



## Early Childhood Services Inclusion Support Grant Program

### Background Information

In the 2011 North Dakota Legislative Session, legislators saw a need to increase the capacity of child care for children with special needs. As a result, funding was appropriated to the Department of Human Services to develop an inclusion support program, which included technical assistance to early childhood service providers who care for children with special needs. In 2013, this funding was increased by legislators to include an expansion of the technical assistance program and to fund grants that will assist providers in creating and maintaining inclusive child care environments.

Inclusion Support Grants May Be Used To:

- Increase the number of staff to expand supervision and to allow providers the ability to care for children with disabilities or developmental delays, and
- Assist in modifying or adapting the early childhood services setting to address the health and safety needs of children with disabilities or developmental delays.

### Grant Requirements

To be eligible to receive funding, providers must:

- Be licensed by the North Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide early childhood services,
- Submit a letter from a service provider that provides formal supports to the child, such as the child's pediatrician or therapist, confirming an increased funding need to assist the provider, and
- Work with the child's family and an inclusion or health specialist to develop or update a care plan appropriate for the early childhood setting.

### Application Process

1. Provider contacts Child Care Aware at 1-701-223-1510 or 1-888-223-1510 to request consultation with an inclusion or health specialist to review the setting and specific needs of child or children with developmental delays or disabilities.
2. Inclusion or health specialist assists provider in development of a care plan for each child with developmental delays or disabilities in care.
3. Provider completes grant application ([SFN 1907](#)) and submits application and supporting documents to the N.D. Department of Human Services.
  - a. Supporting documents include:
    - Copy of care plan(s)

- Letter from service provider(s)
  - Estimate or bid for equipment, materials or remodeling if applying for a grant to modify or adapt the environment
  - Proposed schedule and hourly wage of staff to be covered by grant, if applying for a grant to assist with staffing
4. Department of Human Services reviews application and supporting documentation with selection committee, and notifies applicant of decision.
  5. Applications will be accepted from December 1, 2013 to May 1, 2015, pending availability of funds.

**Grant Guidance:**

- Providers may request up to \$15,000 per biennium to increase staffing.
- Providers may request up to \$5,000 per biennium to modify or adapt the environment.
- Grant awards for staffing will be paid upon verification of hire of employee, and will be reimbursed in monthly increments, based on continued employment and need.
- Grant awards for modification of environment will be paid upon verification of completion of project.
- Priority is given to providers with a strong history of licensing compliance.
- DHS may reject any application where DHS determines that the cost to the state seems to exceed the benefit to the child or children.
- For the purpose of this grant, a child with disabilities or who is at risk for developmental delays includes:
  - any child in North Dakota between the ages of birth and twelve years who receives support through either public or private services and includes a child who is in the process of being evaluated for public or private formal support.
  - any child between the ages of birth and twelve years who received foster care services; who has a previous substantiated history as a victim of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; who is homeless; who has documented special health care needs; or who has a parent with a significant disability.

For more information, contact:

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