

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS  
PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY'S TRIBAL UNCOMPENSATED  
CARE PROGRAM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017**

**COMMENTS DUE:** January 17, 2015

**PROPOSAL:** The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is proposing to extend the Tribal Uncompensated Care Program through June 30, 2017. The program began in November 2013 and is currently due to expire December 31, 2014.

The Uncompensated Care Program (UCCP) is meant to provide reimbursement to tribal health centers in order for them to broaden the numbers of services that can be reimbursed by Medicaid funds and improve access to health care services for tribal members and their families.

**BACKGROUND:** The Tribal Uncompensated Care Payment Program is intended to financially assist Oregon's Tribal Health Programs in their critical role as essential providers for American Indians/Alaskan Natives who experience disproportionate health disparities. The problem of health disparity in the Tribal population exists due to a mixture of circumstances including historical trauma, disproportionate poverty rates, disproportionate rates of substance abuse and access to culturally competent health care. Federal programs exist that are meant to assure adequate health care for American Indians/Alaskan Natives but do not meet a minimum service level. Other programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare, are meant to backfill this shortfall but are an incomplete answer. The Uncompensated Care Program is therefore intended to help to enhance access to health care within tribal populations.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** Send written comments by fax, mail or email to:

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**NEXT STEPS:** OHA will consider all comments received. A request for an amendment to the state's 1115 Demonstration, the Oregon Health Plan, to extend the Tribal Uncompensated Care Program will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.