

June 27, 2025

Dear Tribal Partners,

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

North Dakota Medicaid intends to submit two 1915(c) waiver amendments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). One amendment will apply to the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) waiver for children from birth through age 17, and the other to the Medically Fragile Children's waiver. These amendments may impact American Indian and Alaska Native children and families who access services through these waivers. The anticipated effective date for both amendments is November 1, 2025.

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) waiver is being amended to better meet the needs of children and young adults, including those in tribal communities. The qualifying age for services is increasing from through age 17 to through age 20, allowing more youth to receive support during critical developmental years. The waiver will also expand to 400 slots per year, with 345 slots active at a time, increasing access to services for more individuals. Additionally, service definitions are being clarified to improve understanding and delivery of care. The North Dakota legislature has approved a 2% provider payment increase in 2025 and another 2% in 2026, specifically for service management and respite care, helping to strengthen the quality and sustainability of these important supports for tribal providers and others serving this population.

The Medically Fragile Children's Waiver is being updated to better support children and young adults with complex medical needs, including those in tribal communities. The age limit will be extended to age 21, allowing more young adults to continue receiving essential care and support as they transition into adulthood. The waiver also increases the number of available slots to 75 per year, with 50 active at a time, so more individuals—including tribal members—can access these critical services. All existing services remain unchanged, ensuring ongoing, consistent care for those who rely on this waiver.

The 1915 (c) amended applications are available on the North Dakota Medicaid website at the

**MEDICAL SERVICES**

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701.328.7068 | Fax 701.328.1544 | 800.755.2604 | 711 (TTY) | Provider Relations 701.328.7098 | [www.hhs.nd.gov](http://www.hhs.nd.gov)

following link: <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/waivers>. If you are unable to access these documents via the web, a copy can be mailed to you.

Please be aware that the posted amendment is a draft. The final document will be posted on our website when approved by CMS.

Please send comments, questions or concerns about the proposed State Plan Amendments or waivers 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: [mrunchels@nd.gov](mailto:mrunchels@nd.gov)

Input will be accepted through 5:00 pm, Central Time on July 27<sup>th</sup> 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  
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services