

at 11:59 p.m. EST. Specific dates will be announced at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov).

- The public is invited to present virtual oral comments to HHS and USDA on Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST; pre-registration is required. Registration for oral comments will open on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. EST and close once capacity has been reached. Virtual oral comments can be pre-recorded or provided live virtually via videocast. More information on the oral comment opportunity will be available at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Designated Federal Officer, 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, Janet M. de Jesus, MS, RD; Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: 240-453-8266; Email [DietaryGuidelines@hhs.gov](mailto:DietaryGuidelines@hhs.gov). Additional information is available at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Authority and Purpose:* Under section 301 of Public Law 101-445 (7 U.S.C. 5341, the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, title III), the Secretaries of HHS and USDA are directed to publish the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* jointly at least every five years. See 88 FR 3423, January 19, 2023, for notice of the first meeting of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, the complete Authority and Purpose, and the Committee's Task. The 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is formed and governed under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. app).

*Public Comments:* Written comments from the public will be accepted once the Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is published online. The public will have 60 calendar days to provide written comments to HHS and USDA; this public comment period closes on the 60th day at 11:59 p.m. EST. Specific dates will be announced at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov).

- *Online (preferred method):* Follow the instructions for submitting comments at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, will be posted to Docket HHS-OASH-2024-0017.

- *Mail:* Mail/courier to Janet M. de Jesus, MS, RD, HHS/OASH/ODPHP, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20852. For written/paper submissions, ODPHP will post your

comment, and any attachments, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

*Oral Comments:* HHS and USDA invite the public to present virtual oral comments on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Pre-registration is required, and the number of commenters is limited based on time constraints. Registration for oral comments will open on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. EST and will close once capacity has been reached. Oral comments will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Oral comments will be limited to one representative per organization. All commenters' remarks should be respectful and given in a manner that recognizes and protects the dignity of the proceedings. Oral comments should focus on the scientific review and evidence-based advice found in the Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. More information on the oral comment opportunity will be available at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov).

*Registration for Oral Comments:* Requests to present oral comments can be made by going to [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov). For registration to be accepted, a written outline or a summary of the intended oral comment will be required as part of the registration process. Please limit your written outline or summary to no more than 250 words. A confirmation email with instructions will be sent to confirmed speakers from [DietaryGuidelines@hhs.gov](mailto:DietaryGuidelines@hhs.gov). Confirmed speakers will have the option to submit a pre-recorded video to be played at the public meeting on January 16, 2025, or present virtual live oral remarks via videocast on January 16, 2025. To avoid technical difficulties, submission of a pre-recorded video is strongly encouraged.

**Paul L. Reed,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.*

[FR Doc. 2024-29100 Filed 12-10-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4150-32-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Indian Health Service**

**Notice of Proposed Purchased/ Referred Care Delivery Area Redesignation for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska**

**AGENCY:** Indian Health Service, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice advises the public that the Indian Health Service (IHS)

proposes to expand the geographic boundaries of the Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) for the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska (Iowa Tribe, or Tribe) to include the counties of Jackson in the State of Kansas, and Holt in the State of Missouri. The current PRCDA for the Iowa Tribe includes the Kansas counties of Doniphan and Brown, as well as Richardson County, Nebraska. Iowa Tribe members who reside outside of the PRCDA are eligible for direct care services; however, they are not eligible for Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) services. The sole purpose of this expansion would be to authorize additional Iowa Tribe members and beneficiaries to receive PRC services.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted by January 10, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. You may submit comments in one of four ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the "Submit a Comment" instructions.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address ONLY: Carl Mitchell, Director, Division of Regulatory and Policy Coordination, Indian Health Service, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 09E70, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By express or overnight mail.* You may send written comments to the above address.

4. *By hand or courier.* If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments before the close of the comment period to the address above.

If you intend to deliver your comments to the Rockville address, please call telephone number (301) 443-1116 in advance to schedule your arrival with a staff member.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

CAPT John Rael, Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnerships, Indian Health Service, 5600 Fishers Lane, Mail Stop: 10E85C, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Telephone (301) 443-0969 (This is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Inspection of Public Comments:* All comments received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential

business information that is included in a comment.

**Background:** The IHS provides services under regulations in effect as of September 15, 1987, and republished at 42 CFR part 136, subparts A–C. Subpart C defines a Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA), now referred to as a PRCDA, as the geographic area within which PRC will be made available by the IHS to members of an identified Indian community who reside in the PRCDA. Residence within a PRCDA by a person who is within the scope of the Indian health program, as set forth in 42 CFR 136.12, creates no legal entitlement to PRC services but only potential eligibility for services. Services needed, but not available at an IHS/Tribal facility, are provided under the PRC program depending on the availability of funds, the relative medical priority of the services to be provided, and the actual availability and accessibility of alternate resources in accordance with the regulations.

The regulations at 42 CFR part 136, subpart C provide that, unless otherwise designated, a PRCDA shall consist of a county which includes all or part of a reservation and any county or counties which have a common boundary with the reservation. 42 CFR 136.22(a)(6). The regulations also provide that after consultation with the Tribal governing body or bodies on those reservations included within the PRCDA, the Secretary may, from time to time, redesignate areas within the United States for inclusion in or exclusion from a PRCDA. 42 CFR 136.22(b). The regulations require that certain criteria be considered before any redesignation is made. The criteria are as follows:

(1) The number of Indians residing in the area proposed to be so included or excluded;

(2) Whether the Tribal governing body has determined that Indians residing in the area near the reservation are socially and economically affiliated with the Tribe;

(3) The geographic proximity to the reservation of the area whose inclusion or exclusion is being considered; and

(4) The level of funding which would be available for the provision of PRC. Additionally, the regulations require that any redesignation of a PRCDA be made in accordance with the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553). 42 CFR 136.22(c). In compliance with this requirement, the IHS is publishing this Notice and requesting public comments.

The Iowa Tribe is located in White Cloud, Kansas, and operates their PRC program as a Tribal Health Program out of the White Cloud Health Center. The

IHS and the Iowa Tribe estimate that approximately 77 Tribal members reside in Jackson County, Kansas, and Holt County, Missouri, and would become PRC eligible through the proposed redesignation and expansion of the Tribe's PRCDA.

If the Iowa Tribe's PRCDA redesignation and expansion is finalized as proposed, the Tribe's expanded PRCDA would overlap the PRCDA's of three other Tribes: the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation (Jackson County, Kansas), and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation (Jackson County, Kansas). The Iowa Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska share a PRC program, but currently have different PRCDA's; the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri has submitted a concurrent request for redesignation and expansion of their own PRCDA. Both redesignation requests were submitted to the IHS through the same correspondence from the White Cloud Health Center. If the Iowa Tribe's and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri's PRCDA's are each redesignated and expanded as requested, the Tribes would have identical, overlapping PRCDA's, simplifying the administration and operation of their local PRC program.

The IHS has consulted with the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation regarding the potential for overlapping PRCDA's in Jackson County, Kansas. Neither the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation nor the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation expressed concerns regarding the proposed redesignation and expansion.

Under 42 CFR 136.23, those otherwise eligible Indians who do not reside on a reservation, but reside within a PRCDA, must be either members of the Tribe or other IHS beneficiaries who maintain close economic and social ties with the Tribe. In this case, applying the aforementioned PRCDA redesignation criteria required by operative regulations codified at 42 CFR part 136, subpart C, the following findings are made:

1. By expanding the PRCDA to include Jackson County, Kansas, and Holt County, Missouri, the Iowa Tribe's PRC eligible population will increase by an estimated 77 Tribal members.

2. The Iowa Tribe communicated its governing body's determination that their members residing in the proposed expansion counties are socially and economically affiliated with the Tribe. The IHS therefore finds that the Tribe's

members within the proposed, expanded PRCDA are socially and economically affiliated with the Iowa Tribe.

3. The expanded PRCDA counties form a contiguous area with the existing PRCDA. Holt County, Missouri, shares a common boundary with the Iowa Tribe's reservation lands in Richardson County, Nebraska. Jackson County, Kansas, is contiguous with Brown County, which includes part of the Iowa Tribe's reservation lands and is currently included in the Iowa Tribe's PRCDA. Members of the Iowa Tribe reside in each of the counties proposed for inclusion in the expanded PRCDA. For these reasons, the IHS has determined the additional counties proposed for inclusion herein to be geographically proximate, meaning "on or near," to the Tribe's reservation.

4. The White Cloud Health Center has indicated that the PRC program can continue providing the same level of care to the PRC eligible population if the PRCDA is expanded as proposed, without requiring additional funding or reduction of the current medical priority level.

Accordingly, the IHS proposes to expand the PRCDA of the Iowa Tribe to include the counties of Jackson in the State of Kansas, and Holt in the State of Missouri.

This Notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to prior approval by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

**Roselyn Tso,**

*Director, Indian Health Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 4166–14–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Indian Health Service**

#### **Notice of Proposed Purchased/ Referred Care Delivery Area Redesignation for the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska**

**AGENCY:** Indian Health Service, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice advises the public that the Indian Health Service (IHS) proposes to expand the geographic boundaries of the Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) for the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska (Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, or Tribe) to include the counties of Doniphan and Jackson in the