

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2013**

Contacts: Heather Steffl, Public Information Manager, 701-328-4933, or LuWanna Lawrence, Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

People can apply by phone, online, or paper form for North Dakota's new Medicaid Expansion coverage

BISMARCK, N.D. – Low-income North Dakotans can now apply for the state's new Medicaid Expansion health care coverage by calling toll free 1-855-794-7308 and providing the requested information.

The N.D. Department of Human Services has contracted with Automated Health Systems (AHS) to handle telephone applications for the Medicaid Expansion coverage that becomes available January 1, 2014. The company's call center is assisting North Dakota by confidentially entering application information and processing eligibility determinations.

North Dakotans can also apply online or by paper application. To apply online, individuals should go to <http://apply.dhs.nd.gov> and use their desktop or laptop computer to download, complete, save, and submit the fillable PDF form. The form cannot be completed and submitted on mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones. Paper applications are available through the department and at any county social service offices. Contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv.

Applicants will be notified about their eligibility after their application is processed. Those who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid coverage or Medicaid Expansion coverage will need to explore private coverage options through the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace or by consulting a licensed insurance agent or broker. Federally-approved application assisters called Navigators and Certified Application Counselors can help people seeking private insurance coverage through the federal marketplace. Their contact information is on the Web at <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov>.

Medicaid Expansion coverage is different than North Dakota's traditional Medicaid coverage that serves qualifying low-income children, their adult caregivers, pregnant women, and individuals with disabilities including the aged and blind. Expanded Medicaid is available to a broader group of individuals under the age of 65 with household incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, who do not qualify for Medicare or Supplemental Security Income. Qualifying income information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/medicaidexpansion.

North Dakota lawmakers approved the expansion of Medicaid during the 2013 Legislative Assembly. There is no deadline to apply for Medicaid coverage.

For information about the Medicaid Expansion, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/medicaidexpansion or contact the N.D. Department of Human Services Medical Services Division at 600 East Boulevard Avenue - Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505, (701) 328-2321, toll-free (877) 543-7669, ND Relay TTY (800) 366-6888, or e-mail dhsmed@nd.gov.

###