

**North Dakota**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**American Rescue Plan Funds for Home &**  
**Community-Based Services**



# Introduction

- Through American Rescue Plan (ARP) Section 9817, and in conjunction with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), North Dakota's Health and Human Services agency was approved to dispense about \$31.7 million through grants and pilot programs through a spending plan submitted to CMS in June of 2021.
- Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2) provides qualifying states with a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for home and community-based services (HCBS) provided between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022.
- States are in a unique position to accelerate the expansion of home and community-based services (HCBS) by making investments that increase access and support both transitions and diversions from institutional settings. The array of HCBS strategies and approaches will serve older adults, children and adults with physical disabilities, and children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, to include autism spectrum disorder and brain injury.

# Spending Plan Goals

- Improve access to HCBS, through investments in provider start-up and expansions, workforce retention and recruitment, and a modernized approach to training.
- Support an accelerated rate of transition and diversion from the state institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Allow for the exploration of new services that will address gaps in the current state infrastructure.
- Enhance elements of the state infrastructure that serves and supports HCBS in North Dakota.

# Initiatives

## Increasing Capacity of Service Delivery System

- Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategy
- Development of New Community Services and Supports
- Workforce Training Strategy

## Transitions

- Family Care Option
- Community Behavioral Supports
- Flexible Support Fund

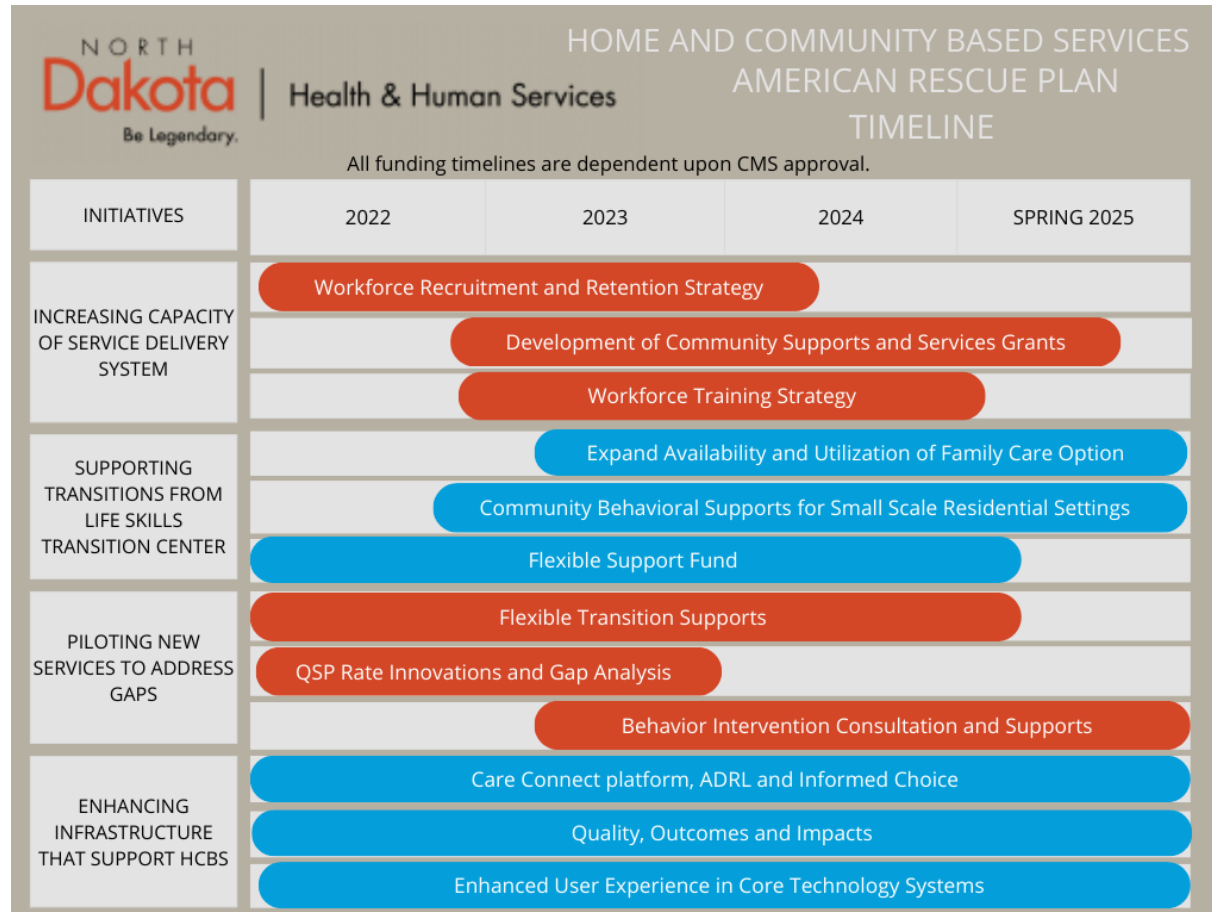
## New Services to Address Gaps

- Flexible ADRL Transition Supports
- QSP Rate and Innovations Gap Analysis
- Behavior Intervention Consultation and Supports

## Infrastructure

- Care Connect Platform, ADRL and Informed Choice
- Quality, Outcomes and Impacts
- Enhanced User Experience in Core Technology Systems

# Timeline



# **Increasing Capacity of Service Delivery System \$15,396,800**

Workforce availability and its impact on access to services are one of the most common refrains across human serving sectors. Recruiting and retaining well trained direct care staff to serve consumer needs 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in geographies large and small, is a real challenge. The State is proposing a series of strategy pilots to help address this high priority issue, with the intention of increasing access to quality home and community-based services that are well-suited to meeting the complex care needs of individuals, wherever they may choose to live.

# Increasing Capacity of Service Delivery System \$15,396,800

- Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategy \$10,206,800
  - DHHS has evaluated the impact of the workforce retention and recruitment initiative with completion of this initiative, specifically how funds were utilized by eligible agency employers improve retention and recruitment of direct care workforce. The evaluation approach involves collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data through an online survey distributed to the 79 eligible agencies.
- Development of New Community Services and Supports \$3,240,000
  - DHHS awarded grants through an application evaluation process in amounts up to \$50,000 to assist agencies with their enrollment and/or successful operation as a Medicaid-reimbursable HCBS Agency in North Dakota. Thirty of forty-three providers accepted community grant awards who applied and notified of award.
  - Agencies could apply for multiple grants, based on their expansion plans. (Deadline was October 2022). Four of the thirty awarded providers are engaged with multiple grants.
- Workforce Training Strategy \$1,950,000
  - A contractor has been identified through the master service agreement process with a scope of work developed and work beginning in the summer of 2023.

# Supporting Transitions from Life Skills Center \$4,750,000

North Dakota has developed a system of care for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that includes a broad continuum of services, from a robust investment in early intervention to highly specialized institutional care for individuals with intense, complex needs.

Trends in North Dakota largely mirror that of other states in terms of overall growth in the IDD population who are receiving long term services and supports, and the continued shift from institutional to non-institutional settings.

North Dakota has adopted a goal of expanding the continuum of services to either prevent placement in institutions or more rapidly transition behaviorally and medically complex children and adults from institutional to non-institutional settings. In this funding opportunity the state will focus on the role of the Life Skills Transition Center (LSTC) in the state's IDD system to prevent admission and increase discharge. LSTC is a state administered institution for the IDD population.



# Supporting Transitions from Life Skills Center \$4,750,000

- LSTC Transition and Diversion – Expand Availability and Utilization of Family Care Option \$500,000
  - Additional engagement with stakeholders will take place in the fall of 2023 with refinement to the program prior to launching the pilot.
- LSTC Transition and Diversion – Community Behavioral Supports for Small Scale Residential Settings \$3,500,000
  - Through feedback and scope development, additional funds have been added to meet the system need and qualitative feedback for an increased need of behavioral supports within small scale residential settings. The piloting process will be refined through 2023.
- Transition and Diversion – Flexible Support Fund \$750,000
  - Four Community Life Skills providers have been chosen to implement use of flexible funds. This fund will function as a one-time funding opportunity. Additional stakeholder engagement and planning will take place to continue planning for this pilot.

# Piloting New Services to Address Gaps

## \$8,900,000

In order to respond to issues identified by consumers, families, and provider partners, the state is proposing a series of efforts that would allow for the exploration of new services and supports to address existing HCBS system gaps. Any pilot included in this spending plan will be evaluated for efficacy, which will then provide meaningful information for future discussions with policy makers in North Dakota. These pilots are by definition time-limited, intended to demonstrate impact, and help state systems and provider communities better understand opportunities for future system change.

# Piloting New Services to Address Gaps

## \$8,900,000

- ADRL Flexible Transition Supports \$5,950,000

- An evaluation of Aging and Disability Resource Link (ADRL) Flexible Transition and Institutional Diversion Services Program was completed. The program assisted individuals with a disability of any age to transition from a provider-operated residential situation back to a community residence.
- Through the evaluation, it was evident that the transition program provided a tremendous value to individuals served through the Centers for Independent Living and provider stakeholders engaged. All stakeholders echoed how valuable the program was to support individuals who were either in an institutional setting or were at-risk of becoming institutionalized by providing funds for housing applications, moving costs, furnishings, and home accessibility items.

- QSP Rate Innovations and Gap Analysis \$1,200,000

- The study concluded at the end of calendar year 2022 and recommendations from the contractor will be evaluated for future implementation. Legislative action was not taken on the findings from the analysis. Additional stakeholder engagement will take place to continue to facilitate meeting the goal of the initiative.

- Behavior Intervention Consultation and Supports \$1,750,000

- Additional funds have been allocated to this work to obtain a qualified consultant with the practical experience needed to best support participants and due to the lack of providers within the state to provide behavioral health supports, additional funds will attract providers to complete this necessary work. A consultant is still being sought.

# Enhancing Infrastructure that Support HCBS

## \$2,925,000

Effective delivery of home and community-based services requires the support of effective infrastructure. This includes technological and human resources; quality, outcomes, and other measures of success; and a relentless focus on use of systems. Infrastructure investments should keep the person at the center of design in every system component.

# Enhancing Infrastructure that Support HCBS

## \$2,925,000

- Care Connect platform, ADRL and Informed Choice \$1,100,000
  - The requirement gathering process is complete and enhancements should be completed in December 2022 and starting the enhancements later in 2023.
- Quality Outcomes and Impacts \$325,000
  - National Core Indicator surveys have been sent and the process of collecting data for analysis will occur next.
- Enhanced User Experience in Core Technology Systems \$1,300,000
  - Work on this initiative to begin Q2-2022. Technology teams have begun working on implementation. The Developmental Disability case management system needs to be redesigned for better functionality (\$50,000). The QSP enrollment portal is moving through the procurement process.
- Section 1987 HCBS Fund Coordination and Implementation \$200,000
  - The state procured a project management firm - Myers and Stauffer - and their contract began June 2022. Myers and Stauffer continues to provide project management

# Questions?

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