

October 18, 2023

Memorandum

TO: Community Connect Providers
FROM: Alyson Olthoff, Lead Administrator, Community Connect
Subject: Participant Referrals

Effective November 1, 2023, the Community Connect program will begin implementing a waitlist for participant referrals. This change is being made as a result of extraordinary program growth and to ensure funding availability for the remainder of the biennium.

Below are some important details about this change:

- The Community Connect team will apply a prioritization process, which will consider multiple areas of need, to determine which applicants will be referred for services each month. Areas of need included but not limited to: current homelessness, caregiver/parent status, involvement with Child Protection Services or like services, pregnancy and recent intravenous drug use.
- The number of referrals that will be issued each month will be based on the number of discharges completed during the prior month, along with a projection of budgetary availability.
- Referrals will only be issued between the 1st and the 10th of each month.

What you need to know about this change:

- After receiving a referral, a provider will be given until the end of that reporting period to meaningfully engage with the new participant (face-to-face). If engagement does not occur, a discharge must be submitted by the last day of that month. Expectations of a provider remains the same and an intake meeting is required to be offered within three (3) business days of referral.
- A provider will only be eligible for reimbursement for the initial reporting period once referral is received if engagement has not occurred (face-to-face).
- Example: A provider who receives a referral on the 10th of any given month will have until the end of that month to either engage with face-to-face or discharge a participant. If the provider was unable to engage with the participant by the end of the month, the provider will only be reimbursed for that initial month.

As these changes are implemented for Community Connect, 1915i services continue to be available to those who are eligible and in need of additional home and community-based services. 1915i information can be found here: [Accessing 1915\(i\) Services | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

Other behavioral health services available to individuals across North Dakota include Walk-In Behavioral Health Assessments at their regional Human Service Center, Mobile Crisis Response Team, and Crisis Facilities in Bismarck, Fargo, Jamestown, and Minot. Learn more about these services here: [Crisis Services | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

In addition to the services already mentioned, the Mental Health Program Directory is available online to assist North Dakota citizens with locating and accessing mental health services. Find it here: [North Dakota Mental Health Program Directory | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

Thank you,



Alyson Olthoff, LBSW

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