

**NEW YORK**  
*state department of*  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 14, 2012

[name]  
[address]

Dear [name]:

This letter is to invite you and your designees to a tribal consultation meeting to discuss the planning and establishment of New York's Health Benefit Exchange. The meeting will be held from 1 pm to 4 pm on October 30, 2012 in Syracuse, New York.

New York is developing a state-based Exchange pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Exchange will offer affordable health insurance through qualified health plans to individuals and small businesses. It will provide a consumer friendly application and assistance to facilitate plan enrollment and determinations for premium and cost-sharing subsidies.

The ACA provides important benefits to members of federally recognized tribes. Tribal members are not subject to penalties for not enrolling in health insurance coverage. In addition, tribal members who do enroll in health insurance coverage through the Exchange will have lower cost-sharing and will be allowed to enroll in qualified health plans on a monthly basis. The Exchange would like to work with you to ensure that systems are in place so that these benefits are easily attainable by tribal members.

Please share this invitation with your tribal health director and other appropriate staff. If you have any questions about the Exchange or this invitation, please contact Lisa Sbrana by phone at 212-417-5293 or by email at [lbs05@health.state.ny.us](mailto:lbs05@health.state.ny.us).

Please accept or decline this invitation by October 19, 2012 by contacting Connie Dominy by email at [cjd07@health.state.ny.us](mailto:cjd07@health.state.ny.us) or by phone at 518-473-4020. The meeting location will be sent out shortly.

We hope that you will accept this invitation. We look forward to meeting with you about this very important planning process.

Sincerely,

Donna Frescore  
Executive Director  
New York Health Benefit Exchange