



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

April 6, 2020

Karen Matthews,  
Health and Human Services Director  
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Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana  
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Mildred Darden, Clinic Office Supervisor  
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana  
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Marshall Pierite, Chairman  
Carl Chapman, Health Director  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351-1589

Mr. Earl Evans, Tribal Administrator  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351-1589

David Sickey, Chairman  
Paula Manuel, Health Director  
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 818  
Elton, LA 70532

Chief Beverly Cheryl Smith  
Kellye Smith, Health Director  
The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians  
P. O. Box 14  
Jena, LA 71342

Dear Louisiana Tribal Contact:

**RE: Notification of Louisiana Medicaid State Plan Amendment**

In compliance with the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the Louisiana Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing is taking the opportunity to notify you of its intent, in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Statewide Public Health Emergency, to invoke implementation of the waivers of eligibility and enrollment policies for application and redetermination, cost sharing and prior authorization requirements outlined in Louisiana's CHIP Disaster Eligibility and Enrollment State Plan Amendment (SPA) LA SPA TN 19-0022. The SPA was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on August 15, 2019.

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In response to COVID-19, the State will also submit a SPA to:

1. Modify the tribal consultation process by shortening the number of days before submission of the SPA and/or conducting consultation after submission of the SPA;
2. Provide for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period for non-citizens declaring to be in a satisfactory immigration status, if the non-citizen is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or the agency is unable to complete the verification process within the 90-day reasonable opportunity period; and
3. Provide temporary suspension of the premium lock-out period regardless of whether the family has paid their outstanding premium for existing beneficiaries who reside and/or work in a state or federally declared disaster or public health emergency area.

This may have an impact on your tribe.

Please provide any comments you may have by **close of business April 7, 2020** to Karen Barnes via email at [Karen.Barnes@la.gov](mailto:Karen.Barnes@la.gov) or by postal mail to:

Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing  
Medicaid Policy and Compliance  
P.O. Box 91030  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030

Should you have additional questions about Medicaid policy, Mrs. Barnes will be glad to assist you. You may contact her via email at the email address above or via telephone at (225) 421-6652.

Thank you for your continued support of the tribal consultation process.

Sincerely,

*Karen H. Barnes* for

Erin Campbell  
Acting Medicaid Director

EC/KHB/MVJ

c: Billy B. Farrell  
Nancy Grano  
Tobias Griffin  
Sandra Phelps