

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Nov. 19, 2020

Human Services launches Community-Based Behavioral Health Program

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Division has launched a new program to help eligible North Dakotans access community-based substance use disorder treatment services and care coordination services.

The Community-Based Behavioral Health Program complements the services and supports available through the department's Substance Use Disorder Voucher Program and the Free Through Recovery Program. The program focuses on serving individuals with behavioral health needs in their homes and communities with the goal of reducing the need for treatment in congregate settings, like residential treatment facilities, inpatient hospitalizations and emergency medical interventions.

Last month, the North Dakota Emergency Commission and Budget Section approved the department's request for \$1.7 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding for the program.

"The COVID-19 pandemic impacts have been significant for many North Dakotans and this program is another way to improve access to quality services and allow for individual choice for people in recovery," said Behavioral Health Division Assistant Director Laura Anderson.

The Community-Based Behavioral Health Program will provide screenings and assessments, individual, group and family therapies; peer support; transportation and other services that are provided in a community-based setting. Individuals must be at least 14 years of age, live in North Dakota and meet certain income guidelines to be eligible for the program.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Community-Based Behavioral Health Program can contact the department's Behavioral Health Division at dhsbhd@nd.gov, 711 (TTY) or 701-328-8920.

The division is responsible for reviewing and identifying service needs and activities in the state's behavioral health system to ensure health and safety and access to quality services. It establishes quality assurance standards for the licensure of substance use disorder program services and facilities and provides policy leadership in partnership with public and private entities. For more information, visit www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov.

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