

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Public comments sought on Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is accepting public comments on its draft Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan. The access plan will measure and track access to health care providers and services for traditional Medicaid beneficiaries, including children who participate in Health Tracks, a no-cost preventive health program for children age birth to 21 who qualify for Medicaid.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule in November 2015 requiring state Medicaid agencies to create an access plan that will review five core service categories to identify any gaps in access to care. These areas include primary care services, physician specialist services, behavioral health services, pre and post-natal childbirth services including labor and delivery, and home health services. The access plan must be submitted to CMS by Oct. 1, 2016.

Analysis of the data and information utilized to monitor access has the goal that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to health care that is comparable to that of the general population in North Dakota. The department has solicited input from its Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee during the development of the draft access plan.

The draft Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html). Copies are also available upon request.

The department will accept comments and public input on the draft access plan until 5 p.m., Central Time, on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016.

Individuals can submit comments by emailing [dhsmed@nd.gov](mailto:dhsmed@nd.gov), calling 800-755-2604 or 701-328-2321, or Relay North Dakota TTY 800-366-6888, or faxing 701-328-1544. Comments can also be sent to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Medical Services Division, Attn: Doug Boknecht, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D., 58505-0250.

Following the completion of the public comment period, a final draft of the Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan will be completed in late September and then submitted to CMS.

The CMS rule excludes managed care programs including Medicaid Expansion, the Children's Health Insurance Program, as well as waived services and demonstration Medicaid programs from the access plan.

For the month of March 2016, there were 68,287 individuals eligible for traditional Medicaid coverage in North Dakota.

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