

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Special Health Services Announces New Income Levels for Eligibility of Treatment Services**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Income eligibility guidelines for treatment services available through the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Division of Special Health Services (SHS) have increased based on changes in the federal poverty levels. The change increases the amount of income a family can make and still qualify for services. Effective May 1, 2018, a family of four will be able to earn up to \$46,435 annually (or \$3,870 monthly per household) and still meet income eligibility requirements.

Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, SHS promotes services that improve the health and well-being of individuals with special health care needs and their families. Treatment services through the SHS Financial Coverage Program help families pay for medical services for eligible children, youth, and young adults birth to age 21 who require specialty care to diagnose and treat their chronic health conditions. Medical services include, but are not limited to, dental services, medications, therapy, and nutrition services, as well as laboratory tests, medical equipment and care coordination.

“Approximately one in five children in North Dakota has a special health care need,” said Tina Feigitsch, SHS claims and eligibility administrator with the NDDoH. “Although many of these children may be covered by some type of health insurance, programs through the Division of Special Health Services act as a gap-filler for over 100 medically eligible conditions and promote access to quality health care.”

To qualify for SHS treatment services, families must be North Dakota residents and meet medical and financial guidelines. To determine whether a child qualifies, families may contact their local county social services office or the state SHS office at 1.800.755.2714.

For more information, contact Tina Feigitsch at 701.328.4816, toll free at 1.800.755.2714 or visit the website at [www.ndhealth.gov/cshs/treatment.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/cshs/treatment.htm).

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