



Minnesota Department of Human Services
Elmer L. Andersen Building
Temporary Commissioner John Connolly
Post Office Box 64998
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0998

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20201

via Email only

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

On behalf of the State of Minnesota, the Department of Human Services is pleased to submit this section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver application for traditional medicine. The waiver was developed in collaboration with Tribal partners. The waiver title, *Mino Bimaadiziwin-Wiċhóžani* is generally translated to mean wellness and good health in the Ojibwe (Chippewa) and Dakota (Sioux) languages, respectively.

The waiver would allow Medicaid coverage for traditional medicine services provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives enrolled in Minnesota's Medicaid program, known as Medical Assistance. The health benefits of traditional medicine practices have been well documented. Moreover, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Indian Health Service have supported the practices and acknowledged their effectiveness.

The state respects the government-to-government relationship between federal agencies and Tribal Nations, as well as Treaty and Trust responsibilities. Medicaid coverage of traditional medicine is a priority for the eleven federally recognized Tribes that share borders with Minnesota. Recognizing this priority, state law directed the Minnesota Department of Human Services as the State Medicaid agency to apply for the demonstration waiver.

My staff looks forward to working with yours to reach approval. We will then work with the Tribal partners and facilities to implement this important service.

I appreciate your consideration of this waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Connolly', written over a horizontal line.

John M. Connolly, Ph.D., M.S.Ed.
Temporary Commissioner
State Medicaid Director