

Covering Indian Country



February 2025

Spotlight: Marketplace coverage reminder

A great way to meet people's needs is to connect them with services and resources that may help them stay well.

To that end, CMS hopes you'll remind people in your community that many tribal members can enroll in Marketplace coverage at any time.



Here are some resources you can share:

- The [tribal version of the Roadmap to Better Care](#) (PDF, 3.3 MB, 27 pp), a quick guide to health care coverage options and how to use them
- [View Your Path to Better Health](#) (PDF, 78 MB, 1 p), a poster-size version of an infographic depicting the eight-step journey from coverage to care
- [Know Before You Go](#) (PDF, 127 KB, 1 p), which outlines how services received in primary care settings differ from those received in emergency departments

Looking for other resources? Visit CMS's [Outreach and Education Resources page](#).

February: Heart health

Show your heart some love.

Make appointments for preventive services that help keep your heart healthy.

For more information, contact your local Indian health care provider, visit [HealthCare.gov/coverage](https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage) or call **1-800-318-2596**.



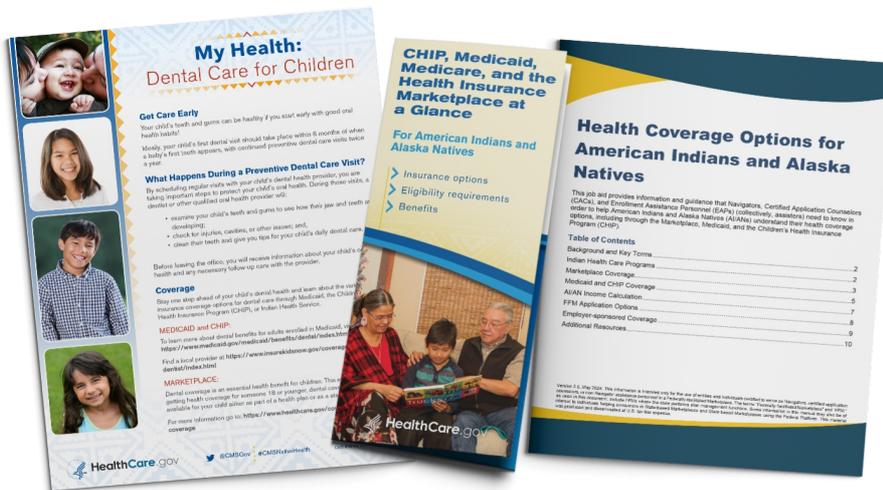
Share this ad in your newsletter or on your website. For more information, please visit CMS's [Outreach and Education Resources page](#).

 Post it

Take steps to keep your heart healthy. Schedule your wellness visit today.

[#CMSNativeHealth](#)

CMS tribal products



Access these tribal-specific resources anytime:

- [My Health: Dental Care for Children](#) (PDF, 931 KB, 2 pp) explains what to expect during a preventive dental care visit and provides links to information about dental care coverage.
- The [CMS Programs at a Glance brochure](#) (PDF, 1.1 MB, 2 pp) reviews health care coverage options and benefits specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- [Health Coverage Options for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#) (PDF, 208 KB, 10 pp) provides an overview of certain tribal protections in the Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Health observances

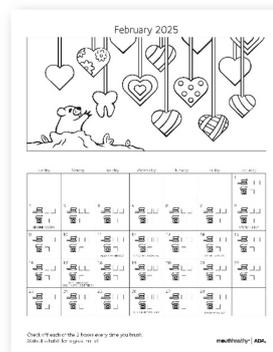
Children's dental health

February is National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM), an annual observance that highlights the importance of keeping kids' teeth and gums healthy.

During NCDHM, share [a downloadable monthly brushing calendar for 2025](#), which encourages children to brush twice daily with a fluoride toothpaste. Also, remind families that:

- The initial dental visit should occur within 6 months of when a child's first tooth appears
- Subsequent dental visits should occur twice yearly for preventive care

Additionally, check out an [NCDHM program planning guide](#) (PDF, 218 KB, 6 pp) for suggested activities to promote children's dental health all month long.



February is American Heart Month

In observance of American Heart Month, share [an article with recommendations for designing programs to support heart health in Indigenous communities](#).

The recommendations include:

- Partnering with communities to identify local priorities
- Collaborating with local elders and knowledge keepers to explore how lifestyle changes can be adapted to reflect Indigenous values
- Consulting with patient navigators or knowledge keepers to explore how clinical care can better support the needs of community members

Additional resources

Call for nominations for NRHA's Rural Health Awards

February 24 is the deadline to submit nominations to the National Rural Health

Association (NRHA) for this year's [Rural Health Awards](#).



Either the nominee or nominator must be an NRHA member. Eligible nominees include:

- Health practitioners, researchers, educators, students, and other individuals in the field of rural health
- Community-based groups or organizations that have improved access to health services and information for rural people
- Community, regional, or statewide programs involving at least one health professional or entity that promotes or facilitates the development of rural health delivery systems

Awardees will be honored May 22 at [NRHA's 48th Annual Rural Health Conference](#) in Atlanta.

Funding opportunities

Connecting Kids to Coverage grants

Deadline: March 7

[View the Connecting Kids to Coverage funding opportunity](#)

The Connecting Kids to Coverage outreach and enrollment grants help:

- Reduce the number of children who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Improve retention of eligible children, parents, and pregnant women who are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP

RCORP-Overdose Response grants

Deadline: March 10

[View the RCORP-Overdose Response funding opportunity](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)-Overdose Response grants are available to support:

- Specific short-term activities related to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery
- Work related to capacity building, supportive services, and special populations

ACF grants for a home visiting program

Deadline: March 17

[View the ACF funding opportunity](#)

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is offering five-year cooperative agreements to develop, implement, sustain, or expand a culturally grounded, evidence-based home visiting program for expectant families and families with young children.

Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children grants

Deadline: March 17

[View the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program funding opportunity](#)

The Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program supports community-based projects promoting access to preventive clinical and public health services for underserved children. Projects should align with at least one of the following topic areas:

- Children's behavioral health screenings and referrals
- Children's immunizations
- Well-visits for adolescents

Calendar of events

Telebehavioral health webinars

Sponsored by the Indian Health Service TeleBehavioral Health Center of Excellence (TBHCE), these [tele-education webinars](#) are intended for health care team members.

TBHCE webinar series, 12 p.m. Eastern

- February 25 – Helping People Engage in Self-Care and Self-Compassion
- March 11 – Helping People Plan Then Act to Improve Their Quality of Life

- March 25 – Helping People Focus on Solutions (Solution-Focused) and Tell a Story of Surviving and Thriving (Narrative Therapy)

Program Sustainability webinar series, 12 p.m. Eastern

- March 10 – Tribal/University Partnerships: Using a Community-Based Participatory Approach to Build Sustainable Programs

Webinars on early childhood preventive care

CMS invites all interested staff from state Medicaid and CHIP programs and managed care plans, pediatric care providers, public health agencies, and other quality improvement partners to take part in [a webinar series on early childhood preventive care](#). Each webinar will be held from 2–3 p.m. Eastern.

- March 3 – State Medicaid and CHIP Experiences Promoting Preventive Care through Well-Child Visits in Early Childhood
- March 31 – Overview of the Improving Preventive Care in Early Childhood Affinity Group and Expression of Interest Process
- April 14 – Addressing Barriers to Well-Child Visits and Preventive Care: Promising Approaches to Transportation in Medicaid and CHIP

Tribal Health Equity Data Symposium

March 4–5

Washington, DC, with a live streaming option

[Register for the Tribal Health Equity Data Symposium](#)

Hosted by the National Indian Health Board and funded by CMS, the Tribal Health Equity Data Symposium will highlight the importance of a tribally driven, culturally grounded approach to data collection, analysis, governance, and communications.

International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health

March 28–30

Winnipeg, Manitoba

[Register for the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health](#)

The International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health explores programs and strategies to promote the well-being of Indigenous children and youth worldwide.

Early bird registration runs through **February 26**.



Protecting Our Children Conference

March 30–April 2

Orlando, Florida, and virtual

[Register for the Protecting Our Children Conference](#)



NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

The 43rd annual Protecting Our Children Conference theme is "Honoring the Sacred." Sponsored by the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the conference is geared toward social service providers, legal professionals, tribal leaders, federal program staff, and advocates for children.

Annual NCUIH conference

April 23–24

Washington, DC

[Register by March 7 for early bird pricing](#)

Urban Indian organization (UIO) staff, health care professionals, policymakers, community leaders, and advocates are encouraged to attend the annual National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) conference. The day before the conference, NCUIH will offer

training to UIO boards of directors. Additionally, UIOs are invited to participate in Capitol Hill Day April 25.



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About the newsletter

Covering Indian Country is published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Division of Tribal Affairs to share resources, success stories, and best practices with the people who connect tribal communities to health care coverage.

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