



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

## A Sovereign Tribal Nation

### (Supporting the State of Arizona Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to Include the 1115 Waiver Allowing Reimbursement for Traditional Practitioners under the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power “[t]o represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act (“SSA”) gives the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are found by the Secretary to be likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program; and
- WHEREAS,** Arizona’s Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver refers to Section 1115 of the SSA, which States must comply with under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Programs, and since its inception, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (“AHCCCS”) has been exempt from various provisions of the SSA; and
- WHEREAS,** on October 16, 2024, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (“CMS”) approved Arizona’s 1115 Waiver, enabling AHCCCS with expenditure authority and allowing reimbursements for coverage of traditional health care practices received through Indian Health Service (“IHS”) facilities or facilities operated by Tribes or Tribal organizations through September 30, 2027, unless extended or otherwise amended; and
- WHEREAS,** the 1115 Waiver has effectively expanded healthcare services for American Indians and Alaskan Natives (“AI/AN”) by allowing and approving reimbursements and improving access to coverage for culturally appropriate health care within the State of Arizona through AHCCCS; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has a rich history of providing traditional healing and traditional services deeply rooted in Apache heritage and cultural traditions that helps not only physical ailments but also the mental and spiritual well-being of patients; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe’s Health Advisory Board recognizes that traditional Apache healing and traditional services compliments western medicine and is an alternative service being offered by Apache Behavioral Health Services with the prospect of it being offered at the Rainbow Treatment Center and at the Whiteriver Service Unit; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe’s Health Advisory Board supports measures to reimburse traditional practitioners, and the Council finds that supporting this measure is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

***Resolution No. 03-2025-37***

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby supports and advocates for the State of Arizona's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to include the Section 1115 waiver authorizing reimbursement for traditional practitioners through AHCCCS and for more expansive and culturally appropriate coverage of traditional health care practices received through Indian Health Service facilities or facilities operated by Tribes or Tribal organizations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MARCH 05, 2025 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1, of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

<u>Kasey Velasquez</u>	<u>3-6-25</u>	<u>Vaneya Johnson</u>	<u>for</u>	<u>3/6/2025</u>
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman	Date	Vaneya Johnson, Tribal Secretary		Date