

January 26, 2026

Dear Tribal Partners,

This letter is regarding Tribal Consultation established between the North Dakota Department of 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 proposed waiver amendment.

Proposed amendment to Medicaid Waiver for Traditional Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (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 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 within Tribal communities.
- Updating the provider requirements for Extended Home Health Care to include agencies licensed according to NDAC 33-03-10.1.
 - **For Tribal members and families:** This change offers an additional support option that may help children maintain connection to extended family and Tribal culture.

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

- **For Tribal providers and programs:** May create opportunities for Tribally operated programs to provide Extended Home Health Care services.
- **For Tribal communities:** This service could help keep children in a family setting, reduce out-of-state placements, and support family stability.

Administrative changes for internal processes.

- 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, training modules to required training in Appendix B-6c, Appendix G-3cii & Performance Measure C-3, and full-time DD Licensed staff to DD Licensed staff in performance measure in Appendix C (C-3).
 - **For Tribal providers:** These are administrative changes only and 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.
- Revised section C-2e to align with current practices on paying relatives.
 - **For Tribal providers:** These are administrative changes only and they do not increase provider reporting burdens.
 - **For Tribal members:** There is no direct impact on services or eligibility.
 - **For Tribal communities:** Updates are intended to create consistency across state systems, but do not alter access to Tribal programs or services.
- Updates to application per CMS Instructions, Technical Guide and Review Criteria 2024 release.
 - **For Tribal providers:** These are administrative changes only and they do not increase provider reporting burdens.
 - **For Tribal members:** There is no direct impact on services or eligibility.
 - **For Tribal communities:** Updates are intended to create consistency across state systems, but do not alter access to Tribal programs or services.

[View the draft waiver amendment document.](#) A copy will be provided upon request.

Based on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) timeframes for review and approval, the waiver amendment is expected to be effective on June 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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Fremming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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