

February 26, 2026

Dear Tribal Partners,

This letter is regarding Tribal Consultation between the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and the North Dakota Indian Tribes. The Tribal Consultation process ensures Tribal governments are included in decision-making when proposed changes to the Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program may directly affect Tribes or their members.

This consultation letter is for one waiver renewal.

North Dakota is proposing to renew the 1915(b) Medicaid waiver that allows Medicaid Expansion services to be delivered through a managed care model.

North Dakota Century Code 50-24.1-37 requires Medicaid Expansion to use private carriers in managed care. States are allowed to implement managed care delivery systems under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act (SSA). The 1915(b) Waiver for Managed Care Enrollment allows the State to provide services to those eligible for Medicaid Expansion through a Managed Care Organization (MCO). This means mandatory enrollment for eligible individuals, including Native Americans, into the plan offered by the contracted MCO.

A renewal request is being submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the current Medicaid 1915(b) waiver. This waiver was approved when Medicaid Expansion coverage began on January 1, 2014. It allows the Department to work with one MCO instead of multiple MCOs.

The authority granted by the 1915(b) waiver ends on June 30, 2026. The renewal request must be approved by CMS to continue coverage for those enrolled in Medicaid Expansion.

This waiver renewal does not change Tribal rights or the Tribal Consultation process. It is an administrative renewal needed to continue Medicaid Expansion coverage.

For Tribal members and families, no impact is expected. American Indian and Alaska Native members enrolled in Medicaid Expansion will continue to receive the same benefits and services. No new requirements or changes are proposed.

For Tribal providers and programs, no impact is expected. Provider participation, covered services, reimbursement, and administrative processes will remain the same.

MEDICAL SERVICES

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For Tribal communities, no impact is expected. Medicaid Expansion coverage will continue, supporting access to health care services for eligible Tribal members.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota manages care benefits for Medicaid Expansion members. With the renewal request, we will submit the 1915(b) Waiver Renewal Application, Cost Effectiveness Report, and an Independent Assessment of the program's impact, access, and quality.

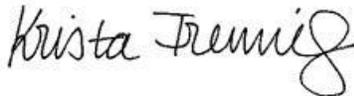
Copies of the 1915(b) waiver are available upon request. Please send comments, questions, or concerns about the proposed waiver to:

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Monique Runnels
Medical Services Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 325
Bismarck, ND 58505
Fax: 701-328-1544
Email: mrunnels@nd.gov

Input will be accepted until 12 PM, Central Time, Monday, March 30, 2026.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with Tribal partners to support health and well-being for North Dakota Medicaid Expansion members.

Sincerely,



Krista Fremming
Interim Executive Director
Division of Medical Services
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

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