

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Human Services seeks input on Children's Health Insurance Program Quality Strategy Plan

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division is seeking public comment on its draft 2018 Quality Strategy Plan for the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), also known as Healthy Steps.

The quality strategy plan will guide the department and CHIP vendors, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and Delta Dental of Minnesota, in their efforts to ensure safe, effective, efficient, patient-centered, timely and equitable health care coverage for children enrolled in the program. Federal regulations require the department to seek public comment annually on the quality plan.

The draft plan is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html. It can also be obtained by calling 701-328-2323, toll-free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888, or by e-mailing jmhulm@nd.gov.

Comments will be accepted until December 31, 2017, at noon Central Time. They can be sent to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Medical Services Division, Attn: Jodi Hulm, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250 or jmhulm@nd.gov.

Following the completion of the public comment period, a final draft of the quality strategy plan will be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for approval.

CHIP provides health, dental and vision coverage to eligible North Dakota children age 18 and younger who are uninsured. In State Fiscal Year 2017, the program served an average of about 2,150 children per month.

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