

The Department continues to post other Department COVID-19-related information, including a series of Q&As on the COVID-19 page on our website [www.nd.gov/dhs/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/) to help ensure that various partner and provider groups have up-to-date information on recommended practices as well as program and policy changes.

NOTE: This weekly update will now be provided every other week with the next publication covering April 20- May 3, 2020.

## Human Service Zone

- All Human Service Zones (formerly known as County Social Services) continue to operate and serve needs for economic assistance, child welfare, and other critical programs.
- The zones continue to see a significant increase in applications for SNAP, Medicaid, Child Care Assistance, and other economic assistance programs.
- The public can continue to drop off paper applications and eligibility verification at each Human Service Zone office.

## Child Support

- Child Support Division is expecting the first round of offsets of economic impact payments to be received by the end of this week.

## Behavioral Health Division

- Awarded a federal grant to support the provision of behavioral health crisis services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, and other related recovery supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Executive Order 2020-28 was issued by Governor Burgum to allow changes to maintain critical services for vulnerable youths.
- Developed and disseminated new resources:
  - [Parents Lead](#) Website
  - [Behavioral Health Division](#) Website
    - [COVID-19 Pandemic and the Stress Response: Feelings and Breathing Techniques](#)

## Temporary Shelter Program

- A multi-agency task force announced a new temporary shelter program in North Dakota for vulnerable individuals who are homeless and who cannot safely stay at existing homeless and domestic violence shelters because they have tested positive for COVID-19, are showing symptoms and awaiting test results, or need to be in quarantine because of recent travel to the state from hotspot areas.
- To access the temporary shelter program individuals must be referred by a homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, hospital, public health unit or other partner agency. Local human service zone offices (formerly known as county social service offices) will work directly with any homeless individuals or families referred to the program. Individuals cannot refer themselves.
- The department's regional human service centers will provide homeless case management services to participants, who will also have access to nursing support and meals. Security will also be available on site.
- Program funding is being provided by the federal government and the state, with major support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## Medicaid

- Executive Order 2020-29 was issued by Governor Burgum to waive certain rules regarding Medicaid to enhance services during COVID-19 crisis.

## Children and Family Services

- Executive Order 2020-28 was issued by Governor Burgum to allow changes to maintain critical services for vulnerable youths.