

Request for a Renewal to a §1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

1. Major Changes

Describe any significant changes to the approved waiver that are being made in this renewal application:

five year renewal.

Application for a §1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

1. Request Information (1 of 3)

A. The State of North Dakota requests approval for a Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver under the authority of section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

B. Program Title *(optional - this title will be used to locate this waiver in the finder):*

North Dakota Medicaid Waiver for Medically Fragile Children

C. Type of Request: renewal

Requested Approval Period: *(For new waivers requesting five year approval periods, the waiver must serve individuals who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.)*

☐ 3 years ☒ 5 years

Draft ID: ND.004.04.00

D. Type of Waiver *(select only one):*

Regular Waiver

E. Proposed Effective Date: (mm/dd/yy)

06/01/26

PRA Disclosure Statement

The purpose of this application is for states to request a Medicaid Section 1915(c) home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver. Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive certain specific Medicaid statutory requirements so that a state may voluntarily offer HCBS to state-specified target group(s) of Medicaid beneficiaries who need a level of institutional care that is provided under the Medicaid state plan. Under the Privacy Act of 1974 any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-0449 (Expires: July 31, 2027). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 163 hours per response for a new waiver application and 78 hours per response for a renewal application, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

1. Request Information (2 of 3)

F. Level(s) of Care. This waiver is requested in order to provide home and community-based waiver services to individuals who, but for the provision of such services, would require the following level(s) of care, the costs of which would be reimbursed under the approved Medicaid state plan *(check each that applies):*

☐ **Hospital**

Select applicable level of care

☐ **Hospital as defined in 42 CFR § 440.10**

If applicable, specify whether the state additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the hospital level of care:

☐ **Inpatient psychiatric facility for individuals age 21 and under as provided in 42 CFR § 440.160**☒ **Nursing Facility**

Select applicable level of care

☒ **Nursing Facility as defined in 42 CFR § 440.40 and 42 CFR § 440.155**

If applicable, specify whether the state additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the nursing facility level of care:

☐ **Institution for Mental Disease for persons with mental illnesses aged 65 and older as provided in 42 CFR § 440.140**☐ **Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) (as defined in 42 CFR § 440.150)**

If applicable, specify whether the state additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the ICF/IID level of care:

1. Request Information (3 of 3)**G. Concurrent Operation with Other Programs.** This waiver operates concurrently with another program (or programs) approved under the following authorities

Select one:

☒ **Not applicable**☐ **Applicable**

Check the applicable authority or authorities:

☐ **Services furnished under the provisions of section 1915(a)(1)(a) of the Act and described in Appendix I**☐ **Waiver(s) authorized under section 1915(b) of the Act.**

Specify the section 1915(b) waiver program and indicate whether a section 1915(b) waiver application has been submitted or previously approved:

Specify the section 1915(b) authorities under which this program operates (check each that applies):☐ **section 1915(b)(1) (mandated enrollment to managed care)**☐ **section 1915(b)(2) (central broker)**☐ **section 1915(b)(3) (employ cost savings to furnish additional services)**☐ **section 1915(b)(4) (selective contracting/limit number of providers)**☐ **A program operated under section 1932(a) of the Act.**

Specify the nature of the state plan benefit and indicate whether the state plan amendment has been submitted or previously approved:

-
- ☐ A program authorized under section 1915(i) of the Act.
- ☐ A program authorized under section 1915(j) of the Act.
- ☐ A program authorized under section 1115 of the Act.

Specify the program:

H. Dual Eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare.

Check if applicable:

- ☒ This waiver provides services for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

2. Brief Waiver Description

Brief Waiver Description. *In one page or less*, briefly describe the purpose of the waiver, including its goals, objectives, organizational structure (e.g., the roles of state, local and other entities), and service delivery methods.

The purpose of this waiver is to provide assistance for families who require long term supports and services to maintain their medically fragile child in the family home setting while meeting their child's unique medical needs. This waiver will reduce and prevent skilled nursing facility placements for children who are Medically Fragile.

Currently the only program management entities that cover the identified needs of this waiver are the Regional Human Service Centers DD program managers. However, other case management agencies or individuals who meet the minimum provider requirements are eligible to provide case management services.

Organizational Structure: The North Dakota Department of Health & Human Services, Medical Services section is the authorizing agency and will complete the Level of Care and oversee the Level of Need, along with maintaining the waiting list. IN addition, the development of requirements, rules and policies operationalized are overseen by the Medical Services.

3. Components of the Waiver Request

The waiver application consists of the following components. *Note: Item 3-E must be completed.*

- A. Waiver Administration and Operation.** Appendix A specifies the administrative and operational structure of this waiver.
- B. Participant Access and Eligibility.** Appendix B specifies the target group(s) of individuals who are served in this waiver, the number of participants that the state expects to serve during each year that the waiver is in effect, applicable Medicaid eligibility and post-eligibility (if applicable) requirements, and procedures for the evaluation and reevaluation of level of care.
- C. Participant Services.** Appendix C specifies the home and community-based waiver services that are furnished through the waiver, including applicable limitations on such services.
- D. Participant-Centered Service Planning and Delivery.** Appendix D specifies the procedures and methods that the state uses to develop, implement and monitor the participant-centered service plan (of care).
- E. Participant-Direction of Services.** When the state provides for participant direction of services, **Appendix E** specifies the participant direction opportunities that are offered in the waiver and the supports that are available to participants who direct their services. (*Select one*):

- ☒ **Yes. This waiver provides participant direction opportunities.** *Appendix E is required.*

☐ **No. This waiver does not provide participant direction opportunities.** *Appendix E is not required.*

F. Participant Rights. Appendix F specifies how the state informs participants of their Medicaid Fair Hearing rights and other procedures to address participant grievances and complaints.

G. Participant Safeguards. Appendix G describes the safeguards that the state has established to assure the health and welfare of waiver participants in specified areas.

H. Quality Improvement Strategy. Appendix H contains the quality improvement strategy for this waiver.

I. Financial Accountability. Appendix I describes the methods by which the state makes payments for waiver services, ensures the integrity of these payments, and complies with applicable federal requirements concerning payments and federal financial participation.

J. Cost-Neutrality Demonstration. Appendix J contains the state's demonstration that the waiver is cost-neutral.

4. Waiver(s) Requested

A. Comparability. The state requests a waiver of the requirements contained in section 1902(a)(10)(B) of the Act in order to provide the services specified in Appendix C that are not otherwise available under the approved Medicaid state plan to individuals who: (a) require the level(s) of care specified in Item 1.F and (b) meet the target group criteria specified in Appendix B.

B. Income and Resources for the Medically Needy. Indicate whether the state requests a waiver of section 1902(a)(10)(C)(i)(III) of the Act in order to use institutional income and resource rules for the medically needy (*select one*):

- ☐ Not Applicable
☐ No
☒ Yes

C. Statewide. Indicate whether the state requests a waiver of the statewide requirements in section 1902(a)(1) of the Act (*select one*):

- ☒ No
☐ Yes

If yes, specify the waiver of statewide that is requested (*check each that applies*):

- ☐ **Geographic Limitation.** A waiver of statewide is requested in order to furnish services under this waiver only to individuals who reside in the following geographic areas or political subdivisions of the state. Specify the areas to which this waiver applies and, as applicable, the phase-in schedule of the waiver by geographic area:

- ☐ **Limited Implementation of Participant-Direction.** A waiver of statewide is requested in order to make participant-direction of services as specified in Appendix E available only to individuals who reside in the following geographic areas or political subdivisions of the state. Participants who reside in these areas may elect to direct their services as provided by the state or receive comparable services through the service delivery methods that are in effect elsewhere in the state. Specify the areas of the state affected by this waiver and, as applicable, the phase-in schedule of the waiver by geographic area:

5. Assurances

In accordance with 42 CFR § 441.302, the state provides the following assurances to CMS:

A. Health & Welfare: The state assures that necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of

persons receiving services under this waiver. These safeguards include:

1. As specified in **Appendix C**, adequate standards for all types of providers that provide services under this waiver;
2. Assurance that the standards of any state licensure or certification requirements specified in **Appendix C** are met for services or for individuals furnishing services that are provided under the waiver. The state assures that these requirements are met on the date that the services are furnished; and,
3. Assurance that all facilities subject to section 1616(e) of the Act where home and community-based waiver services are provided comply with the applicable state standards for board and care facilities as specified in **Appendix C**.

B. Financial Accountability. The state assures financial accountability for funds expended for home and community-based services and maintains and makes available to the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Office of the Inspector General), the Comptroller General, or other designees, appropriate financial records documenting the cost of services provided under the waiver. Methods of financial accountability are specified in **Appendix I**.

C. Evaluation of Need: The state assures that it provides for an initial evaluation (and periodic reevaluations, at least annually) of the need for a level of care specified for this waiver, when there is a reasonable indication that an individual might need such services in the near future (one month or less) but for the receipt of home and community-based services under this waiver. The procedures for evaluation and reevaluation of level of care are specified in **Appendix B**.

D. Choice of Alternatives: The state assures that when an individual is determined to be likely to require the level of care specified for this waiver and is in a target group specified in **Appendix B**, the individual (or, legal representative, if applicable) is:

1. Informed of any feasible alternatives under the waiver; and,
2. Given the choice of either institutional or home and community-based waiver services. **Appendix B** specifies the procedures that the state employs to ensure that individuals are informed of feasible alternatives under the waiver and given the choice of institutional or home and community-based waiver services.

E. Average Per Capita Expenditures: The state assures that, for any year that the waiver is in effect, the average per capita expenditures under the waiver will not exceed 100 percent of the average per capita expenditures that would have been made under the Medicaid state plan for the level(s) of care specified for this waiver had the waiver not been granted. Cost-neutrality is demonstrated in **Appendix J**.

F. Actual Total Expenditures: The state assures that the actual total expenditures for home and community-based waiver and other Medicaid services and its claim for FFP in expenditures for the services provided to individuals under the waiver will not, in any year of the waiver period, exceed 100 percent of the amount that would be incurred in the absence of the waiver by the state's Medicaid program for these individuals in the institutional setting(s) specified for this waiver.

G. Institutionalization Absent Waiver: The state assures that, absent the waiver, individuals served in the waiver would receive the appropriate type of Medicaid-funded institutional care for the level of care specified for this waiver.

H. Reporting: The state assures that annually it will provide CMS with information concerning the impact of the waiver on the type, amount and cost of services provided under the Medicaid state plan and on the health and welfare of waiver participants. This information will be consistent with a data collection plan designed by CMS.

I. Habilitation Services. The state assures that prevocational, educational, or supported employment services, or a combination of these services, if provided as habilitation services under the waiver are: (1) not otherwise available to the individual through a local educational agency under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and, (2) furnished as part of expanded habilitation services.

J. Services for Individuals with Chronic Mental Illness. The state assures that federal financial participation (FFP) will not be claimed in expenditures for waiver services including, but not limited to, day treatment or partial hospitalization, psychosocial rehabilitation services, and clinic services provided as home and community-based services to individuals with chronic mental illnesses if these individuals, in the absence of a waiver, would be placed in an IMD and are: (1) age 22 to 64; (2) age 65 and older and the state has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in 42 CFR § 440.140; or (3) age 21 and under and the state has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in 42 CFR § 440.160.

6. Additional Requirements

Note: Item 6-I must be completed.

- A. Service Plan.** In accordance with 42 CFR § 441.301(b)(1)(i), a participant-centered service plan (of care) is developed for each participant employing the procedures specified in **Appendix D**. All waiver services are furnished pursuant to the service plan. The service plan describes: (a) the waiver services that are furnished to the participant, their projected frequency and the type of provider that furnishes each service and (b) the other services (regardless of funding source, including state plan services) and informal supports that complement waiver services in meeting the needs of the participant. The service plan is subject to the approval of the Medicaid agency. Federal financial participation (FFP) is not claimed for waiver services furnished prior to the development of the service plan or for services that are not included in the service plan.
- B. Inpatients.** In accordance with 42 CFR § 441.301(b)(1)(ii), waiver services are not furnished to individuals who are inpatients of a hospital, nursing facility or ICF/IID.
- C. Room and Board.** In accordance with 42 CFR § 441.310(a)(2), FFP is not claimed for the cost of room and board except when: (a) provided as part of respite services in a facility approved by the state that is not a private residence or (b) claimed as a portion of the rent and food that may be reasonably attributed to an unrelated caregiver who resides in the same household as the participant, as provided in **Appendix I**.
- D. Access to Services.** The state does not limit or restrict participant access to waiver services except as provided in **Appendix C**.
- E. Free Choice of Provider.** In accordance with 42 CFR § 431.151, a participant may select any willing and qualified provider to furnish waiver services included in the service plan unless the state has received approval to limit the number of providers under the provisions of section 1915(b) or another provision of the Act.
- F. FFP Limitation.** In accordance with 42 CFR Part 433 Subpart D, FFP is not claimed for services when another third-party (e.g., another third party health insurer or other federal or state program) is legally liable and responsible for the provision and payment of the service. If a provider certifies that a particular legally liable third-party insurer does not pay for the service(s), the provider may not generate further bills for that insurer for that annual period.
- G. Fair Hearing:** The state provides the opportunity to request a Fair Hearing under 42 CFR Part 431 Subpart E, to individuals: (a) who are not given the choice of home and community-based waiver services as an alternative to institutional level of care specified for this waiver; (b) who are denied the service(s) of their choice or the provider(s) of their choice; or (c) whose services are denied, suspended, reduced or terminated. **Appendix F** specifies the state's procedures to provide individuals the opportunity to request a Fair Hearing, including providing notice of action as required in 42 CFR § 431.210.
- H. Quality Improvement.** The state operates a formal, comprehensive system to ensure that the waiver meets the assurances and other requirements contained in this application. Through an ongoing process of discovery, remediation and improvement, the state assures the health and welfare of participants by monitoring: (a) level of care determinations; (b) individual plans and services delivery; (c) provider qualifications; (d) participant health and welfare; (e) financial oversight and (f) administrative oversight of the waiver. The state further assures that all problems identified through its discovery processes are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, consistent with the severity and nature of the problem. During the period that the waiver is in effect, the state will implement the quality improvement strategy specified in **Appendix H**.
- I. Public Input.** Describe how the state secures public input into the development of the waiver:

On , the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee members and DHS Tribal Consultation Members were notified of the State Medicaid Agency's intent to submit for a 5 year renewal of the MFW waiver.

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/medical-advisory-committee>

The intent of submitting the waiver amendment was also discussed during the meeting with the Tribal Consultation.

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/end-user-agreement/tribal-health-and-indian-health-services/tribal-0>

Money Follows the Person Stakeholders meeting on February 18 was also updated on the 5-year renewal of the MFW waiver.

A formal letter informing Tribal Chairperson of the MFW renewal was sent on January 26,2026.

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/end-user-agreement/tribal-health-and-indian-health-services/tribal-0>

Notice of department seeking public comment was published on January 26,2026 (<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/events/public-notice-amendments-medicare-autism-spectrum-disorder-waiver>) This was also shared on the Departments web pages

Medicaid Waivers: Medical Services: Services: Department of Human Services: State of North Dakota (nd.gov)

Advocacy groups were emailed the notice and asked to share. Multiple news media also published a request for public comment along with radio interview with Public Radio on January 26,2026.

The public comment period was from January 26,2026, to 5:00 pm central time on Feb. 26,2026.

The news announced the public comment period for the wavier and that comments were being requested, and the news also posted the web page and phone numbers for the public to reply to and review the waiver in full.

The Department received comments on the waiver, .

Copies of public comments were available upon request.

J. Notice to Tribal Governments. The state assures that it has notified in writing all federally-recognized Tribal Governments that maintain a primary office and/or majority population within the state of the state's intent to submit a Medicaid waiver request or renewal request to CMS at least 60 days before the anticipated submission date is provided by Presidential Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000. Evidence of the applicable notice is available through the Medicaid Agency.

K. Limited English Proficient Persons. The state assures that it provides meaningful access to waiver services by Limited English Proficient persons in accordance with: (a) Presidential Executive Order 13166 of August 11, 2000 (65 FR 50121) and (b) Department of Health and Human Services "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (68 FR 47311 - August 8, 2003). **Appendix B** describes how the state assures meaningful access to waiver services by Limited English Proficient persons.

7. Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

Last Name:

Barchenger

First Name:

Katherine

Title:

Children's Waiver Administrator

Agency:

ND Department of Health & Human Services

Address:

600 E Boulevard Ave

Address 2:

	<input type="text" value="Department 325"/>		
City:	<input type="text" value="Bismarck"/>		
State:	North Dakota		
Zip:	<input type="text" value="58505-0269"/>		
Phone:	<input type="text" value="(701) 328-4630"/>	Ext: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TTY
Fax:	<input type="text" value="(701) 328-1544"/>		
E-mail:	<input type="text" value="kbarchenger@nd.gov"/>		

B. If applicable, the state operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

Last Name:	<input type="text"/>		
First Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Title:	<input type="text"/>		
Agency:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>		
City:	<input type="text"/>		
State:	North Dakota		
Zip:	<input type="text"/>		
Phone:	<input type="text"/>	Ext: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TTY
Fax:	<input type="text"/>		
E-mail:	<input type="text"/>		

8. Authorizing Signature

This document, together with Appendices A through J, constitutes the state's request for a waiver under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The state assures that all materials referenced in this waiver application (including standards, licensure and certification requirements) are **readily** available in print or electronic form upon request to CMS through the Medicaid agency or, **01/22/2026**

if applicable, from the operating agency specified in Appendix A. Any proposed changes to the waiver will be submitted by the Medicaid agency to CMS in the form of waiver amendments.

Upon approval by CMS, the waiver application serves as the state's authority to provide home and community-based waiver services to the specified target groups. The state attests that it will abide by all provisions of the approved waiver and will continuously operate the waiver in accordance with the assurances specified in Section 5 and the additional requirements specified in Section 6 of the request.

Signature:

State Medicaid Director or Designee

Submission Date:

Note: The Signature and Submission Date fields will be automatically completed when the State Medicaid Director submits the application.

Last Name:**First Name:****Title:****Agency:****Address:****Address 2:****City:****State:**

North Dakota

Zip:**Phone:**

Ext:

☐

TTY

Fax:**E-mail:****Attachments**

Attachment #1: Transition Plan

Check the box next to any of the following changes from the current approved waiver. Check all boxes that apply.

☐

Replacing an approved waiver with this waiver.

☐

Combining waivers.

☐

Splitting one waiver into two waivers.

☐

Eliminating a service.

☐

Adding or decreasing an individual cost limit pertaining to eligibility.

☐

Adding or decreasing limits to a service or a set of services, as specified in Appendix C.

- ☐ Reducing the unduplicated count of participants (Factor C).
- ☐ Adding new, or decreasing, a limitation on the number of participants served at any point in time.
- ☐ Making any changes that could result in some participants losing eligibility or being transferred to another waiver under 1915(c) or another Medicaid authority.
- ☐ Making any changes that could result in reduced services to participants.

Specify the transition plan for the waiver:

Additional Needed Information (Optional)

Provide additional needed information for the waiver (optional):

The North Dakota Department of Human Services acknowledges that there are legal and stakeholder partnerships with the Indian Tribes in North Dakota. These partnerships have grown throughout the years and will continue to be an integral part of implementing the revisions set forth by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

It is the intent of the North Dakota Department of Human Services to consult on a regular basis with the Indian Tribes established in North Dakota on matters relating to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility and services, which are likely to have a direct impact on the Indian population. This consultation process will ensure that Tribal governments are included in the decision making process when changes in the Medicaid and CHIP programs will affect items such as cost or reductions and additions to the program. The North Dakota Department of Human Services shall engage Tribal consultation with a State Plan Amendment, waiver proposal or amendment, or demonstration project proposal when any of these items will likely have a direct impact on the North Dakota Tribes and/or their Tribal members.

Direct Impact:

Direct impact is defined as a proposed change that is expected to affect Indian Tribes, Indian Health Services (IHS) and/or Native Americans through: a decrease or increase in services; a change in provider qualifications; a change in service eligibility requirements; a change in the compliance cost for IHS or Tribal health programs; or a change in reimbursement rate or methodology.

Consultation:

When it is determined that a proposal or change would have a direct impact on North Dakota Tribes, Indian Health Services or American Indians, the North Dakota Department of Human Services will issue written correspondence via standard mail and email to Tribal

Chairs, Tribal Healthcare Directors, the Executive Director of the Indian Affairs Commission, Indian Health Services Representatives and the Executive Director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board. In addition to the written correspondence, the Department may use one or more of the following methods to provide notice or request input from the North Dakota Indian Tribes and IHS.

- a. Indian Affairs Commission Meetings
- b. Interim Tribal and State Relations Committee Meetings
- c. Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee Meetings
- d. Independent Tribal Council Meetings

Ongoing Correspondence:

- A web link is located on the North Dakota Department of Human Services website specific to the North Dakota Tribes. Information contained on this link includes: notices, proposed and final State Plan amendments, frequently asked questions and other applicable documents.

- A specific contact at the North Dakota Department of Human Services Medical Services Division, in addition to the Medicaid Director, will be assigned for all ongoing Tribal needs. This contact information will be disseminated in the continuing correspondence with the North Dakota Tribes.

Content of the written correspondence will include:

- Purpose of the proposal/change
- Effective date of change
- Anticipated impact on Tribal population and programs
- Location, Date and Time of Face to Face Consultation OR If Consultation is by Written Correspondence, the Method for providing comments and a timeframe for responses. Responses to written correspondence are due to the Department 30 days after receipt of the written notice.

Meeting Requests:

In the event that written correspondence is not sufficient due to the extent of discussion needed by either party, The North Dakota Department of Human Services, the North Dakota Tribes, or Indian Health Services can request a face to face meeting within 30 days of the written correspondence, by written notice, to the other parties.