



Supporting Children with Developmental Disabilities
North Dakota Lessons Learned from the Pandemic

Caprice Knapp, PhD
Medical Services Division Director

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

| Human Services

Developmental Disability Services in North Dakota

- About 4,900 children and adults with a developmental disability are receiving services under a 1915(c) waiver.
- Individuals must be enrolled in ND Medicaid and have an intellectual disability or related condition.



DD Waiver Services in ND Medicaid

Residential Services

- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF)
- Residential Habilitation
- Independent Habilitation
- Adult Foster Care
- Homemaker

Day and Employment Supports

- Day Habilitation
- Prevocation Services
- Individual Employment Support
- Group Employment Support

DD Waiver Services in ND Medicaid

Family Support Services

- In-Home Supports
- Self-Directed Supports
- Parenting Supports
- Family Care Option
- Extended Home Health

Administrative Services

- Infant Development
- DD Program Managers
- Corporate Guardianship
- Personal Care Services

Key Strategy and Legal Action

- One of the key strategies for the ND Department of Human Services is "Providing Services Closer to Home."
-

For example, children and young adults with severe autism could be served in the community or in a residential facility. Funds were appropriated to divert and transfer children from institutions to home and community-based settings (HSBS).

- These diversions and transfers are possible with adequate provider networks and appropriate payment mechanisms.
- ND continues to implement the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement to enhance access to HCBS for older adults and adults with physical disabilities.



Services Closer to Home

- Create pathways that help people access the right service at the right time
- Engage proactively with providers to expand access to services

Changes in DD Policy Due to COVID-19

- All services that could be delivered remotely were (i.e., employment supports, parent support, behavioral counseling, etc.).
- Trainings that could be done virtually were (i.e., all but hands-on portion of CPR) and time to complete extended from 90 days to 6 months.
- Staffing ratios were allowed to flex to accommodate sick leave.
- Retainer payments when utilization fell below 75% for services such as day habilitation, prevocation, group and individual employment supports, etc.
- Extended re-evaluations up to 90 days.
- Could start working while waiting on background check to come back.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal Funds

- ARPA provides 10% of enhanced funding to state Medicaid programs for HCBS services.
- States had 20 days to submit a plan that estimated the amount of funding and how funds would be spent.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) described general ways for states to spend the funding: expand eligibility, offer more services, capital investments, workforce, and address social determinants of health.
- **States have until March 31, 2025 to spend the funds.**

CMS Overview of States' Plans

- \$2,604 additional spending per beneficiary
- All states submitted and CMS approved the plans
- \$25B in spending approved overall



COVID-19 Federal Funds ND Spending Plan for \$31M



Workforce

50%



New Services
Pilot Programs

21%



Transitions

15%

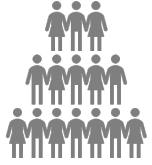


Infrastructure

14%

COVID-19 Federal Funds

ND Spending Plan for \$31M



Workforce

50%

- Recruitment and retention bonuses
- Start up grants for new service providers
- Consultancy to review and revise training program for Qualified Service Providers (QSPs)

COVID-19 Federal Funds

ND Spending Plan for \$31M



New Services
Pilot Programs

21%

- Flexible transition supports
- Rate innovations for QSPs
- In-home consultation for behavioral needs

COVID-19 Federal Funds

ND Spending Plan for \$31M



Transitions

15%

- Provide a family care option to incentivize transitions from Life Skills and Transitions Center
- Enhance community supports to wrap around clients after transition
- Flexible support fund for transitions to pay for things not covered under the waiver

COVID-19 Federal Funds

ND Spending Plan for \$31M



Infrastructure

14%

- Care Connect platform like Care.com
- Document and report quality measures
- Client facing interface to eligibility and payment systems
- Project management

N O R T H
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

| Human Services