

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher

2015 Legislative Session: SB 2048

Enrolled Senate Bill 2048

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.

There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$750,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of human services for the purpose of establishing and administering a voucher system to address underserved areas and gaps in the state's substance abuse treatment system and to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs, for the period beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017. Services eligible for the voucher program include only those levels of care recognized by the American society of addiction medicine, with particular emphasis given to underserved areas and programs. The department of human services shall ensure that a private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act collects and reports process and outcome measures. The department of human services shall develop requirements and provide training and technical assistance to a private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act. A private licensed substance abuse treatment program accepting vouchers under this Act shall provide evidence-based services. Before July 1, 2016, the department of human services shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the rules adopted to establish and administer the voucher system to assist in the payment of addiction treatment services provided by private licensed substance abuse treatment programs.

Fall 2015: Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division developed administrative rules.

November 2015: Communication plan was developed to ensure stakeholder feedback and participation.

November 2015: Public notice and enactment of the communication plan.

December 2015: Public hearing and feedback period completed.

2015-2016: Ongoing updates to key stakeholders in regard to the SUD Voucher (i.e. public and private SUD providers, Treatment Providers Coalition, ND Board of Addiction Counselors, Addiction Counselors Association).

Spring 2016: Development of training and guidance documents for providers and administrators.

Spring/Summer 2016: Provider engagement, application, and training.

July 2016: Launch of SUD Voucher.

The Department has completed the entire rulemaking project with the exception of filing the necessary documents with Legislative Council by February 1, 2016, due to the budget allotment process. The Department, in order to comply with budget allotment process, was carefully reviewing the voucher system funding along with all programs and services. The Department's allotment includes a reduction to the voucher funding; however, since funding remains for the voucher, the Department must continue to establish and administer a voucher system. If the extension to adopt administrative rules is granted by the Administrative Rules Committee, the Department intends to adopt rules by July 1, 2016.

SUD Voucher System COMMUNICATION PLAN

FRAME THE ISSUE:

- **History:**
 - Since 2006, the Human Service Committee has explored DHS developing a voucher system. DHS indicated that would apply for federal grants (Address to Recovery) for a voucher program. North Dakota did not end up being for the federal grant.
- **Issues:** (Identified by the Study Report, the Behavioral Health Stakeholders, and the Behavioral Health Planning Council (formerly the Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Planning Council))
 - Limited number of service providers in each community.
 - Not all levels of care are provided in the continuum of care.
 - Limited choices for individuals living through crises.
 - Lack of services for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured.
 - Reimbursement rates are not sufficient to reimbursement of services or to reimbursement.
 - Lack of recovery support.
- **How to Address Identified Issues:**
 - Complete the 64th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2048 was passed:
 - Appropriating \$750,000 to DHS for state fiscal year - July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.
 - For the purpose of funding a voucher system reimbursing licensed private substance abuse treatment programs for:

What will get better because of this?

- **Address underserved areas:**
 - Address underserved areas.
 - Address underserved areas.
- **DHS responsibilities:**
 - Establish administrative rules for the Substance Use Disorder voucher system ensuring access to quality services are provided.
 - Collect process & outcome measures.
 - Administer the Substance Use Disorder voucher system.

GENERAL INFORMATION TO USE IN COMMUNICATIONS:

- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Voucher System (SUD Voucher System).
- The SUD Voucher is granted to the individual and reimburses the program.



With the passage of Senate Bill 2048 during the 64th Legislative Session the Department of Human Services (DHS) was appropriated \$750,000 to fund a voucher system to pay for substance use disorder treatment services. The Department's Behavioral Health Division was assigned the responsibility to develop administrative rules and implement the voucher system.