

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Agency seeks public comments on changes to Medicaid waiver serving children who are medically fragile

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division is accepting public comments on proposed changes to the state's Medicaid waiver that funds home and community-based services for children who are considered medically fragile. The program serves children ages 3 to 18 years who have a serious illness or condition that is medically complex and requires prolonged care.

The division wants to amend the 1915(c) Medicaid waiver to increase the number of active slots from 15 to 25 per year. Currently, the waiver has 15 active slots with a total of no more than 25 slots per year. The waiver was first approved in 2008.

People can view the draft waiver amendment application at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html. Copies of the draft application will also be provided upon request.

The department is accepting comments from Jan. 17, 2018 until 5 p.m. CST, on Feb. 15, 2018.

Send comments to the Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division, Attn: HCBS, at 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250, dhshcbs@nd.gov, 701-328-4602 or 800-755-2604, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

Waivers are agreements between the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and a state's Medicaid agency and serve specific groups of people. Waivers specify the number of participants to be served, eligibility criteria, available services, including any limits on services; and procedures for the evaluation and reevaluation of level of care. They give eligible people options if their needs can be met in their homes, and if providing services in a home and community setting is cost neutral compared to institutional services.

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