

## **Release 3: Self-Service Portal and Consolidated Eligibility System (SPACES)** *Traditional Medicaid for Aged, Blind and Disabled coverages*

The North Dakota Department of Human Services continues to take a deliberate, phased-in approach to implement SPACES, the state's integrated eligibility system. The third (and next) phase, scheduled to go live on Aug. 3, 2020, includes Traditional Medicaid for Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid coverages.

These coverage groups are part of Release 3 and include about 23,000 North Dakotans.

- Workers with Disabilities coverage (buy-in program),
- Children with Disabilities coverage (buy-in program),
- Spousal impoverishment Medicaid coverage,
- Nursing home Medicaid coverage,
- Medicaid Home and Community-based Services,
- Title IV-E Foster Care Medicaid coverage,
- Subsidized Adoption coverage, and
- Medicare Savings Program (covers Medicare Part A and Part B premiums).

With Release 3, North Dakotans will now be able to apply online securely for these Medicaid coverage programs using SPACES.

Between 150 and 190 applications are currently processed each day in SPACES.

In the future, North Dakota will add the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to SPACES.

### **BACKGROUND**

SPACES is intended to replace several 30-year-old eligibility systems with one modern, integrated system that provides enhanced customer service to clients and community partners and helps ensure that North Dakotans are getting the economic assistance benefits for which they qualify.

In February 2016, North Dakota implemented Release 1 of the SPACES project moving Medicaid Affordable Care Act coverage into SPACES to comply with the federal Affordable Care Act.

In March 2019, North Dakota implemented Release 2 moving Child Care Assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Temporary Assistance for Families program to SPACES.

## **BENEFITS**

In addition to applying for benefits online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/eligibility/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/eligibility/index.html), North Dakotans using SPACES have more convenient, self-service options to manage their cases, including the ability to go online 24/7 to check their benefit status, review their case history, report changes, view correspondence and securely upload documents.

SPACES also has modern tools and technologies that enable eligibility workers at the human services zone offices, formerly called county social service offices, and at the state's new specialized long-term eligibility unit to update case information in real time and verify data against several state and national databases.

## **SCHEDULE**

Future implementation phases for SPACES and the programs covered:

- Phase 3 (Aug. 3, 2020) – Traditional Medicaid for Aged, Blind and Disabled coverages
- Phase 4 (TBD) – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program