



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services
Administration

Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Rockville, MD 20857

July 27, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and/or who are historically economically or medically marginalized, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

HRSA's [Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program](#) is authorized by § 330M (42 U.S.C. § 254c-19), as amended of the Public Health Service Act., and Section 2712 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2). The purpose of this program is to promote behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care by supporting pediatric mental health care telehealth access programs. The Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program utilizes state, tribal, and regional networks of pediatric mental health care teams to provide consultation, training, technical assistance, and care coordination support for pediatric primary care and other providers to diagnose, treat, and refer children with behavioral health conditions.

HRSA welcomes input from all stakeholders and parties interested in our mission. We are specifically seeking information from Indian Country about ways telehealth can be used in public health to increase access to and improve pediatric behavioral health care. HRSA currently supports 45 Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Programs, including the Chickasaw Nation and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. We are soliciting feedback to inform program development, and to increase program reach into additional Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations. We are seeking information from, but not limited to, Tribal elders, leaders, members of Tribal Councils, relevant provider organizations, medical societies, organizations representing medical facilities, or other Tribal Organizations with experience and expertise in pediatrics and behavioral health care.

HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is hosting a **virtual listening session** to collect input and inform Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program implementation in Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations.

Date: Thursday, August 11

Time: 4:00-5:30 PM Eastern

Location: [https://hrsa-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1617602241?pwd=MHVUckZjMnhPbUpPcWhFTm9VRWJkdz09](https://hrsa.gov/zoomgov.com/j/1617602241?pwd=MHVUckZjMnhPbUpPcWhFTm9VRWJkdz09)

Meeting ID: 161 760 2241

Passcode: ZhY6g2Bk

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Objectives of the listening session:

- Provide overview of Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program
- Highlight experience of a Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Tribal awardee, the Chickasaw Nation
- Solicit feedback and input from Tribal Nations and Urban Indian Organizations to inform PMHCA program development and implementation

[Register for the session](#)

HRSA is committed to assisting Tribal Nations and Urban Indian Organizations in addressing the behavioral health workforce needs of Indian Country and looks forward to strengthening its relationship with Tribes and Tribal Organizations on delivering behavioral health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

HRSA is accepting written comments as well, through August 31, 2022, and appreciates your consideration. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Team Lead at MReddy@hrsa.gov.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Warren/

Michael D. Warren, MD, MPH, FAAP

Associate Administrator

Maternal and Child Health Bureau