



October 22, 2021

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 economically or medically vulnerable, including American Indians and Alaska Natives.

I am writing with new information on HRSA's development of the proposed [Maternity Health Care Target Area \(MCTA\) Criteria](#). In accordance with Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act, and authorized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA will establish the criteria to determine maternity care health professional target areas (MCTAs) in existing primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas. Accordingly, on September 27, 2021, HRSA published a [Federal Register Notice \(FRN\)](#) introducing the proposed criteria used to identify and score MCTAs and requesting comment on those criteria. This FRN is part of the requirement of Section 332 of the Public Service Act to Improve Access to Maternity Care Act (and is under statutory requirements).

HRSA welcomes input from all stakeholders and parties interested in our mission. However, we specifically seek information from Indian Country with knowledge of public health strategies to improve maternal health and maternity care delivery. This includes but is not limited to relevant provider organizations, medical societies, organizations representing medical facilities, or other tribal organizations with expertise in maternity care.

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

HRSA is accepting comments through November 26, 2021, and appreciates your consideration. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce at sdmp@hrsa.gov.

Sincerely,
/Diana Espinosa/

Diana Espinosa
Acting Administrator