

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department encourages North Dakotans with disabilities, their families, advocates, and others to complete survey about Medicaid waiver services

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is encouraging people with disabilities, their families and guardians, service providers and professionals, and advocates to participate in a short online survey now through June 2 to help identify gaps in Medicaid waiver services and opportunities to meet any unmet needs.

Survey responses will provide important information about the current state of services and will guide discussion at an upcoming technical assistance meeting that is part of a department-requested comprehensive review of North Dakota’s existing Medicaid waiver programs. Key goals include reviewing eligibility and service criteria to determine if current practices and policies prevent some people who have disabilities from accessing needed services. The review will also help determine if some waiver recipients need additional types of services.

“This review may lead to changes to an existing waiver or a new waiver, changes in criteria or services, or may also lead to recommendations to assure greater consistency in applying eligibility criteria statewide,” said the department’s Developmental Disabilities Division Director Tina Bay.

Bay encouraged stakeholders to complete the online survey that will be open until June 2 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPDFXTN>.

She said survey responses will also help determine if stakeholders think there are enough slots for each of the state’s six Medicaid waivers, and what gaps may exist in support services for individuals with multiple, complex needs, such as co-occurring behavioral health and developmental disability needs.

The review is a joint effort involving the department’s developmental disabilities, aging services, medical services, and behavioral health divisions. After the review is completed, the department will consider recommendations and plan appropriate next steps to strengthen waiver services.

North Dakota currently has an Autism waiver, Technology Dependent waiver, Aged and Disabled Home and Community-Based Services waiver, Developmental Disabilities waiver, Children’s Medically Fragile waiver, and Children’s Hospice waiver.

A Medicaid waiver is a program authorized by federal law that funds in-home and community-based services for individuals who qualify and meet level of care requirements and other criteria described in the waiver.

Individuals with questions can contact the Developmental Disabilities Division at 701-328-8930, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or 711, or tbay@nd.gov.

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