

August 29, 2025

Dear Tribal Partners:

This letter is regarding Tribal Consultation established between the North Dakota Health and Human Services and the North Dakota Indian Tribes. This consultation process was established to ensure Tribal governments are included in the decision-making processes when changes in the Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program(s) will affect items such as cost or reductions and additions to the program.

This letter provides the opportunity for consultation on one waiver amendment.

Proposed amendment to Medicaid Waiver for Traditional IID/DD Home and Community Based Services (HCBS):

The Department's Development Disability Section proposes to amend the 1915(c) Medicaid waiver. This waiver includes an array of home and community-based services in the least restrictive environment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Proposed changes to this waiver amendment:

Changes in services and programming.

- Addition of a new service, Host Homes, for youth with developmental disabilities. Host homes will help families during a crisis by providing a licensed family home setting where a youth can live temporarily to receive specialized training and support to meet his or her needs. This model helps youth move from crisis to stabilization while staying connected to their biological families and working toward reunification.
 - **For Tribal members and families:** this change offers an additional support option that, when licensed host homes are available, may help children maintain connection to extended family and Tribal culture.
 - **For Tribal providers and programs:** Host Homes may create opportunities for Tribally operated programs or families to become licensed providers of care in a home-like setting.
 - **For Tribal communities:** This service could help keep children in a family setting, reduce out-of-state placements, and support family stability when wraparound services and qualified Host Home providers are available to Tribal communities.

MEDICAL SERVICES

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325 | Bismarck ND 58505-0250

701.328.7068 | Fax 701.328.1544 | 800.755.2604 | 711 (TTY) | Provider Relations 701.328.7098 | www.hhs.nd.gov

Language change for internal processes

- Revised the sample for reviewing performance measure on provider compliance with incident reporting requirements.
- Change in terminology: Human Service Centers to DD Units, Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professional (QDDP) to Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP), Social Service Zone to Human Service Zone.
 - **For Tribal providers:** these are administrative changes only and they do not increase provider reporting burdens. Providers may see updated terms in forms, training, or compliance reviews.
 - **For Tribal members:** there is no direct impact on services or eligibility.
 - **For Tribal communities:** terminology updates are intended to create consistency across state systems, but do not alter access to Tribal programs or services.
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View the draft waiver amendment document at www.hhs.nd.gov/waivers. A copy will be provided upon request.

The anticipated effective date of the proposed renewal is expected to be January 1, 2026.

Please send comments, questions or concerns about the proposed waiver amendment 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
E-mail: mrunnels@nd.gov

Comments and public input on the proposed changes will be accepted until 5pm CST on September 28, 2025.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to work collaboratively with tribal partners to support health and advance the foundations of well-being for North Dakota Medicaid members.

Sincerely,



Sarah Aker
Executive Director
Medical Services Division