country, as demonstrated in previous resolutions from the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Health Board, and the American Indian Health Commission in Washington; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals should have access to culturally-attuned healthcare and improved healthcare outcomes, regardless of where they live; and

WHEREAS, the federal trust and treaty responsibilities for the provision of healthcare for AI/AN individuals must be upheld for AI/AN individuals residing in urban areas;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened September 23-25, 2026, hereby supports the inclusion of Urban Indian Organizations in Washington state's application to amend its Section 1115 waiver to authorize reimbursement of traditional health care services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska calls upon the Washington Health Care Authority to revise the proposed amendment to its Section 1115 waiver to include UIOs as eligible entities for reimbursement of traditional health care practices;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska calls upon the Washington state legislature to authorize the necessary funding to implement the provision of these crucial services to AI/AN Washington residents.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata