



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

March 13, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Indian Nation Agreement Closeout and Restatement

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989 regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA seeks your input and partnership to advance initiatives impacting Tribal communities.

Purpose

In October of 2019, HCA partnered with Tribal governments to create the first Indian Nation Agreement focused on behavioral health services, modeling after the long standing Consolidated Intergovernmental Agreements with the Department of Social and Health Services during integration of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery to the HCA. During this process, the Tribes and HCA agreed to an INA structure that was comprised of an umbrella agreement outlining general terms and conditions (GTC), and an INA scope of work for Behavioral Health Services. The INA was set up as a 5-year agreement with the ability to continue for the past 5 years if no changes were needed.

Since this negotiation, there have been some changes to our INA structure and the INA volume of programs and amendments have expanded exponentially, necessitating the close-out of existing agreements and the need for revisions of the GTC. Overall, HCA intends to maintain much of the INA GTCs and program SLAs language substantively close to the current agreement. Our goal is to bring the GTC to the current state with process improvements to the structure. Improvement efforts include:

- Update INA structure to improve organization and clarity of various scopes of work through a task order structure called Service Level Agreements.
- Update monitoring section to align with new [risk assessment](#) process negotiated in 2023.
- Move and clarify INA negotiated terms to the GTCs for SLA streamlining across programs.
 - Clarify task order structure with appropriate numbering and language to distinguish INA SLA projects within the GTC umbrella agreement
 - Quarterly reporting options and timelines
 - One plan across SLAs rather than multiple plans
 - SLA template across all behavioral health projects and scopes of work
 - Update risk assessment to accurately reflect risk levels

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HCA has reserved the following dates and times for three INA work groups, a roundtable and a Consultation. All documents will be available one week prior to the first workgroup via email and posted on the INA site and we will be accepting feedback until the Consultation on April 17, 2025. The INA can be further negotiated by each Tribe following Consultation. HCA's goal is to have these completed by the end of April so that we can successfully close out current INAs and start new restatements on 7/1/2025. If we are not able to achieve this goal, we will further amend the current INAs to ensure funding agreements continue timely.

Meetings Details

- **Workgroup #1:** March 27, 2025, from 2pm to 4pm
- **Workgroup #2:** March 28, 2025, from 10am – noon
- **Workgroup #2:** April 1, 2025, from 3:30pm – 5pm
- **Roundtable:** April 9, 2025, from 3:30pm – 5pm
- **Consultation:** April 17, 2025, from 3pm – 5pm

All meetings will be held virtually over zoom at the following link.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3039662143?omn=89486440782>

Comments and Questions

We deeply value your partnership and look forward to your insights and contributions. Please feel free to share this invitation with any other interested parties within your community.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Aren Sparck at aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



MaryAnne Lindeblad, BSN, MPH
Acting Director

cc: Lou McDermott, Deputy Director, EXO, HCA
Teesha Kirshbaum, Division Director, DBHR, HCA
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA
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