



Office of the Executive Director

Navajo Division for Children and Family Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday, October 10, 2025



Traditional Healing services to be covered by Medicaid in Arizona

October 10 is World Mental Health Day, an international day for mental health education, awareness and advocacy.

The Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families (NTCCF) is sharing the following teaching in honor of World Mental Health Day:

Siihasin is a thought, a thinking to have as a Navajo Indigenous person, a mind set to have and reach as a daily goal, which is to live well. Having a good wellness plan involves the ability to understand the four concepts in Navajo: ádééhánii, ádáhodilzin, ádaa'áháyá, and ádaahááhasin. This will carry you through to old age.

To advocate for change, empower and strengthen our children, families, and communities by providing quality, holistic, cultural, and value-based services.

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On this day the Navajo Division for Children and Family Services is also sharing the announcement from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) that Traditional Healing services may be covered by Medicaid for its members starting October 1, 2025.

The NTCCF is currently working to implement third party reimbursement for the Traditional Healing services that it provides. This would allow more resources for the program to carry out its mission to help children and their families heal from trauma and move forward on a path of wellness and well-being.

NTCCF is a program under the Navajo Division for Children and Family Services that provides outpatient therapeutic services to children impacted by trauma, including but not limited to, domestic violence, substance use, anxiety, anger, and sadness. NTCCF provides voluntary outpatient counseling and other mental health services to Native American children and outpatient family counseling to individuals, couples, groups or families. Traditional services are offered by the program.

The Navajo Division for Children and Family Services offers services with the theme of, “Culture is Healing.” The theme aligns with the goals and objective of the Diné Action Plan to utilize the strengths of the Navajo people’s traditional teachings and culture to defeat the monsters of suicide, substance abuse, domestic violence and missing and murdered Diné relatives.

According to a press release from AHCCCS, the new policy allows Traditional Healing services to be provided in both inpatient and outpatient settings; services must be delivered by practitioners employed or contracted by Indian Health Service or Tribal 638 facilities; each facility defines the scope of services eligible for reimbursement; and services are billable subject to limits consistent with Medicaid guidelines.

According to AHCCCS, “Traditional healing is a culturally grounded system of care developed and practiced by generations of Tribal healers. These methods support physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being, and reflect the values, beliefs and practices of Arizona’s Tribal communities.”

To be eligible for coverage of traditional health care services, an AHCCCS member must be a Medicaid beneficiary and eligible to receive services from I.H.S. or tribal facilities.

A waiver for Arizona to offer Traditional Healing as a Medicaid benefit was approved in October 2024 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

For more information on NTCCF services, please call the NTCCF Administration at (928) 871-7679.

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