

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Human Services hosts meetings on new autism spectrum disorders services for young children**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is holding an **informational meeting for parents and others on Tuesday, November 23** to share details about new services for young children with autism spectrum disorders. The meeting is scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. at the department's Prairie Hills Plaza location, 1237 W. Divide Ave., **Bismarck**. Participants should use the building's North entrance.

Staff from the department's Developmental Disabilities Division will provide information about eligibility criteria, services available through the Autism Spectrum Waiver, the application process, and a comparison of the new waiver to existing waivers. In addition, families will have an opportunity to ask questions.

The department can serve up to 30 young children per year. To qualify, children must be younger than 5, be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and meet income criteria.

Families of qualifying children will receive training, help coordinating services, and other support. They will also have access to an evaluation team and in-home support staff to assist with activities that address communication, behavioral, and other needs.

**Meetings are also planned for Grand Forks and Fargo later this month.** Details about those meetings are online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html).

Parents and others unable to attend a meeting can participate in a free **statewide conference call** on **December 2** from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. To register for the call, e-mail the Family Voices of ND Health Information and Education Center at [missi.baranko@gmail.com](mailto:missi.baranko@gmail.com) or [fvnd@drtel.net](mailto:fvnd@drtel.net).

More details about autism spectrum disorder services are online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/news/2010/11-19-feds-approve-waiver-covering-autism-services.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/news/2010/11-19-feds-approve-waiver-covering-autism-services.pdf) or by contacting the N.D. Department of Human Services' Developmental Disabilities Division at 1-701-328-8930 or 1-800-755- 8529 or a regional human service center.

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