

Public Notice
Department of Human Services - North Dakota Medicaid Program

The North Dakota Medicaid Expansion is authorized under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act (SSA). The 1915(b) Waiver for Managed Care Enrollment of the Medicaid Expansion permits the State to furnish services to those individuals eligible for Medicaid Expansion through a Managed Care Organization (MCO). As part of the requirements for Medicaid Managed Care and pursuant to 42 CFR 438.52(a), a state that requires Medicaid beneficiaries to enroll in an MCO must give those individuals a choice of at least two managed care plans except for rural area residents. For North Dakota, the requirement of having a choice is applicable for those residents in areas designated as being urban which include the counties of Burleigh, Cass, and Grand Forks. As individuals eligible for Medicaid Expansion only have one choice of a managed care plan, in 2014, when Medicaid Expansion was implemented, the Department of Human Services (Department) obtained authority under section 1115 of the SSA to allow ND to operate only one managed care plan in an urban area. The current authority ends December 20, 2015.

Prior to the end of Calendar Year 2015, the Department will be requesting that the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide an extension for the State's 1115 waiver beyond December 20, 2015 in order for the approved expenditure authority to correspond with the State's 1915(b) waiver which ends December 31, 2015. In addition, as the Department plans to request a renewal of the 1915(b) waiver for its managed care program authority, an extension or renewal of the 1115 waiver will be needed to ensure compliance as related to only having one health plan choice in urban areas of the State. The 1115 waiver authority is important for the recipients of managed care services to ensure continuity of care and prevent any disruption of services which might impact the health and well-being of those enrolled with Medicaid Expansion.

The Department is seeking public comment on the 1115 Waiver extension/renewal request and the renewal of the 1915(b) waiver. In the request to CMS, no changes are expected to the previously authorized 1115 Waiver. The draft 1115 Waiver extension/renewal can be viewed at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/medicaid/draft-application-1115-1915b-waiver-authority.pdf. Public Hearings on the 1115 Waiver include: Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee; 1:30pm to 5:00pm CT, Wednesday, July 15, 2015 in the Pioneer Room of the State Capital and a second hearing August 5, 2015 in the Sakakawea Room of the State Capital from 11am to 12:30pm CT.

Interested individuals may provide comments at the hearings or they may contact Stephanie Waloch, Medicaid Expansion Administrator at swaloch@nd.gov or by calling 701-328-1705, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or by mailing a written response to:

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