

NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE

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N.D. Dept. of Human Services launches online application for public assistance programs

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Department of Human Services announced today that people can apply online for assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Child Care Assistance, Medicaid, and other programs.

Since activating the link to the online application on August 19, 2010, 109 applications have been completed and submitted securely over the Internet.

“This gives North Dakotans more choices in how they can apply for help,” said Tove Mandigo, director of the department’s Economic Assistance Policy Division. “Previously people applied by calling, corresponding, or going into their county social service office. We recognized that this is a hardship for some applicants who are elderly, have disabilities, or have young children. It also affects applicants who have jobs and work, but need temporary short-term help due to some sort of setback in their households.”

Department data show that almost half of the online applications received through September 3, 2010, were from people seeking Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program help. Twenty-five percent were for Medicaid or the Healthy Steps Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Mandigo said North Dakotans can complete the application at their convenience at <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/dhs/ea/oasys/login.htm>. Completed online applications are routed electronically to the appropriate local county social service office, where their employees review the information and follow-up with people to determine if they qualify for programs.

It uses the same login process as other online North Dakota government applications including child support enforcement, Game and Fish, and Department of Transportation. Anyone who has already obtained a state login for those services can use their existing login.

Those less comfortable with technology will continue to have other options. If they prefer, they can print out a paper application from <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/application.html>, complete it, and return it to their county social service office. They can also call their county social service office and ask for an application to be mailed to them, or they can go to a county office to meet with an eligibility worker and complete an application in person.

Information about public assistance programs and client rights is on the department’s Web at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/sfn-405-guidebook-for-applic-for-assistance.pdf>.

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