
SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE: INCLUSION OF ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

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Instructions for Submitting a Supplementary Response

Please answer the questions below regarding access to essential community providers in the issuer's proposed service area(s). Please be as complete and specific as possible in each of your responses. In order to be considered complete, the supplementary response must contain an appropriate explanation for each applicable question. Please note that if the issuer is applying in multiple service areas, the response should address each service area.

Issuers that do not qualify for the alternate ECP standard should complete either Section 1 or Section 2. Issuers that qualify for the alternate ECP standard should complete Section 3.

Section 1: Instructions for General Standard Issuers Above the 20% Threshold

For issuers that do not qualify for the alternate ECP standard: if the issuer plans include at least 20 percent of available ECPs in the service area but the issuer does not agree to both conditions #1 and #2 below, please respond to each question that applies (issuers not agreeing to both conditions should respond to both questions). Please note that issuers that meet the 20% threshold and agree to both conditions do not need to provide a supplemental response.

1. **Condition #1:** The issuer will offer a contract to all Indian providers in the service area using the Model Indian Addendum developed by HHS.

If the issuer does not agree to this condition, how will the issuer's provider network(s), as currently structured, provide adequate access to care for American Indians/Alaska Natives?

2. **Condition #2:** The issuer will offer a contract to at least one ECP in each available ECP category¹ in each county in the service area.

If the issuer does not agree to this condition, how will the issuer's provider networks, as currently structured, provide access to a broad range of ECP types, including access for individuals with HIV/AIDS and individuals seeking women's health and reproductive health services?

Section 2: Instructions for Issuers whose Plan(s) Do Not Meet the 20% Threshold

For issuers that do not qualify for the alternate ECP standard: if the issuer plans do not include at least 20 percent of available ECPs in the service area, please respond to questions 3-5.

3. Describe why the issuer is unable to achieve the 20% standard for ECPs. The response should address the issuer's efforts to contract with additional ECPs (including provider information and contract offer dates, as applicable) and why those efforts have been

¹ ECP categories include: federally qualified health centers; Ryan White providers; family planning providers; Indian providers; hospitals; and other providers, such as STD clinics, TB clinics, and hemophilia treatment centers.

unsuccessful. Please be as specific as possible in your response. For example, the issuer may want to indicate whether contract negotiations are still in progress or the extent to which the issuer was not able to agree on contract terms with available ECPs (and if so, which terms).

4. Describe how the issuer plans to increase ECP participation in its provider networks in the future. For example, the issuer may want to describe plans to offer contracts to additional ECPs or to modify current contract terms.
5. Describe how the issuer's provider networks, as currently structured, provide an adequate level of service for low-income and medically underserved individuals. Please be specific in your response.
 - a. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for individuals with HIV/AIDS (including those with co-morbid behavioral health conditions).
 - b. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
 - c. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for low-income and underserved individuals seeking women's health and reproductive health services.

Section 3: Instructions for Issuers that Qualify for the Alternate Standard

For issuers that qualify for the alternate ECP standard: if the number of issuer provider locations that are in, or contiguous to, Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) or zip codes in which 30 percent or more of the population falls below 200 percent of the federal poverty level is fewer than the equivalent of 20 percent of available ECPs in the service area, please respond to each question below.

6. Describe why the issuer's plan does not meet the equivalent of the 20 percent threshold, and any plans to provide additional access to low-income and medically underserved consumers in the future.
7. Describe how the issuer's provider networks, as currently structured, provide an adequate level of service for low-income medically underserved individuals. Please be specific in your response.
8. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for individuals with HIV/AIDS (including those with co-morbid behavioral health conditions).
9. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for American Indians/Alaska Natives.

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10. Describe how the issuer's current networks provide adequate access to care for low-income and underserved individuals seeking women's health and reproductive health services.